

File under: ζυγός or zugos
English: "yoke"

This word occurs 6x. There are two other words closely related, each used only 1x, which should be considered at the same time.

1. ἑτεροζυγέω (heterozugeo), 2 Cor. 6:14

English: "yoke-differently"

2. σὺζυγος (suzugos), Phil. 4:3

English: "yokefellow"

It first of all is important to understand what a "yoke" is and its use.

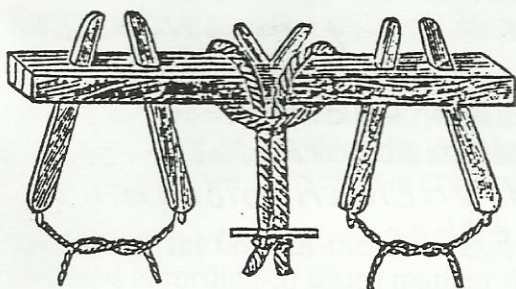


Fig. 1

Fig. 1 is a picture of a yoke, used to fasten two animals together, usually to pull a plow.

The picture in Fig. 2 shows two oxen ploughing. This is an illustration of the word "yokefellow", in a

practical sense. The word σὺζυγος in Phil. 4:3 is used in a "spiritual" sense.

Notice: This person is called a "genuine yokefellow."

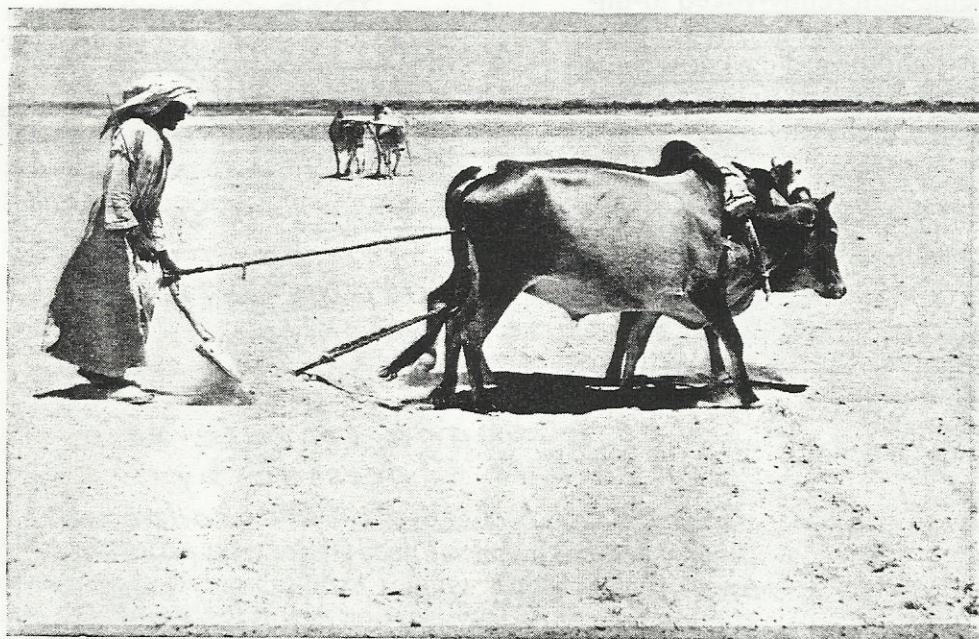


Fig. 2

That is, a yoke of two true believers.

This is further explained

by "fellow-workers" and their names being "in a book of-life."

PHILIPPIANS 4 CT

3 Yea I-am-asking you also, genuine yoke-fellow, you-yourself-take them together, they-who contested-together with me in the good-news also with Clement and my other fellow-workers, the names of-whom are in a book of-life.



Fig. 3

Leviticus 11:4 ASV

4 Nevertheless these shall ye not eat of them that chew the cud, or of them that part the hoof: the camel, because he cheweth the cud but parteth not the hoof, he is unclean unto you.

Deuteronomy 22:10 ASV

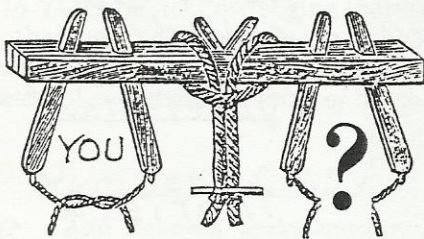
10 Thou shalt not plow with an ox and an ass together.

II CORINTHIANS 6 CT

14 YOU-be not becoming being-differently-yoked to-unbelieving-ones; for what sharing by-justice and by-lawlessness, or what participation by-light toward darkness?

