

***The Words “Govern” and “Governor” as found in the Old Testament  
of the King James Version of the Holy Bible***

There are 57 occurrences of the words “Govern” and “Governor” found in the Old Testament.

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**Shallit, Hebrew Strong's #7989**, is an adjective used 4 times, translated as governor (1), mighty (1), that hath power (1), ruler (1). It is translated as “governor” in the following verse:

**Genesis 42:6 –**

And Joseph *was* the governor over the land, *and* he *it was* that sold to all the people of the land: and Joseph's brethren came, and bowed down themselves before him *with* their faces to the earth.

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**Māshal, Hebrew Strong's #4910**, is a verb used 81 times, translated as rule (38), ruler (19), reign (8), dominion (7), governor (4), ruled over (2), power (2), indeed (1). It is translated as “governor” in the following verses:

**Genesis 45:26 –**

And told him, saying, Joseph *is* yet alive, and he *is* governor over all the land of Egypt. And Jacob's heart fainted, for he believed them not.

**2 Chronicles 23:20 –**

And he took the captains of hundreds, and the nobles, and the governors of the people, and all the people of the land, and brought down the king from the house of the LORD: and they came through the high gate into the king's house, and set the king upon the throne of the kingdom.

**Psalms 22:28 –**

For the kingdom *is* the LORD'S: and he *is* the governor among the nations.

**Jeremiah 30:21 –**

And their nobles shall be of themselves, and their governor shall proceed from the midst of them; and I will cause him to draw near, and he shall approach unto me: for who *is* this that engaged his heart to approach unto me? saith the LORD.

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**Hāqaq, Hebrew Strong's #2710**, is a verb used 19 times, translated as lawgiver (6), governor (2), decree (2), to grave (2), portray (2), law (1), printed (1), set (1), note (1), appoint (1). It is translated as “governor” in the following verses:

**Judges 5:9 –**

My heart *is* toward the governors of Israel, that offered themselves willingly among the people. Bless ye the LORD.

**Judges 5:14 –**

Out of Ephraim *was there* a root of them against Amalek; after thee, Benjamin, among thy people; out of Machir came down governors, and out of Zebulun they that handle the pen of the writer.

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**Peḥâ, Hebrew Strong's #6346**, is a noun used 28 times, translated as governor (17), captain (9), deputies (2). It is translated as “governor” in the following verses:

**1 Kings 10:15 –**

Beside *that he had* of the merchantmen, and of the traffick of the spice merchants, and of all the kings of Arabia, and of the governors of the country.

**2 Chronicles 9:14 –**

Beside *that which* chapmen and merchants brought. And all the kings of Arabia and governors of the country brought gold and silver to Solomon.

**Ezra 8:36 –**

And they delivered the king's commissions unto the king's lieutenants, and to the governors on this side the river: and they furthered the people, and the house of God.

**Nehemiah 2:7 –**

Moreover I said unto the king, If it please the king, let letters be given me to the governors beyond the river, that they may convey me over till I come into Judah;

**Nehemiah 2:9 –**

Then I came to the governors beyond the river, and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent captains of the army and horsemen with me.

**Nehemiah 3:7 –**

And next unto them repaired Melatiah the Gibeonite, and Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon, and of Mizpah, unto the throne of the governor on this side the river.

**Nehemiah 5:14 –**

Moreover from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year even unto the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes the king, *that is*, twelve years, I and my brethren have not eaten the bread of the governor.

**Nehemiah 5:15 –**

But the former governors that *had been* before me were chargeable unto the people, and had taken of them bread and wine, beside forty shekels of silver; yea, even their servants bare rule over the people: but so did not I, because of the fear of God.

**Nehemiah 5:18 –**

Now *that* which was prepared *for me* daily *was* one ox *and* six choice sheep; also fowls were prepared for me, and once in ten days store of all sorts of wine: yet for all this required not I the bread of the governor, because the bondage was heavy upon this people.

**Nehemiah 12:26 –**

These *were* in the days of Joiakim the son of Jeshua, the son of Jozadak, and in the days of Nehemiah the governor, and of Ezra the priest, the scribe.

