

~BASIN (397)

[Hebrew, *saph*, Greek, *ni-pter'*]

.. Sanctuary Use

.. Bowls

- The Scriptures do not provide a detailed description of basins used in ancient times, though such vessels were commonly earthenware or were made of wood or metal. Some basins served a domestic purpose, like those that were among the provisions brought to David and the people with him when they fled from Absalom.
- And it came about that, as soon as David came to Mahanaim, Shobi the son of Nahash from Rabbah of the sons of Ammon, and Machir the son of Ammiel from Lo-debar, and Barzillai the Gileadite from Rogelim. (2 Samuel 17:27)
- Brought beds and **basins** and potters vessels, and wheat and barley and flour and roasted grain and broad beans and lentils and parched grain. (2 Samuel 17:28)
- And honey and butter and sheep and curds of cattle they brought forward for David and the people that were with him to eat, for they said; The people are hungry and tired and thirsty in the wilderness. (2 Samuel 17:29)
- The Hebrew word *saph* is used for a **basin** of this kind. It is also employed for the **basin** into which the Israelites in Egypt put the blood of the Passover victim.
- And you must take a bunch of hyssop and dip it into the blood in a **basin** and strike upon the upper part of the doorway and upon the two doorposts some of the blood that is in the **basin**, and none of you should go out of the entrance of his house until morning. (Exodus 12:22)
- And for the temple **basins** that Nebuchadnezzar took to Babylon.
- And the **basins** and the fire holders and the bowls and the cans and the lampstands and the cups and the bowls that were of genuine gold, and those that were of genuine silver, the chief of the bodyguard took. (Jeremiah 52:19)

- This word may also be rendered **bowl**, and thus Yehowah is represented as saying prophetically; Here I am making Jerusalem a **bowl**, **Hebrew** *saph*, causing reeling to all the peoples round about.
- A pronouncement! The word of Yehowah concerning Israel, is the utterance of Yehowah, the One who is stretching out the heavens and laying the foundation of the earth and forming the spirit of man inside him. (**Zechariah 12:1**)
- Here I am making Jerusalem a **bowl** causing reeling to all the peoples round about, and also against Judah he will come to be in the siege, even against Jerusalem. (**Zechariah 12:2**)

• Sanctuary Use

- **Basins** were also used for sacred purposes in connection with Yehowah's worship at the tabernacle and the later temples. As Yehowah instructed Moses, the tabernacle articles included a large **basin** that was to be filled with water.
- It was made of copper, rested on a copper stand, and was placed between the tent of meeting and the altar to provide the High Priest and the other priests with **water for washing their hands and feet** either before entering the tent of meeting or before ministering at the altar.
- And Yehowah spoke further to Moses, saying; (**Exodus 30:17**)
- You must make a **basin** of copper and its stand of copper for washing, and you must put it between the tent of meeting and the altar and put water into it. (**Exodus 30:18**)
- And Aaron and his sons must wash their hands and their feet at it. (**Exodus 30:19**)
- When they go into the tent of meeting they will wash with water that they may not die, or when they go near the altar to minister in order to make an offering made by fire smoke to Yehowah. (**Exodus 30:20**)
- And they must wash their hands and their feet that they may not die, and it must serve as a regulation to time indefinite for them, for him and his offspring throughout their generations. (**Exodus 30:21**)

- And the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, and the **basin** and its stand. (**Exodus 31:9**)
- Then he placed the **basin** between the tent of meeting and the altar and put water in it for washing. (**Exodus 40:30**)
- And Moses and Aaron and his sons washed their hands and their feet at it. (**Exodus 40:31**)
- This **basin**, called a **laver** in some translations [**AS, AT, KJ, RS**], was made by the use of the mirrors of the women servants who did organized service at the entrance of the tent of meeting.
- Then he made the **basin** of copper and its stand of copper, by the use of the mirrors of the women servants who did organized service at the entrance of the tent of meeting. (**Exodus 38:8**)
- According to the **Masoretic** text, there is no specific instruction given on the transporting of the tabernacle **basin**. However, the **Greek Septuagint**, which agrees with the ancient **Samaritan Pentateuch**, adds to;
- And they must put upon it all its utensils with which they regularly minister at it, the fire holders, the forks and the shovels and the **bowls**, all the utensils of the altar, and they must spread out over it a covering of sealskins and put in its poles. (**Numbers 4:14**)
- The words; And they will take a purple cloth and cover the **basin** and its stand and put them in a blue skin covering and put them upon poles.
- The **Hebrew** word *ki-yohr'*, or *ki-yor'*, meaning **basin** or **laver**, is used for the tabernacle **basin**.
- The altar of burnt offering and the copper grating that is for it, its poles and all its utensils, the basin and its stand. (**Exodus 35:16**)
Footnote
- It is also used to refer to the ten **basins** Solomon had made for temple use, in which things having to do with the burnt offering were rinsed.
- Further, he made ten **basins**, and put five to the right and five to

