

כּוֹן

Meaning

- To be firm
- Establish
- Prepare
- Set

Verb. Occurs about 200 times in the Old Testament.

Meanings by Stem

Qal Stem (basic form)

To be firm, stable, fixed, established.

Describes something that stands securely or endures.

For example, “Your throne is established (כּוֹן) from of old” — [Psalm 93:2](#)plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigPsalm 93:2

Hebrew מֵעוֹלָם מֵאֲזַנֵּי כְסֵאֲךָ כּוֹן עַד עַד ESV Your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting. NIV Your throne was established long ago; you are from all eternity. NLT Your throne, O LORD, has stood from time immemorial. You yourself are from the everlasting past.

ἔτιμος ὁ θρόνος σου ἀπὸ τότε ἀπὸ τοῦ αἰῶνος οὐκ

Niphal Stem (passive/reflexive form)

To be established, be fixed, be prepared.

Often refers to plans or purposes that are set.

For example, “The LORD’s throne is established (כּוֹן) in the heavens.” — [Psalm 103:19](#)plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigPsalm 103:19

Hebrew יְהוָה בָּשָׂמִים הִכִּין כְּסֵאֹו וּמְלָכוּתוֹ בְּכֹל מְשָׁלָה ESV The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all. NIV The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all. NLT The LORD has made the heavens his throne; from there he rules over everything. κύριος ἐν τῷ οὐρανῷ ἡτοίμασεν τὸν θρόνον αὐτοῦ καὶ ἡ βασιλεία αὐτοῦ πάντων...

Hiphil Stem (causative form)

To establish, set up, prepare, make firm.

This is the most common form and often means to make something stable or ready.

For example, “The LORD establishes (הִכִּין) his steps.” — [Proverbs 16:9](#)plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigProverbs 16:9

Hebrew עָשָׂה יְהוָה לִי כְּמַשְׁכָּל לְבָבִי עָשָׂה יְהוָה לִי כְּמַשְׁכָּל לְבָבִי ESV The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps. NIV In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps. NLT We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps.

πάντα τὰ ἔργα τοῦ κυρίου μετὰ δικαιοσύνης φυλάσσεται· οὐδὲ ὁ ἀσεβὴς εἰς ἡμέραν κακῆς

Theological Significance

The verb כִּין often refers to God’s action in establishing creation, kingship, and moral order. It expresses the idea that what God does is permanent, reliable, and purposeful.

Examples:

- Creation: “He established (כִּין) the world, it shall not be moved.” — [Psalm 96:10](#)plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigPsalm 96:10

Hebrew אָמַרְוּ בַּגּוֹלִים יְהוָה מֶלֶךְ אֵל תִּכְּוֹן תִּבְּל בֶּל תִּמּוּט יָדָיו עַמִּים בְּמִשְׁפָּרִים ESV Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.” NIV Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns.” The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.

ἐν τοῖς ἔθνεσιν ὁ κύριος ἐξέβασιλευσεν καὶ γὰρ τὴν οἰκουμένην ἥτις οὐ σαλευθήσεται· κρινεῖ τοὺς ἐνέθου τι...

- Covenant and throne: “Your kingdom shall be established (כִּין) forever before you.” — [2 Samuel 7:16](#)plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big2 Samuel 7:16

Hebrew וְנִאֲמַרְוּ בְּיִתְּךָ וּבְמַמְלַכְתְּךָ עַד עוֹלָם לְפָנַי כִּסְאֲךָ יְהוָה נִכּוֹן עַד עוֹלָם ESV And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.” NIV Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.

καὶ πιστωθήσεται ὁ οἶκος αὐτοῦ καὶ ἡ βασιλεία αὐτοῦ ὥς αἰῶνος ἐνώπιον ἐμοῦ καὶ ὁ θρόνος αὐτοῦ ὥς ται ἄνωρθωμένος εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα...

- Moral order and plans: “Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established (כִּין).” — [Proverbs 16:3](#)plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigProverbs 16:3

Hebrew גַּל אֶל יְהוָה מַעֲשֶׂיךָ וְיִכְנֹנּוּ מַחְשְׁבֹתֶיךָ ESV Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established. NIV Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed. NLT Commit your actions to the LORD, and your plans will succeed.

LXX translations of כִּין

The translators did not use a single Greek word for כִּין; instead, they chose terms that fit the context:

- When the emphasis is on preparation or readiness, they used ἐτοιμάζω / ἐτοῖμος.
- When the focus is on stability or firmness, they used στηρίζω, βεβαιώω, or θεμελιώω.

