

~BED (341)

[Hebrew, *mish-kav'*, Greek, *kli'ne*]

- During Bible times, as today, the facilities for sleeping varied in type, style, and structure, according to the peoples wealth, status in life, and customs. The **bare ground, sometimes cushioned with a pad or pallet, often sufficed for the poor**, the herdsman, and the traveler, very costly and ornate furnishings were used by rulers and the rich in their permanent dwellings.
- The common **Hebrew** term for bed is *mish-kav'*, from the root *sha-khav'*, to lie down.
- With reckless license like waters, do not you excel, because you have gone up to your fathers **bed**. At that time you profaned my lounge. He went up to it! (**Genesis 49:4**)
- And I will put peace in the land, and you will indeed lie down, with no one making you tremble, and I will make the injurious wild beast cease out of the land, and a sword will not pass through your land. (**Leviticus 26:6**)
- The usual **Greek** term is *kli'ne*, from *kli'no*, incline.
- And, look! They were bringing him a paralyzed man lying on a **bed**. On seeing their faith Jesus said to the paralytic; Take courage, child. Your sins are forgiven. (**Matthew 9:2**)
- And Jesus said to him; Foxes have dens and birds of heaven have roosts, but the Son of man has nowhere to **lay down his head**. (**Luke 9:58**)
- Another **Greek** term for **bed**, *koi'te*, which basically denotes a place to lie down;
- And that one from inside says in reply; Quit making me trouble. The door is already locked, and my young children are with me in **bed**. I cannot rise up and give you anything. (**Luke 11:7**)
- Is also used to refer to the **marriage bed**.
- Let marriage be honorable among all, and the **marriage bed** be

without defilement, for God will judge fornicators and adulterers.
(**Hebrews 13:4**)

- And **illicit intercourse**.
- As in the daytime let us walk decently, not in revelries and drunken bouts, not in **illicit intercourse** and loose conduct, not in strife and jealousy. (**Romans 13:13**)
- By metonymy it refers to conceiving a child.
- Yet not that case alone, but also when Rebekah **conceived twins** from the one man, Isaac our forefather: (**Romans 9:10**)
- Other **Hebrew** terms for places for lying down are *mat-tah'* **couch**, *'e'res*, **divan**, and *ya-tsu-a ''*, **lounge**. The **Greek** *kra'bat-tos* refers to a **cot**.
- But not being able to bring him right to Jesus on account of the crowd, they removed the roof over where he was, and having dug an opening they lowered the **cot** on which the paralytic was lying. (**Mark 2:4**)
- Bible writers did not always make a distinction between these various terms and frequently used two or more of them for the same thing, calling a **bed** a **divan**.
- When I said; My **divan** will comfort me, my **bed** will help carry my concern. (**Job 7:13**)
- A **bed** a **cot**,
- However, in order for you to know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins then he said to the paralytic; Get up, pick up your **bed**, and go to your home. (**Matthew 9:6**)
- I say to you; Get up, pick up your **cot**, and go to your home. (**Mark 2:11**)
- A **couch** a **divan**.
- I have grown weary with my sighing, all night long I make my **couch** swim, with my tears I make my own **divan** overflow. (**Psalms 6:6**)

- **A bed a lounge.**
- **With reckless license like waters, do not you excel, because you have gone up to your fathers bed. At that time you profaned my lounge. He went up to it! (Genesis 49:4)**
- **These were used by those sleeping at night or taking a siesta.**
- **And the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, proceeded to go and come to the house of Ish-bosheth about when the day had heated up, as he was taking his noonday siesta. (2 Samuel 4:5)**
- **And here they came into the middle of the house as men fetching wheat, and then struck him in the abdomen, and Rechab and Baanah his brother themselves escaped detection. (2 Samuel 4:6)**
- **When they went into the house, he was lying upon his couch in his inner bedroom, and then they struck him so that they put him to death, after which they removed his head and took his head and walked on the road to the Arabah all night long. (2 Samuel 4:7)**
- **In a dream, a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon men, during slumbers upon the bed. (Job 33:15)**
- **By those sick, by one's having intercourse;**
- **Yehowah himself will sustain him upon a divan of illness, all his bed you will certainly change during his sickness. (Psalms 41:3)**
- **And the sons of Babylon kept coming in to her, to the bed of expressions of love, and defiling her with their immoral intercourse, and she continued getting defiled by them, and her soul began to turn away disgusted from them. (Ezekiel 23:17)**
- **And as a resting-place for the dead in a grand tomb.**
- **So they buried him in his grand burial place that he had excavated for himself in the City of David, and they laid him in the bed that had been filled with balsam oil and different sorts of ointment mixed in an ointment of special make. Further, they**