- the left, to wash in them. Things having to do with the burnt offering they would rinse in them. But the sea was for the priests to wash in it. (2 Chronicles 4:6)
- And the ten carriages and the ten **basins** upon the carriages. (2 Chronicles 4:14)
 - Each of the ten copper **basins** or lavers, **AT**, **RS** Hiram made for temple use could hold forty bath measures, or about 880 Liters (230 gallons) of water. If these **basins** were hemispherical in shape this would mean that they had a diameter of perhaps 1.8 meters (6 feet).
 - Of course, if they bulged and tapered somewhat toward the top, the measurements would be different, and it must be observed that the Bible does not provide detailed information on their form, though it says that each **basin** was four cubits. Each **basin** was placed on a four-wheeled carriage skillfully made with ornamental work and engravings, five being placed on the right and five on the left side of the house.
 - And he went on to make the ten carriages of copper, four cubits being the length of each carriage, and four cubits its width, and three cubits its height. (1 Kings 7:27)
 - And this was the workmanship of the carriages, they had sidewalls, and the sidewalls were between the crossbars. (1 Kings 7:28)
 - And upon the sidewalls that were between the crossbars there were lions, bulls and cherubs, and over the crossbars it was like that. Up above and beneath the lions and the bulls there were wreaths in hanging work. (1 Kings 7:29)
 - And there were four wheels of copper to each carriage, with axles of copper, and its four corner-pieces were supports for them. Beneath the **basin** were the supports, cast with wreaths across from each. (1 Kings 7:30)
 - And its mouth from inside to the supports and upward was [?] cubits, and its mouth was round, the workmanship of a stand of one and a half cubits, and also upon its mouth there were carvings. And their sidewalls were squared, not round. (1 Kings 7:31)

- And the four wheels were down below the sidewalls, and the supports of the wheels were by the carriage, and the height of each wheel was one and a half cubits. (1 Kings 7:32)
- And the workmanship of the wheels was like the workmanship of a chariot wheel. Their supports and their felloes and their spokes and their hubs, they were all cast. (1 Kings 7:33)
- And there were four supports upon the four corners of each carriage, its supports were of one piece with the carriage. (1 Kings 7:34)
- And on top of the carriage there was a stand a half a cubit in height, circular all around, and upon the top of the carriage its sides and its sidewalls were of one piece with it. (1 Kings 7:35)
- Further, he engraved upon the plates of its sides and upon its sidewalls cherubs, lions and palm-tree figures according to the clear space of each, and wreaths all around. (1 Kings 7:36)
- It was like this that he made the ten carriages, they all had one cast, one measure, one shape. (1 Kings 7:37)
- And he proceeded to make ten **basins** of copper. Forty bath measures were what each **basin** would contain. Each **basin** was four cubits. There was one **basin** upon each carriage for the ten carriages. (1 Kings 7:38)
- Then he put five carriages on the right side of the house, and five on the left side of the house, and the sea itself he put to the right side of the house eastward, toward the south. (1 Kings 7:39)
- Another **basin** of great size was the large ornamented molten sea that stood upon 12 fashioned bulls and was placed at the right side, to the east, toward the south of the house. Stored therein was water the priests used. It was circular, 10 cubits (4.5 meters)(14.6 feet) from brim to brim and 5 cubits (2.2 meters)(7.3 feet) high.
- And he proceeded to make the molten sea ten cubits from its one brim to its other brim, circular all around, and its height was five cubits, and it took a line of thirty cubits to circle all around it. (2 Chronicles 4:2)
- And there was the likeness of gourd-shaped ornaments under it

clear around, surrounding it, ten in a cubit, enclosing the sea all around. The gourd-shaped ornaments were in two rows, being cast in its casting. (2 Chronicles 4:3)

- It was standing upon twelve bulls, three facing the north and three facing the west and three facing the south and three facing the east, and the sea was above upon them, and all their hind parts were inward. (2 Chronicles 4:4)
- And its thickness was a handbreadth, and its brim was like the workmanship of the brim of a cup, a lily blossom. As a receptacle, three thousand bath measures were what it could contain. (2 Chronicles 4:5)
- Further, he made ten **basins**, and put five to the right and five to the left, to wash in them. Things having to do with the burnt offering they would rinse in them. But the sea was for the priests to wash in it. (2 Chronicles 4:6)
- And the sea he placed at the right side, to the east, toward the south. (2 Chronicles 4:10)
- The Greek *ni-pter'* is used to refer to the **basin**, or **washbasin**, that Jesus used when **he washed the feet of his disciples**.
- After that he put water into a **basin** and started to wash the feet of the disciples and to dry them off with the towel with which he was girded. (John 13:5) [Int]