**Esther 3:12 –**

Then were the king's scribes called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and there was written according to all that Haman had commanded unto the king's lieutenants, and to the governors that *were* over every province, and to the rulers of every people of every province according to the writing thereof, and *to* every people after their language; in the name of king Ahasuerus was it written, and sealed with the king's ring.

**Haggai 1:1 –**

In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, in the first day of the month, came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet unto Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, saying,

**Haggai 1:14 –**

And the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did work in the house of the LORD of hosts, their God,

**Haggai 2:2 –**

Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and to the residue of the people, saying,

**Haggai 2:21 –**

Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I will shake the heavens and the earth;

**Malachi 1:8 –**

And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, *is it* not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, *is it* not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.

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**‘Aśâ, Hebrew Strong's #6213**, is a verb used 2633 times, translated as do (1333), make (653), wrought (52), deal (52), commit (49), offer (49), execute (48), keep (48), shew (43), prepare (37), work (29), do so (21), perform (18), get (14), dress (13), maker (13), maintain (7), *miscellaneous translations* (154). It is translated as “govern” in the following verse:

**1 Kings 21:7 –**

And Jezebel his wife said unto him, Dost thou now govern the kingdom of Israel? arise, *and* eat bread, and let thine heart be merry: I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.

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**Śar, Hebrew Strong's #8269**, is a noun used 421 times, translated as captain (130), chief (33), ruler (33), governor (6), keeper (3), principal (2), general (1), lords (1), *miscellaneous translations* (4). It is translated as “governor” in the following verses:

**1 Kings 22:26 –**

And the king of Israel said, Take Micaiah, and carry him back unto Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king's son;

**2 Kings 23:8 –**

And he brought all the priests out of the cities of Judah, and defiled the high places where the priests had burned incense, from Geba to Beersheba, and brake down the high places of the gates that *were* in the entering in of the gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which *were* on a man's left hand at the gate of the city.

**1 Chronicles 24:5 –**

Thus were they divided by lot, one sort with another; for the governors of the sanctuary, and governors of the house of God, were of the sons of Eleazar, and of the sons of Ithamar.

**2 Chronicles 18:25 –**

Then the king of Israel said, Take ye Micaiah, and carry him back to Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king's son;

**2 Chronicles 34:8 –**

Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had purged the land, and the house, he sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, and Maaseiah the governor of the city, and Joah the son of Joahaz the recorder, to repair the house of the LORD his God.

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*Pāqad*, **Hebrew Strong's #6485**, is a verb used 305 times, translated as number (119), visit (59), punish (31), appoint (14), commit (6), miss (6), set (6), charge (5), governor (5), lack (4), oversight (4), officers (4), counted (3), empty (3), ruler (3), overseer (3), judgment (2), *miscellaneous translations* (28). It is translated as “governor” in the following verses:

**2 Kings 25:23 –**

And when all the captains of the armies, they and their men, heard that the king of Babylon had made Gedaliah governor, there came to Gedaliah to Mizpah, even Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and Johanan the son of Careah, and Seraiah the son of Tanhumeth the Netophathite, and Jaazaniah the son of a Maachathite, they and their men.

**Jeremiah 40:5 –**

Now while he was not yet gone back, *he said*, Go back also to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan, whom the king of Babylon hath made governor over the cities of Judah, and dwell with him among the people: or go wheresoever it seemeth convenient unto thee to go. So the captain of the guard gave him victuals and a reward, and let him go.

**Jeremiah 40:7 –**

Now when all the captains of the forces which *were* in the fields, *even* they and their men, heard that the king of Babylon had made Gedaliah the son of Ahikam governor in the land, and had committed unto him men, and women, and children, and of the poor of the land, of them that were not carried away captive to Babylon;

**Jeremiah 41:2 –**

Then arose Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and the ten men that were with him, and smote Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan with the sword, and slew him, whom the king of Babylon had made governor over the land.

**Jeremiah 41:18 –**

Because of the Chaldeans: for they were afraid of them, because Ishmael the son of Nethaniah had slain Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, whom the king of Babylon made governor in the land.