made an extraordinarily great funeral burning for him. (2 Chronicles 16:14)

- The custom of reclining at a meal required **couches**.
- And the king himself returned from the garden of the palace to the house of the wine banquet, and Haman was fallen upon the **couch** on which Esther was. Consequently the king said; Is there also to be a raping of the queen, with me in the house? The word itself went out of the kings mouth, and Haman's face they covered. (Esther 7:8)
- When, now, it had become evening, he was **reclining** at the table with the twelve disciples. (Matthew 26:20)
- At length when the hour came, he **reclined** at the table, and the apostles with him. (Luke 22:14)
- A **couch** especially designed to carry one about in regal style was called a **litter**.
- Look! It is his **couch**, the one belonging to Solomon. Sixty mighty men are all around it, from the mighty men of Israel. (Song of Solomon 3:7)
- All of them in possession of a sword, being taught in warfare, each one with his sword upon his thigh because of dread during the nights. (Song of Solomon 3:8)
- It is the **litter** that King Solomon has made for himself from the trees of Lebanon. (Song of Solomon 3:9)
- Its **pillars** he has made of silver, its supports of gold. Its **seat** is of wool dyed reddish purple, its **interior** being fitted out lovingly by the daughters of Jerusalem. (Song of Solomon 3:10)

See Also LITTER

- Certain accessories are usually associated with **beds**, for example, a **pillow**. Jesus, when crossing the Sea of Galilee, fell asleep **upon a pillow** in the stern of the boat.
- But he was in the stern, **sleeping upon a pillow**. So they woke him up and said to him; Teacher, do you not care that we are

about to perish? (Mark 4:38)

- During the colder season a **woven sheet** or other covering was used;
- For the **couch** has proved too short for stretching oneself on, and the **woven sheet** itself is too **narrow when wrapping oneself up**. (Isaiah 28:20)
- But it was common to **sleep in everyday garments**, hence the Mosaic Law forbade keeping another person's garments after sunset. It is his only covering. In **what will he lie down?**
- If you should at all seize the garment of your fellow as a pledge, you are to **return it to him at the setting of the sun**. (Exodus 22:26)
- For it is his only covering. It is his mantle for his skin. In what will he lie down? And it must occur that he will cry out to me, and I shall certainly hear, because I am gracious. (Exodus 22:27)
- The Oriental **bed** was often a **simple mat made of straw or rushes**, with perhaps **quilting or a mattress** of some sort for added comfort. When not in use, these were **rolled up and stored away**. A more permanent arrangement employed a **wooden frame or bedstead** that elevated the **sleeper off the ground or floor**.
- And he went on to say to them; A lamp is not brought to be put under a measuring basket or under a **bed**, is it? It is brought to be put upon a lampstand, is it not? (Mark 4:21)
- These served as **couches** or **divans** upon which to sit during the daytime. The simplest **cot-like beds** were lightweight, **easily picked up and carried about**.
- And, look! Men carrying on a **bed** a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking a way to bring him in and place him before him. (Luke 5:18)
- So, not finding a way to bring him in on account of the crowd, they climbed up to the roof, and through the tiling they let him down with the little **bed** among those in front of Jesus. (Luke 5:19)

