

Blasphemy Research – Going Deeper

(for Peter Dunnet’s challenge)

Here is some deeper research to help you answer Peter Dunnet’s challenge: “What actually is blasphemy?”

Here again are the biblical words that can be translated in various English Bibles as ‘blasphemy’.

- *Naqab* (Hb) = Figuratively, to curse or blaspheme. Literally means to pierce or strike through.
- *Qalal* (Hb) = Trifle, slight, lightly esteem, make light of, bring into contempt, curse, despise.
- *Shav* (Hb) = Vain, vanity, useless.
- *Gadaph* (Hb) = Reproach, revile, blaspheme God.
- *Neatsah* (hb) = contemptuous, blasphemy, scorn.
- *Naats* (Hb) = contemptuous, blasphemy, scorn, abhor, despise, spurn, provoke.
- *Blasphemeo* (Gk) = Speak reproachfully, rail at, revile, speak evil of.
- *Blasphemos* (Gk) = Speak evil of, slander, rail against, speak abuse.
- *Blasphemia* (Gk) = Slander, detract, speak injury to another’s good name. Impious or reproachful speech. Be injurious to divine majesty.

Here are instances where words are translated into ‘blasphemy’ in English Bibles. Listed are the alternatives that other translators have used instead of ‘blasphemy’. (Information comes from BibleGateway.com)¹

Reference	Word	Translation Statistics
Exodus 20:7	<i>Shav</i>	Vain: 25 Wrongful: 4 Profanely: 1 Misuse: 13
Exodus 22:28	<i>Qalal</i>	Blaspheme: 8 Revile: 20 Speak evil: 4 Dishonour: 1 Curse: 9 Speak against: 3
Leviticus 24:11	<i>Naqab</i>	Blasphemed: 36 Curse: 2 Swore: 1 Spoke evil: 1 Misused the Name: 1 Contempt: 2
Numbers 15:30	<i>Gadaph</i>	Blasphemes: 17 Rebels: 3 Reproaches: 8 Reviles: 8 Insults: 5 Disobeying: 1
2 Kings 19:22	<i>Gadaph</i>	Blasphemed: 25 Reviled: 11 Ridiculed: 6 Spoken against: 4

¹ – Number of English translations out of 51 who use the word indicated.

Nehemiah 9:18	<i>Neatsah</i>	Blasphemies: 28 Provocation: 9 Contempt: 3 Spoke against: 4 Insulted: 2 Abomination: 1
Nehemiah 9:26	<i>Neatsah</i>	Blasphemies: 26 Atrocities: 2 Spoke/sinned against: 4 Provocations: 9 Insults: 2 Despise: 1
Isaiah 52:5	<i>Naats</i>	Blasphemed: 26 Despised: 10 Deride: 1 Speak against: 5 Slandered: 2 Reviled: 2
Ezekiel 20:27	<i>Gadaph</i>	Reviled: 1 Blasphemed: 39 Rebelled: 2 Insulted: 5
Matthew 9:3	<i>Blasphemeo</i>	Blaspheming: 49 No respect: 1 Dishonouring: 2 Insulting: 2
Matthew 12:31	<i>Blasphemia</i>	Blasphemy: 46 Speak against: 2 Speak evil: 5
Matthew 26:65	<i>Blasphemia</i>	Blasphemy: 47 Speak against: 7 Speak evil: 2 Dishonouring: 2
John 10:33	<i>Blasphemia</i>	Blasphemy: 46 Dishonouring: 2 Speak against: 4 Speak evil: 2
John 10: 36	<i>Blasphemeo</i>	Blasphemy: 48 Disrespect: 1 Speak against: 4 Speak evil: 2 Insulting: 2
Acts 26:11	<i>Blasphemeo</i>	Blaspheme: 43 Speak evil: 3 Curse: 6 Speak against: 2
Romans 2:24	<i>Blasphemeo</i>	Blasphemed: 39 Spoke evil: 5 Slandered: 2 Cursed: 4

1 Timothy 1:13	<i>Blasphemos</i>	Blasphemer: 44 Not respect: 1 Talked bad about: 1 Spoke against: 7 Cursed: 2
1 Timothy 1:19-20	<i>Blasphemeo</i>	Blaspheme: 44 Speak evil: 2 Speak against: 8 Dishonour: 2 Oppose: 1
James 2:5-7	<i>Blasphemeo</i>	Blaspheme: 41 Speak evil: 4 Speak against: 6 Curse: 2
Revelation 13:1	<i>Blasphemia</i>	Blasphemous: 47 Speaking evil: 4 Not respect: 1 Speak against: 4 Insulting: 5
Revelation 13:6	<i>Blasphemia</i>	Blasphemy: 48 Say bad things: 1 Speaking evil: 2

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6-3-2018
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