

Doctrine of Amen

1. The term “*amen*” (Heb. '*amen*'; Gk. *amen*, "*true, faithful*") is a word used to affirm and confirm a statement.
2. The word was used often by Christ and is translated “*truly.*”
3. In the gospel of John the term is used twenty five times and means “most assuredly”.
4. The Jews used the word as a liturgical response.
 - A woman put on trial was instructed to say *amen*. *Numbers 5:22 And this water that causeth the curse shall go into thy bowels, to make thy belly to swell, and thy thigh to rot: And the woman shall say, Amen, amen.*
 - At Mt. Ebal the people said, “*Amen*” after specific instructions of the law were given. *Deuteronomy 27:15 Cursed be the man that maketh any graven or molten image, an abomination unto the LORD, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and putteth it in a secret place. And all the people shall answer and say, Amen. 16 Cursed be he that setteth light by his father or his mother. And all the people shall say, Amen. 17 Cursed be he that removeth his neighbour's landmark. And all the people shall say, Amen. 18 Cursed be he that maketh the blind to wander out of the way. And all the people shall say, Amen. 19 Cursed be he that perverteth the judgment of the stranger, fatherless, and widow. And all the people shall say, Amen. 20 Cursed be he that lieth with his father's wife; because he uncovereth his father's skirt. And all the people shall say, Amen. 21 Cursed be he that lieth with any manner of beast. And all the people shall say, Amen. 22 Cursed be he that lieth with his sister, the daughter of his father, or the daughter of his mother. And all the people shall say, Amen. 23 Cursed be he that lieth with his mother in law. And all the people shall say, Amen. 24 Cursed be he that smiteth his neighbour secretly. And all the people shall say, Amen. 25 Cursed be he that taketh reward to slay an innocent person. And all the people shall say, Amen. 26 Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them. And all the people shall say, Amen.*
 - Following the promise to make restitution the people said, “*Amen.*” *Nehemiah 5:13 Also I [Nehemiah] shook my lap, and said, So God shake out every man from his house, and from his labour, that performeth not this promise, even thus be he shaken out, and emptied. And all the congregation said, Amen, and praised the LORD. And the people did according to this promise.*
 - Following the reading of the Law by Ezra after returning from the Babylonian captivity the people listened and said, “*Amen.*” *Nehemiah 8:5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, all the people stood up: 6 And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered,*

Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

5. The spiritual practice of saying “*Amen*” was adopted by the early Church following Scripture reading, the sermon or the giving of thanks. *1 Corinthians 14:16* *Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?* Jerome (ca. 347 – September 30, 420) records that at the conclusion of public prayer the collective voice of the people sounded like the fall of water or the noise of thunder.

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