- Jesus said to him; Get up, pick up your **cot** and walk. (**John 5:8**)
- So that they brought the sick out even into the broad ways and laid them there upon little **beds** and **cots**, in order, that, as Peter would go by, at least his shadow might fall upon some one of them. (**Acts of Apostles 5:15**)
- The wealthy had **beds** draped with **elegant decorations of rich embroidery**. With coverlets I have **bedecked my divan**, with many-colored things, linen of Egypt. I have **besprinkled my bed with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon**, the seductive prostitute declared.
- With coverlets I have **bedecked my divan**, with many-colored things, linen of Egypt. (**Proverbs 7:16**)
- I have besprinkled my **bed** with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon. (**Proverbs 7:17**)
- Like the couches of gold and silver of a Persian palace, so also a splendid couch, a Damascene **divan**, and **couches** of ivory, were described by the prophet as the furnishings of rebellious Israel.
- There were linen, fine cotton and blue held fast in ropes of fine fabric, and wool dyed reddish purple in silver rings and pillars of marble, couches of gold and silver upon a pavement of porphyry and marble and pearl and black marble. (**Esther 1:6**)
- This is what Yehowah has said; Just as the shepherd snatches away from the mouth of the lion two shanks or a piece of an ear, so the sons of Israel will be snatched away, those sitting in Samaria on a **splendid couch** and on a Damascene divan. (**Amos 3:12**)
- You men that are **lying down on couches** of ivory and are sprawling on their **divans**, and are eating the rams out of a flock and the young bulls from among fattened calves. (**Amos 6:4**)
- Separate **bedrooms** or inner **bedrooms** were used by those who could afford large houses.
- And the Nile River will fairly teem with frogs, and they will certainly come up and enter into your house and your **inner bedroom** and upon your **couch** and into the houses of your servants and on your people and into your ovens and into your

kneading troughs. (**Exodus 8:3**)

- Then one of his servants said; None, my lord the king, but it is Elisha the prophet who is in Israel that tells the king of Israel the things that you speak in your inner **bedroom**. (**2 Kings 6:12**)
- However, Jehosheba the daughter of King Jehoram, the sister of Ahaziah, took Jehoash the son of Ahaziah and stole him from among the sons of the king that were to be put to death, even him and his nursing woman, into the inner room for the couches, and they kept him concealed from the face of Athaliah, and he was not put to death. (**2 Kings 11:2**)
- During the hot summer, the **cooler rooftops** frequently served as **sleeping quarters**.
- Also in a figurative sense, **beds**, **couches**, and **lounges** are referred to in the Scriptures. The state of the dead, for example, is as those lying in a **bed**.
- If I keep waiting, Sheol is my house, in the darkness I shall have to spread out my lounge. (**Job 17:13**)
- In the midst of slain one's they have **set a bed** for her among all her crowd. Her burial places are round about it. All of them are uncircumcised, slain by the sword, because their terror was caused in the land of those alive, and they will bear their humiliation with those going down into the pit. In the midst of slain one's he has been put. (**Ezekiel 32:25**)
- Yehowah's loyal one's **cry out joyfully on their beds**, in contrast with wayward one's who keep howling and scheming what is bad while lying in **bed**.
- Let the loyal one's exult in glory. Let them cry out joyfully on their **beds**. (**Psalms 149:5**)
- And they did not call to me for aid with their heart, although they kept howling on their **beds**. On account of their grain and sweet wine they kept loafing about, they kept turning against me. (**Hosea 7:14**)
- Woe to those who are scheming what is harmful, and to those practicing what is bad, upon their **beds**! By the light of the

morning they proceed to do it, because it is in the power of their hand. (**Micah 2:1**)

- **Unlike Reuben, who with reckless license had relations with his father Jacob's concubine and in this sense profaned his father's **bed**.**
- **And it came about while Israel was tabernacling in that land that once Reuben went and lay down with Bilhah his father's concubine, and Israel got to hear of it. So there came to be twelve sons of Jacob. (**Genesis 35:22**)**
- **With reckless license like waters, do not you excel, because you have gone up to your father's **bed**. At that time you profaned my lounge. He went up to it! (**Genesis 49:4**)**
- **Christians must not defile the sacred marital arrangement, the marriage **bed**, in any way.**
- **Let marriage be honorable among all, and the marriage **bed** be without defilement, for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. (**Hebrews 13:4**)**