

# Word Study <sup>H8577</sup> *tanniyn / tanniym* dragons, serpents, whales & monsters Oh My!

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## Introduction

This article was extracted from a midrash <sup>A</sup> because I noticed a distinction between two

## H8577 *tanniyn / tanniym* <sup>KJC:27</sup> dragon(s)<sup>21</sup>, serpent(s)<sup>3</sup>, whale(s)<sup>2</sup>, (sea) monsters<sup>1</sup>

תַּנִּינִן / תַּנִּינִים

tannîyn / tannîym

### BDB Definition:

1) dragon, serpent, sea monster

1a) dragon or dinosaur

1b) sea or river monster

1c) serpent, venomous snake

**Part of Speech:** noun masculine, TWOT# 2528b

Total KJV Occurrences: 27

**dragons, 15** [Deu 32:33](#), [Job 30:29](#), [Psa 44:19](#), [Psa 74:13](#), [Psa 148:7](#), [Isa 13:22](#), [Isa 34:13](#), [Isa 35:7](#), [Isa 43:20](#), [Jer 9:11](#), [Jer 10:22](#), [Jer 14:6](#), [Jer 49:33](#), [Jer 51:37](#), [Mic 1:8](#)

**dragon, 6** [Psa 91:13](#) (2), [Isa 27:1](#), [Isa 51:9](#), [Jer 51:34](#), [Eze 29:3](#)

**serpent, 3** [Exo 7:9-10](#) (2), **serpents, 1** [Exo 7:12](#) *This is the second use of this word.*

**monsters, 1** [Lam 4:3](#) → Lam 4:3 ““Even the sea monsters draw out the breast...”

**whales, 1** [Gen 1:21](#), **whale, 1** [Job 7:12](#) (2),

<sup>A</sup> “Exo-07-Midrash-a-change-in-the-Serpent-from-tanniyn-H8577-to-nachash-H5175-causes-a-change-in-law-form”, article #663.

**Strong's** (The second form (*tanneem*) used in [Eze 29:3](#)); intensive from the same as [H8565](#); a marine or land *monster*, that is, *sea serpent* or *jackal*: - dragon, sea-monster, serpent, whale.

LXX related word(s)

<a href="#">G1404</a> drakon * <sup>B</sup>	<a href="#">G2561</a> kakosis *	<a href="#">G1404</a> drakon	<a href="#">G2785</a> ketos
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### The Complete Word Study Dictionary

A masculine noun meaning a serpent, a dragon, and a sea monster. It can connote a creature living in the water ([Gen 1:21](#); [Job 7:12](#); [Psa 148:7](#)). When the word is used this way, it is also used figuratively to represent the crocodile, which was the symbol of Pharaoh and Egypt ([Psa 74:13](#); [Isa 27:1](#); [Isa 51:9](#); [Eze 29:3](#)). This imagery may help us better understand the confrontation between Moses and Pharaoh, when Aaron's staff became a serpent and then swallowed the staff-serpents of Pharaoh's magicians ([Exo 7:9-10](#), [Exo 7:12](#)). God was providing a graphic sign of what was to come. It can also connote a creature that lives on the land ([Deu 32:33](#); [Psa 91:13](#); [Jer 51:34](#)). There is one other occurrence of this term in the Old Testament where it is used as a descriptor or part of a proper name for a well or a spring ([Neh 2:13](#)). In all its occurrences, this term has either a neutral ([Gen 1:21](#); [Psa 148:7](#)); or a negative meaning ([Isa 27:1](#); [Isa 51:9](#); [Jer 51:34](#)). In a few instances, the negative meaning is somewhat lessened, as when God provides a serpent to save His people ([Exo 7:9-10](#), [Exo 7:12](#)); or when a serpent was divinely restrained ([Psa 91:13](#)).

### H8565 *tan* KJC



**BDB Definition:**

1) dragon, maybe the extinct dinosaur the plesiosaurus, whale

**Part of Speech:** noun masculine, TWOT# 2528a

**KJC:** 2 dragons, 1 [Mal 1:3](#); whale, 1 [Eze 32:2](#)

**Strong's:** From an unused root probably meaning to *elongate*; a *monster* (as preternaturally formed), that is, a *sea serpent* (or other huge marine animal); also a *jackal* (or other hideous land animal): - dragon, whale. Compare [H8577](#).

<sup>B</sup> See Rev-ch-12, article [#667](#).

## Verse Comparison between LXX *ophis* and WLC *nachash*

*ToDo: not sure this table belongs in this word study, therefore review*

LXX	WLC	KJ Translation
<b>G3789</b>	<b>H5175</b>	<i>Within the Torah, except for two verses, there is a 1:1 correlation between the LXX and the Hebrew bible (WLC) i.e. they consistently used the same word</i>
<i>ophis</i>	<i>nachash</i>	
Gen 3:1	Gen 3:1	<sup>1</sup> Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which YHVH God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? <sup>2</sup> And the woman said unto the <u>serpent</u> , We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: <sup>3</sup> But of the fruit of the tree which <i>is</i> in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. <sup>4</sup> And the <u>serpent</u> said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:
Gen 3:2	Gen 3:2	
Gen 3:4	Gen 3:4	
Gen 3:13	Gen 3:13	<sup>13</sup> And YHVH God said unto the woman, What <i>is</i> this <i>that</i> thou hast done? And the woman said, The <u>serpent</u> beguiled me, and I did eat. <sup>14</sup> And YHVH God said unto the <u>serpent</u> , Because thou hast done this, thou <i>art</i> cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:
Gen 3:14	Gen 3:14	
Gen 49:17	Gen 49:17	<sup>16</sup> Dan shall judge his people, as one of the tribes of Israel. <sup>17</sup> Dan shall be a <u>serpent</u> by the way, an adder in the path, that biteth the horse heels, so that his rider shall fall backward. <sup>18</sup> I have waited for thy salvation, O LORD.
Exo 4:3	Exo 4:3	<sup>3</sup> And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a <u>serpent</u> ; and Moses fled from before it.
<u>Exo 4:17</u>		<sup>17</sup> And thou shalt take this rod in thine hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs.
Exo 7:15	Exo 7:15	<sup>15</sup> Get thee unto Pharaoh in the morning; lo, he goeth out unto the water; and thou shalt stand by the river's brink against he come; and the rod which was turned to a <u>serpent</u> shalt thou take in thine hand.
Num 21:6	Num 21:6	<sup>4</sup> And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way. <sup>5</sup> And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for <i>there is</i> no bread, neither <i>is there any</i> water; and our soul loatheth this light bread. <sup>6</sup> And YHVH sent fiery <u>serpents</u> among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died. <sup>7</sup> Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against YHVH, and against thee; pray unto YHVH, that he take away the <u>serpents</u> from us. And Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup> And YHVH said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery <u>serpent</u> , and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. <sup>9</sup> And Moses made a <u>serpent</u> of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a <u>serpent</u> had bitten any man, when he beheld the <u>serpent</u> of brass, he lived.
Num 21:7	Num 21:7	
<u>Num 21:8</u>		
Num 21:9	Num 21:9	
Deu 8:15	Deu 8:15	Deu 8:15 Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, <i>wherein were</i> fiery <u>serpents</u> , and scorpions, and drought, where <i>there was</i> no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint;