



Definition of *Derek* & *Magal*: Memory Is Retained in the Brain; Behavior, Character, & Lifestyle Are Facilitated by Repetition; Only Altered by Doctrine

Jenni, Ernst and Claus Westermann. *Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Translated by Mark E. Biddle. (Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, 1997), 1:344-346:

דֶּרֶךְ *derek*. The concrete meaning “way” evolves imperceptibly into the meaning “movement on the way”: A person who travels on a street goes “his way,” in order to reach a goal.

In a figurative meaning, the life of a person can be described as the “way” on which one finds oneself; often, then, one may translate “conduct, behavior.” This terminology acquired special significance in wisdom literature. In a rather general manner, *derek* indicates human life, in the sense of “behavior, condition, practice, manner.”

Religious language can also refer to the way or journey of Yahweh. The people should walk in God’s way, i.e., lead their lives in obedience to God, to which end God’s commandments serve as guideposts. To diverge from them is to pervert God’s ways and to go in other ways (e.g., one’s own, the sinner’s or strange gods’). This behavior by Israel’s kings, who do not walk in David’s, and thus Yahweh’s way, but in that of Jeroboam, is especially condemned.

Harris, R. Laird (ed.). *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1980), 1:196-97:

Derek. *Way, road, journey, manner.* It refers to a path worn by constant walking.

More numerous are the metaphorical uses of *derek*. It often refers to the actions and behavior of men, who either follow the way of the righteous or the way of the wicked:

Psalm 1:6 - For the Lord knows the way [**דֶּרֶךְ** *derek*] of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

The way of the righteous is closely linked with “the way of the Lord.” Parents are to command their children “to keep the way of the Lord (Genesis 18:19), which is found in the statutes and commands of God’s law. God’s ways are much higher than man’s ways, and the wicked is urged to forsake his sinful way:

Isaiah 55:8 - “My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways [**דֶּרֶךְ** *derek*] My ways,” declares the Lord.

9. It is the figurative use of these words that gives us the clue that the Holy Spirit coordinates the *kardia* of the soul with the cerebral cortex of the human brain to store, facilitate, and recall spiritual phenomena.
10. Prior to salvation, the human soul possesses norms and standards that are formed by two sources: (1) human viewpoint and (2) establishment viewpoint.
11. Once saved, the believer may then learn and apply divine norms and standards as he inculcates them under the filling, teaching, and recall ministries of the Holy Spirit.
12. Those who choose to emphasize behavior patterns, character traits, and lifestyles based on human viewpoint may be described as “walking in the way of the wicked.”
13. Those who choose to direct their lives based on divine viewpoint may be described as “walking in the way of the righteous.”
14. The challenge for the believer is to renovate his soul by rejecting human viewpoint, human good, and evil and accept divine viewpoint, divine good, and grace.



15. By picking up on the figurative meaning of *trochia*, *derek*, and *magal* we have developed the terms “wheel-tracks of righteousness” and “wheel-tracks of wickedness.”
16. Those who respond to the directives found in Scripture are said to “walk in the light” while those who reject divine direction are said to “walk in darkness.”

1 John 1:5 - And this is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light [φῶς, *phōs*: **righteousness, integrity, truth, perfection**] and in Him is no darkness [σκοτία, *skotia*: **wickedness, duplicity, falsehood, error**] at all.

17. It is from this standard that the believer must evaluate his own behavior, character, and lifestyle. John provides us the key checkpoint for this evaluation in the next two verses.

1 John 1:6 - If we say we have fellowship with God and yet walk in darkness [περιπατέω, *peripateō*: **a way of life based on wheel-tracks of wickedness**], we lie [**production of the three arrogant skills: self-justification, self-deception, & self-absorption**] and do not practice the truth;

v. 7 - but if we walk in the light [φῶς, *phōs*: **a way of life based on wheel-tracks of righteousness characterized by ἐσωτερικὴ ἁρμονία, *esōterikē harmonia*: inner harmony with the Word present in one's soul**] as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another [**production of the three spiritual skills: filling of the Holy Spirit, spiritual growth, & maximum doctrine in the soul characterized by ἐξωτερικὴ ἁρμονία, *exōterikē harmonia*: outer harmony with others in one's life**].

18. The transformation of thought from wickedness to righteousness must include the changing of behavior patterns and character traits. This renovation of the soul results in the development of a new disposition which alters one's worldview. This is reflected in the dramatic conversion of one's decision making process, problem-solving techniques, and lifestyle choices.
19. However, the battle not only involves the renovation of the soul but also of the body. What is called addiction is actually habit. As Solomon wrote in Proverbs 23:7, “As a man thinks in his soul, so is he.”
20. Habits are habitual because they have become paths of least resistance. We have referred to these as facilitated wheel-tracks in the brain or thought patterns contained in long-term memory in its neural pathways.
21. As a wagon wheel rolls over the ground it creates a rut or a wheel-track—*trochia*. As other wagons follow along these ruts are enlarged and deepened. When yet other wagons follow these tracks a roadway is established, described in the Old Testament by the words *derek* and *magal*.
22. Soon this path, way, or “wheel-track” it is broadly accepted as the easiest route to follow in order to get from point *A* to point *B*.
23. A similar process takes place in the brain. All memory is retained in neural pathways, or wheel-tracks—electrochemical links that extend among thousands of neural connections.
24. When data is processed by the eyes and ears during inculcation, it is then interpreted by the ministries of the Holy Spirit and brought to academic understanding in the *nous* of the soul.
25. Here volition makes a decision as to whether or not to accept the information as true or reject it as false.



26. If accepted it is transferred by the Holy Spirit to the *kardia* where it becomes cognizance of divine thought. But a question arises: once the information leaves the conscious mind how is it recalled?
27. The brain functions as the hard disk for the soul. It must be remembered that the soul and the body are inseparably linked between selection and physical death.
28. The human life of our original parents included perfect souls imputed to perfect bodies which, through the human spirit, were coordinated to produce perfect lives.
29. As our Lord taught them each afternoon in the comfort of Eden's light zephyr they processed the doctrine into their perfect souls and their perfect brains retained the information.
30. The only thing that could contaminate this harmony was the cacophony of the sinful nature. Once the lie was believed then new and different ideas were retained in their souls and brains and these brought them into conflict with not only divine thought but also divine justice.
31. Thus the Invisible War entered a new theater of conflict and the satanic campaign to capture the command post of the human soul has become Lucifer's central strategy during his appeal trial.
32. Salvation marks the beginning of the believer's spiritual life but he does so with the exact same inventory of ideas that he possessed the moment before he was saved with the lone exception of the doctrine of salvation.