

APPENDIX A - UNDERSTANDING THE WORD “DESIRE” IN GENESIS 3:16

<https://www.tms.edu/m/TMS-Spring2016-Article-03.pdf>

<https://jenniferjolene.wordpress.com/2016/02/26/two-verses-i-never-understood-before-genesis-47-and-316/>

1. Genesis 3:16 and Genesis 4:7 are linguistically related.

“To the woman he said, “I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.” Gen. 3:16 NIV

“If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.” Genesis 4:7 NIV

2. Theologians are beginning to understand that the word “sin” in Genesis 4:7 is more appropriately understood as “sin offering”. Genesis 4:7 describes a male lamb or goat reclining peacefully at the entryway to God’s presence.
3. The words “to have” in the NIV translation of Genesis 4:7 are not in the original Hebrew. Rather, it likely reads, “his turning is towards you,” which the translation found in the Septuagint.
4. The Hebrew word for “desire” or “turning”, literally describes the desire or *turning* of a sheep or a goat towards its shepherd. Figuratively, it describes an act of submission and the feeling of dependence towards another.
5. In Genesis 3:16 we see that woman is now cursed to be dependent on man and she must turn her submission towards man for her own survival. In the modern, developed world we do not understand this because physical strength is not necessary for survival.
6. World History records that women have always been in a submissive, dependent position towards men because of their physically vulnerable state. (Read I Peter 3:5-7)
7. The curses on man and woman are not commandments but rather the consequences of Adam and Eve’s disobedience towards God.
8. We know that one day the curse will be no more. (Revelation 22:3)