Together these words paint a full picture of what it means for something (or someone) to be firmly set, trustworthy, and enduring, whether a throne, the world, or the human heart.

New Testament Connections

The same Greek verbs used in the LXX show up again in the New Testament, carrying forward the Hebrew theology of firm establishment:

Greek verb	NT examples	Connection to כָּבֵד
στηρίζω — “to strengthen, make firm”	Luke 22:32 plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigLuke 22:32 Greek ἐγὼ δὲ ἐδεήθην περὶ σοῦ ἵνα μὴ ἐκλίπῃ ἡ πίστις σου. καὶ σύ ποτε ἐπιστρέψας στήρισον τοὺς ἀδελφούς σου. ESV but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” NIV But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers., 1 Peter 5:10 plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big1 Peter 5:10 Greek ὁ δὲ θεὸς πάσης χάριτος, ὁ καλέσας ὑμᾶς εἰς τὴν αἰώνιον αὐτοῦ δόξαν ἐν Χριστῷ, ὀλίγον παθόντας αὐτὸς καταρτίσει, στηρίξει, σθενώσει, θεμελιώσει. ESV And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. NIV And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make...	God *establishes* believers just as He *establishes* His creation and throne
βεβαιώω — “to confirm, make sure”	1 Corinthians 1:8 plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big1 Corinthians 1:8 Greek ὃς καὶ βεβαιώσει ὑμᾶς ἕως τέλους ἀνεγκλήτους ἐν τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ. ESV who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. NIV He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. NLT He will keep you strong to the end so that you will be free from all blame on the day when our Lord Jesus Christ returns...., Hebrews 2:3 plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigHebrews 2:3 Greek πῶς ἡμεῖς ἐκφευξόμεθα τηλικαύτης ἀμελήσαντες σωτηρίας; ἥτις, ἀρχὴν λαβοῦσα λαλεῖσθαι διὰ τοῦ κυρίου, ὑπὸ τῶν ἀκουσάντων εἰς ἡμᾶς ἐβεβαιώθη, ESV how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, NIV how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him....	The confirming work of God parallels how He *makes firm* His word and covenant

θεμελιόω — “to lay a foundation”	Colossians 1:23 plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigColossians 1:23 Greek εἶγε ἐπιμένετε τῇ πίστει τεθεμελιωμένοι καὶ ἑδραῖοι καὶ μὴ μετακινούμενοι ἀπὸ τῆς ἐλπίδος τοῦ εὐαγγελίου οὗ ἠκούσατε, τοῦ κηρυχθέντος ἐν πάσῃ κτίσει τῇ ὑπὸ τὸν οὐρανόν, οὗ ἐγενόμην ἐγὼ Παῦλος διάκονος. ESV if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister....	Believers are *founded* on Christ — the ultimate fulfillment of stability
ἐτοιμάζω — “to prepare”	Matthew 25:34 plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigMatthew 25:34 Greek τότε ἐρεῖ ὁ βασιλεὺς τοῖς ἐκ δεξιῶν αὐτοῦ· δεῦτε, οἱ εὐλογημένοι τοῦ πατρὸς μου, κληρονομήσατε τὴν ἡτοιμασμένην ὑμῖν βασιλείαν ἀπὸ καταβολῆς κόσμου. ESV Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. NIV “Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of ...	Echoes God's *preparing* of His throne or world in the Psalms

Common Grammatical Forms

Form (Description)	English Meaning	Hebrew Spelling
Qal Perfect 3 masculine singular	he was established / firm	כָּוַן rare / not clearly attested
Niphal Perfect 3 masculine singular	he was established	נִכְוַן
Niphal Participle masculine singular	established, fixed	נִכְוֵן
Niphal Infinitive Absolute	to be established	הִכְוֵן
Niphal Imperfect 3 masculine singular	he will be established	יִכְוֶן
Niphal Imperfect 3 feminine singular	she will be established	תִּכְוֶן
Hiphil Perfect 3 masculine singular	he established / prepared	הִכְוִין
Hiphil Imperfect 3 masculine singular	he will establish / prepare	יִכְוִין
Hiphil Imperative masculine singular	establish! / prepare!	הִכְוֵן
Hiphil Infinitive Construct	to establish / prepare	יִכְוִין
Hiphil Participle masculine singular	establishing / preparing	מִכְוִין
Hiphil Participle feminine singular	establishing / preparing	מִכְוִינָה

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