

~ARCHER (150)

.. Figurative Usage

- A person who uses bow and arrow. The use of the bow and arrow after the Flood enabled man to kill, for food, clothing, and shelter, animals that were too fast and too dangerous to be taken otherwise. With the rise of Nimrod, archers likely were pressed into his service.
- In the 20th Century B.C.E, Abraham's firstborn son Ishmael became an archer to sustain himself in the wilderness.
- And God continued to be with the boy, and he kept growing and dwelling in the wilderness, and he became an archer. (Genesis 21:20)
- Similarly, Esau, the grandson of Abraham, could handle the bow with skill.
- So at this time take, please, your implements, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt some venison for me. (Genesis 27:3)
- Monuments testify that from the earliest times Egypt's principal offensive warriors were archers, and there are also Babylonian sculptures of archers. In the days of Joshua
- So I sent the feeling of dejection ahead of you, and it gradually drove them out before you, two kings of the Amorites, not with your sword and not with your bow. (Joshua 24:12)
- David
- And these are the ones that came to David at Ziklag while he was still under restrictions because of Saul the son of Kish, and they were among the mighty men, the helpers in the warfare. (1 Chronicles 12:1)
- Armed with the bow, using the right hand and using the left hand with stones or with arrows in the bow. They were of the brothers of Saul, of Benjamin. (1 Chronicles 12:2)

- And thereafter, **archers** were an important part of Israel's army.
- And Asa came to have a military force bearing the large shield and lance, three hundred thousand out of Judah. And out of Benjamin those bearing the buckler and bending the bow were two hundred and eighty thousand. All these were valiant, mighty men. (**2 Chronicles 14:8**)
- And Uzziah continued to prepare for them, for the entire army, shields and lances and helmets and coats of mail and bows and slingstones. (**2 Chronicles 26:14**)
- **Archers** of the Philistines, Syrians, and Egyptians shot Kings Saul, Ahab, and Josiah respectively.
- Now the Philistines were fighting against Israel, and the men of Israel took to flight from before the Philistines, and they kept falling down slain in Mount Gilboa. (**1 Samuel 31:1**)
- And the Philistines kept in close range of Saul and his sons, and the Philistines at last struck down Jonathan and Abinadab and Malchi-shua, Saul's sons. (**1 Samuel 31:2**)
- And the fighting became heavy against Saul, and the shooters, the bowmen, finally found him, and he got severely wounded by the shooters. (**1 Samuel 31:3**)
- And there was a man that bent the bow in his innocence, but he got to strike the king of Israel between the appendages and the coat of mail, so that he said to his charioteer; Turn your hand around, and take me out from the camp, because I have been badly wounded. (**1 Kings 22:34**)
- And the battle kept rising in intensity on that day, and the king himself had to be kept in a standing position in the chariot facing the Syrians, and gradually he died in the evening, and the blood of the wound kept pouring out upon the interior of the war chariot. (**1 Kings 22:35**)
- After all this when Josiah had prepared the house, Necho the king of Egypt came up to fight at Carchemish by the Euphrates. Then Josiah went out to an encounter with him. (**2 Chronicles 35:20**)

- And the shooters got to shoot at King Josiah, so that the king said to his servants; Take me down, for I have been very severely wounded. (**2 Chronicles 35:23**)
- Reliefs in Nineveh illustrate Assyrian **archers** in chariots carrying **two bows, one long, one short**. When **shooting one arrow they held extras in the hand, thus increasing the rapidity of their fire**. The Assyrian plan of attack seems to have been to **overwhelm the enemy under a flood of arrows**, and then use the sword and spear in pursuit.
- The Persians have been called the most expert **archers** in the world. Reliefs from Persepolis and Susa show Median and Persian **soldiers equipped with bows and quivers**. From the age of 5 until 20, Persian boys were taught **archery** and riding, their cavalry were experts even **when shooting backward**. Mobility along with freedom of movement of the **archers** was the basic plan of Persian strategy in storming the foe under a hail of arrows.
- The Western empires of Greece and Rome did not esteem the bow and arrow as highly as did the Eastern nations, though at times **archers** played a significant role in their victories. This may have been due to the Greek method of drawing the bow to the body, a less effective style, instead of drawing the bow to the cheek or eye as did the Egyptians and Persians. Mercenary Cretans and Asiatics seemed to have supplied the skilled bowmen, while the Greeks and Romans relied on the sword and spear.

See Also ARMS

See Also ARMOR

•• **Figurative Usage**

- Evidently referring to the unjust treatment of Joseph by his brothers, Jacob said of his son Joseph; **Archers, literally, owners of arrows**, kept harassing him and shot at him.
- But the **archers** kept harassing him and shot at him and kept harboring animosity against him. (**Genesis 49:23**)
- Job said of God's seeming animosity toward him. His **archers** encircle me.
- His **archers** encircle me. He splits open my kidneys and feels no compassion. He pours out my gallbladder to the very earth. (**Job**

16:13)

- The **Hebrew** word *rav*, here translated **archer**, comes from *ra-vav'*, meaning **shoot**.
- But the **archers** kept harassing him and **shot** at him and kept harboring **animosity** against him. (**Genesis 49:23**)
- The **Hebrew** word *rav* also occurs in;
- As an **archer** piercing everything is the one hiring someone stupid or the one hiring passersby. (**Proverbs 26:10**)
- Which reads; As an **archer** piercing everything is the one hiring someone stupid or the one hiring passersby. This proverb highlights the harm that can be caused when one in a responsible position employs someone not qualified for a particular assignment.