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**Nāgîd, Hebrew Strong's #5057**, is a noun used 44 times, translated as ruler (20), prince (9), captain (6), leader (4), governor (3), nobles (1), excellent things (1). It is translated as “governor” in the following verses:

**1 Chronicles 29:22 –**

And did eat and drink before the LORD on that day with great gladness. And they made Solomon the son of David king the second time, and anointed *him* unto the LORD *to be* the chief governor, and Zadok *to be* priest.

**2 Chronicles 28:7 –**

And Zichri, a mighty man of Ephraim, slew Maaseiah the king's son, and Azrikam the governor of the house, and Elkanah *that was* next to the king.

**Jeremiah 20:1 –**

Now Pashur the son of Immer the priest, who *was* also chief governor in the house of the LORD, heard that Jeremiah prophesied these things.

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**Nāśî', Hebrew Strong's #5387**, is a noun used 132 times, translated as prince (96), captain (12), chief (10), ruler (6), vapours (3), governor (1), chief + 05387 (1), clouds (1), part (1), prince + 05387 (1). It is translated as “governor” in the following verse:

**2 Chronicles 1:2 –**

Then Solomon spake unto all Israel, to the captains of thousands and of hundreds, and to the judges, and to every governor in all Israel, the chief of the fathers.

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**Pehâ, Hebrew Strong's #6347**, is a noun used 10 times, translated as governor (6), captain (4). It is translated as “governor” in the following verses:

**Ezra 5:3 –**

At the same time came to them Tatnai, governor on this side the river, and Shetharboznai, and their companions, and said thus unto them, Who hath commanded you to build this house, and to make up this wall?

**Ezra 5:6 –**

The copy of the letter that Tatnai, governor on this side the river, and Shetharboznai, and his companions the Apharsachites, which *were* on this side the river, sent unto Darius the king:

**Ezra 5:14 –**

And the vessels also of gold and silver of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took out of the temple that *was* in Jerusalem, and brought them into the temple of Babylon, those did Cyrus the king take out of the temple of Babylon, and they were delivered unto *one*, whose name *was* Sheshbazzar, whom he had made governor;

**Ezra 6:6 –**

Now *therefore*, Tatnai, governor beyond the river, Shetharboznai, and your companions the Apharsachites, which *are* beyond the river, be ye far from thence:

**Ezra 6:7 –**

Let the work of this house of God alone; let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews build this house of God in his place.

**Ezra 6:13 –**

Then Tatnai, governor on this side the river, Shetharboznai, and their companions, according to that which Darius the king had sent, so they did speedily.

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**Segan, Hebrew Strong's #5460**, is a noun used 5 times, translated as “governor” in the following verses:

**Daniel 2:48 –**

Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise *men* of Babylon.

**Daniel 3:2 –**

Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent to gather together the princes, the governors, and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

**Daniel 3:3 –**

Then the princes, the governors, and captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, were gathered together unto the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

**Daniel 3:27 –**

And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.

**Daniel 6:7 –**

All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.

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**Ḥābāsh, Hebrew Strong's #2280**, is a verb used 33 times, translated as saddle (13), bind up (9), bind (5), put (2), about (1), girded (1), govern (1), healer (1). It is translated as “govern” in the following verse:

**Job 34:17 –**

Shall even he that hateth right govern? and wilt thou condemn him that is most just?

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**Nāḥâ, Hebrew Strong's #5148**, is a verb used 39 times, translated as lead (24), guide (6), bring (4), bestowed (1), lead forth (1), govern (1), put (1), straiteneth (1). It is translated as “govern” in the following verse:

**Psalms 67:4 –**

O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. Selah.

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**ʿAllûp, Hebrew Strong's #441**, is used 69 times, translated as duke (57), guide (4), friends (2), governors (2), captains (1), governor (1), ox (2). It is translated as “governor(s)” in the following verses:

**Zechariah 9:7 –**

And I will take away his blood out of his mouth, and his abominations from between his teeth: but he that remaineth, even he, *shall be* for our God, and he shall be as a governor in Judah, and Ekron as a Jebusite.

**Zechariah 12:5 –**

And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, The inhabitants of Jerusalem *shall be* my strength in the LORD of hosts their God.

**Zechariah 12:6 –**

In that day will I make the governors of Judah like an hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left: and Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place, *even* in Jerusalem.

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