.. Bowls

- As with other vessels mentioned in the Scriptures, bowls were variously made of clay, wood, or metal. The Hebrew term *miz-raq'* denotes a metal vessel evidently used in connection with sacrifices in worship.
- And you must make its cans for clearing away its fatty ashes, and its shovels, and its **bowls**, and its forks, and its fire holders, and you will make all its utensils of copper. (Exodus 27:3)
- And they must put upon it all its utensils with which they regularly minister at it, the fire holders, the forks and the shovels and the **bowls**, all the utensils of the altar, and they must spread out over it a covering of sealskins and put in its poles. (Numbers

4:14)

- And his offering was one silver dish, its weight being a hundred and thirty shekels, one silver **bowl** of seventy shekels by the shekel of the holy place, both of them full of fine flour moistened with oil for a grain offering. (**Numbers 7:13**)
- And the **basins** and the extinguishers and the bowls and the cups and the fire holders, of pure gold, and the sockets for the doors of the inner house, that is, the Most Holy, and for the doors of the house of the temple, of gold. (**1 Kings 7:50**)
- Further, he made ten tables, and stationed them in the temple, five to the right and five to the left, and made a hundred **bowls** of gold. (**2 Chronicles 4:8**)
- Among the larger **bowls** used at meals was the *tsal-la'chath* **banquet bowl**.
- The lazy one has hidden his hand in the **banquet bowl**, he has become too weary to bring it back to his mouth. (**Proverbs 26:15**)
- And the *se'phel* **large banquet bowl**.
- Water he asked, milk she gave. In the **large banquet bowl** of majestic one's she presented curdled milk. (**Judges 5:25**)
- *Gul-lah'* is used to denote a **bowl**.
- Then he said to me; What are you seeing? So I said; I have seen, and, look! There is a lampstand, all of it of gold, with a **bowl** on top of it. And its seven lamps are upon it, even seven, and the lamps that are at the top of it have seven pipes. (**Zechariah 4:2**)
- But it is also rendered **bowl-shaped** and **round** to describe the capitals of the pillars standing before the temple in Solomon's time.
- The two pillars and the **bowl-shaped capitals** that were upon the top of the two pillars, and the two networks to cover the two round capitals that were upon the top of the pillars. (**1 Kings 7:41**)

- The two **Greek** terms for bowls are *try'bli-on* and *phi-a'le*. *Try'bli-on* denotes a relatively **deep bowl** from which a meal was eaten
- In reply he said; He that dips his hand with me in the **bowl** is the one that will betray me. (**Matthew 26:23**)
- Whereas *phi-a'le* refers to a **bowl** often used for offering liquid sacrifices.
- And the first one went off and poured out his **bowl** into the earth. And a hurtful and malignant ulcer came to be upon the men that had the mark of the wild beast and that were worshiping its image. (**Revelation 16:2**)
- And the second one poured out his **bowl** into the sea. And it became blood as of a dead man, and every living soul died, yes, the things in the sea. (**Revelation 16:3**)
- And the third one poured out his **bowl** into the rivers and the fountains of the waters. And they became blood. (**Revelation 16:4**)
- And I heard the angel over the waters say; You, the One who is and who was, the loyal One, are righteous, because you have rendered these decisions. (**Revelation 16:5**)
- Because they poured out the blood of holy one's and of prophets, and you have given them blood to drink. They deserve it. (**Revelation 16:6**)
- And I heard the altar say; Yes, Yehowah God, the Almighty, true and righteous are your judicial decisions. (**Revelation 16:7**)
- And the fourth one poured out his **bowl** upon the sun, and to the sun it was granted to scorch the men with fire. (**Revelation 16:8**)
- And the men were scorched with great heat, but they blasphemed the name of God, who has the authority over these plagues, and they did not repent so as to give glory to him. (**Revelation 16:9**)
- And the fifth one poured out his **bowl** upon the throne of the wild beast. And its kingdom became darkened, and they began to gnaw their tongues for their pain. (**Revelation 16:10**)

- But they blasphemed the God of heaven for their pains and for their ulcers, and they did not repent of their works. (**Revelation 16:11**)
- And the sixth one poured out his **bowl** upon the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, that the way might be prepared for the kings from the rising of the sun. (**Revelation 16:12**)
- And I saw three unclean inspired expressions that looked like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the wild beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. (**Revelation 16:13**)
- They are, in fact, expressions inspired by demons and perform signs, and they go forth to the kings of the entire inhabited earth, to gather them together to the war of the great day of God the Almighty. (**Revelation 16:14**)
- Look! I am coming as a thief. Happy is the one that stays awake and keeps his outer garments, that he may not walk naked and people look upon his shamefulness. (**Revelation 16:15**)
- And they gathered them together to the place that is called in Hebrew Har-Magedon. (**Revelation 16:16**)
- And the seventh one poured out his **bowl** upon the air. At this a loud voice issued out of the sanctuary from the throne, saying, It has come to pass! (**Revelation 16:17**)