15 But what agreement of-Messiah toward Beliar, or what portion by-one-trusting with an unbelieving-one?

"becoming being-differently-yoked to unbelieving-(ones)." This verse has often been used to refer to marriage with which it has no connection.



The husband to wife relationship is expressed by προσκόλλομαι (proskollaomai); English, "being-very-united" in

Matt. 19:5, Mark 10:7, and Eph. 5:31. Also by the Greek συζευγνύω (suzugnyo); English, "pair-together" in Matt. 19:6, and Mark 10:9. These words will appear elsewhere.

In 2 Cor. 6:14 we are concerned with true believers trying to pull a plough in God's service with an unbeliever. Further, this has no connection with believers employed with, or by, unbelievers. This whole subject is too involved for this article.

Fig. 3 illustrates the word ἕτεροζυγέω as used in 2 Cor. 6:14. The first part of this word comes from ἕτερος, (heteros); English, "different", and included in the word also the idea of inferior. In the figure an ox (a clean beast) is ploughing with a camel (an unclean beast). See Lev. 11:1-8. The camel is specifically mentioned.

An ass is also an unclean beast and Deut. 22:10 prohibits clean and unclean ploughing together.

In 2 Cor. 6:14 the word ἕτεροζυγέω is used in a spiritual sense. The true believer is not to be

Consider now the uses of ευός ζυγος, 6x, always in a figurative or spiritual sense.
ευός KJ

- Mat. 11: 29. Take my yoke upon you, and 30. For my yoke (is) easy,
- Acts 15: 10. to put a yoke upon the neck of the
- Gal. 5: 1. entangled again with the yoke of bondage.
- 1Ti. 6: 1. servants as are under the yoke
- Rev. 6: 5. had a pair of balances in his hand.

In Matt. 11:29 Jesus is speaking to Jews before the cross.

MATTHEW 11 CT

29 YOU-lift-up my yoke upon YOU, and YOU-learn from me, because I-am meek and humble in-the heart; and YOU-will find rest-again for YOUR souls.
30 For my yoke is gracious and my little-burden lightness.

ACTS 15 CT

10 Now therefore why are-YOU-trying the God, to-place-upon on the neck of-the disciples a yoke, which neither our fathers nor we ourselves-were-strong-enough to-bear?
11 But through the favor-of-the Lord Jesus we-are-trusting to-be-saved according-to which manner those-also.

GALATIANS 5 CT

1 To-the freedom Messiah made us free; YOU-be-standing-firm therefore and YOU-be not being again held-in a yoke of-slavery.

I TIMOTHY 6 CT

1 Let as-many-as are slaves under yoke be-considering their-own despots worthy of-all honor, in-order-that the name-of-the God and the teaching might not be-blas-phemed.

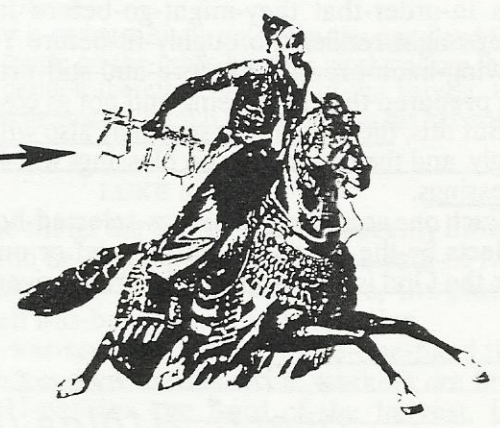
REVELATION 6 CT

5 And when he-opened the seal, namely-the third, I-heard of-the third living-creature saying: You-go. And I-saw, and behold a black horse, and the one sitting on it holding a yoke in his hand.
6 And I-heard as a voice in midst of-the four living-creatures saying: A choenix of-wheat for a denarius, and three choenixes of-barley[s] for a denarius; and might-you not harm the oil and the wine.

I believe this rider symbolizes the breaking of the yoke of the nations upon Israel. See Ezk. 34:27-28, also Revelation Commentary II.

The law given by God, had been made a burden to the people by the legal rules instituted by the religious leaders. Jesus offered liberty. Peter refers to the same yoke of legalism instead of salvation by grace, Acts 15:10. Paul continues in Gal. 5:1 the same warning. Yet in spite of all of the warning church leaders tend to preach the same

yoke of "works", in order to be saved. In 1 Tim. 6:1 we have the sense of yoke as referred to slavery. Now the final use is in Rev. 6:5 where the King James changes the meaning and hence the sense of the passage.



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