

Word Study H7916 *sakiyr* Hired Servant

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Introduction

These words are interesting to me because I want to know the meanings of different legal statuses that one can have. For example what are the different circumstances (types of contract) that one could have that determines their relation with the IRS? A solid biblical definition of these terms seems crucial to my understanding.

To give this word some context, let's start with its first use in Exodus chapter twelve...

Exo 12:43-45 KJV

⁴³ And YHVH said unto Moses and Aaron, This *is* the ordinance of the passover: There shall no stranger^a eat thereof: ⁴⁴ But every man's servant that is bought for money, when thou hast circumcised him, then shall he eat thereof. ⁴⁵ A foreigner and an **hired servant**^b shall not eat thereof^c.

One more note, All of these words have a *Caf* followed by a *Resh* כר.

^a **ben**^{H1121} *nekar*^{H5236} See "Biblical-Word-Study-and-Commentary-on-ones-Legal-Status" Article [#210](#)

^b A foreigner *toshav*^{H8453} and an hired servant *sakiyr*^{H7916} ...

^c Why? Because he is a "non resident alien" to the Torah law form. Contrast this with [Exo 12:48](#), where a sojourner is in the process of becoming Yisrael and being adopted into one of the twelve tribes and therefore is required to operate in the Torah law form. This is explicitly confirmed in [Exo 12:49](#). Also notice that to sojourn is a 'political' act in the sense that it is a voluntary act.

Exo 12:48-49 KJV ⁴⁸ And when a stranger *ger*^{H1616} shall sojourn *gur*^{H1481} with thee, and will keep the passover to YHVH, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as one that is born in the land: for no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof. ⁴⁹ One law shall be to him that is homeborn, and unto the stranger that sojourneth among you.

H7916 *sakiyr* hire(ling), servant

שָׂכִיר

From [H7936](#); a man *at wages* by the day or year: - hired (man, servant), hireling.

LXX related word(s): [G3407](#) *misthios*, [G3411](#) *misthotos*

śakiyr: A masculine adjective meaning hired. It refers to a rented or hired person, animal, or object ([Exo 12:45](#); [Exo 22:15](#) [14]). Wages were to be paid promptly to hired workers ([Lev 19:13](#)). Restrictions were laid on hired persons concerning Temple rituals and holy things ([Lev 22:10](#)). Even a freeman's labor seems like the days of a hired man ([Job 7:1](#)). It is used figuratively of a hired razor, the Assyrians ([Isa 7:20](#)). A hired soldier was a mercenary ([Jer 46:21](#)). It is rendered as wage earner appropriately in [Mal 3:5](#) (NASB).

Total KJV Occurrences: 25

hired, 11: [Exo 12:45](#), [Exo 22:15](#), [Lev 19:13](#), [Lev 22:10](#), [Lev 25:6](#), [Lev 25:40](#), [Lev 25:50](#), [Lev 25:53](#), [Deu 15:18](#), [Deu 24:14](#), [Jer 46:21](#)

servant, 8: [Exo 12:45](#), [Lev 22:10](#), [Lev 25:6](#), [Lev 25:40](#), [Lev 25:50](#), [Lev 25:53](#), [Deu 15:18](#), [Deu 24:14](#)

hireling, 6: [Job 7:1-2](#) (2), [Job 14:6](#), [Isa 16:14](#), [Isa 21:16](#), [Mal 3:5](#)

H7936 *sakar* hire(d), earneth, rewardeth, wages

שָׂכַר שָׂכַר

Strong's The second form by permutation and used in [Ezr 4:5](#); a primitive root (apparently akin (by prosthesis) to [H3739](#) through the idea of temporary *purchase*; compare [H7937](#)); to *hire*: - earn wages, hire (out self), reward, X surely.

WordStudy

sakar: A verb meaning to hire. It means to make an agreement with someone to do something for payment: for procreation purposes ([Gen 30:16](#)); for the purpose of prophesying ([Deu 23:4](#) [5]); for military use ([Jdg 9:4](#); [2Sa 10:6](#); [2Ki 7:6](#)); for priestly services ([Jdg 18:4](#)); for political purposes ([Ezr 4:5](#); [Neh 6:12-13](#)); for craftsmanship ([Isa 46:6](#)). In the passive or causative uses, it means to be hired or to hire oneself out ([1Sa 2:5](#); [Hag 1:6](#)).

Total KJV Occurrences: 22

hired, 14 [Gen 30:15-16](#) (2), [Jdg 18:4](#) (3), [1Sa 2:5](#), [2Ki 7:6](#) (2), [1Ch 19:7](#), [2Ch 24:12](#), [2Ch 25:6](#), [Ezr 4:5](#), [Neh 6:12-13](#) (2), [Neh 13:2](#)

earneth, 2 [Hag 1:6](#) (2)

hire, 2 [1Ch 19:6](#), [Isa 46:6](#)

rewardeth, 2 [Pro 26:10](#) (2)

wages, 2 [Hag 1:6](#) (2)

H3739 *karah* bought, buy, prepared

כָּרָה

Usually assigned as a primitive root, but probably only a special application of [H3738](#) (through the common idea of *planning* implied in a bargain); to *purchase*: - buy, prepare.

WordStudy: I. A verb meaning to buy, to bargain for, to barter for. It indicates getting something by barter, trade, or purchase ([Deu 2:6](#)). Persons, friends were not to be bartered over ([Job 6:27](#)); humans did not have the power to barter or bargain over Leviathan ([Job 41:6](#) [40:30]; NIV, NASB). It is, however, used of Hosea's purchase of his wife ([Hos 3:2](#)). **II.** It indicates the giving of a feast or a banquet ([2Ki 6:23](#); [Job 41:6](#)).

KJC: Occurrences 3. **bought**, 1 [Hos 3:2](#); **buy**, 1 [Deu 2:6](#); **prepared**, 1 [2Ki 6:23](#)

H3738 *karah* dig(ged)(geth), made, banquet, opened

כָּרָה

Strong's: A primitive root; properly to *dig*; figuratively to *plot*; generally to *bore* or open: - dig, X make (a banquet), open.

LXX related word(s)

G1334 di egeomai	G2998 latomeo	G3409 misthoo	G3908 para titheimi	G3736 orusso
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kārāh: A verb indicating to dig. It refers to digging, cleaning out sufficient dirt and debris for various purposes: a grave ([Gen 50:5](#)); a well ([Gen 26:25](#)); a pit ([Exo 21:33](#)), etc. It is used in several idioms and figures of speech: wicked persons get into a helpless situation, pits, into which they fall ([Psa 7:15](#) [16]); persons lacking character create problems and situations that catch others ([Pro 16:27](#)), but they themselves will fall into their own pits ([Pro 26:27](#)). The Lord opens His servants' ears (digs their ears) so they can hear ([Psa 40:6](#) [7]). The Lord digs a pit to receive the wicked ([Psa 94:13](#)).

Total KJV Occurrences: 16

digged, 8: [Gen 26:25](#), [Gen 50:5](#), [Num 21:18](#), [Psa 57:6](#), [Psa 94:13](#), [Psa 119:85](#), [Jer 18:20](#), [Jer 18:22](#)

dig, 2: [Exo 21:33](#), [Job 6:27](#)

diggeth, 2: [Pro 26:27](#) (3)

made, 2: [2Ch 16:14](#), [Psa 7:15](#)

banquet, 1: [Job 41:6](#)

opened, 1: [Psa 40:6](#) (2)