

## ~BELLOWS (57)

[Hebrew, *map-pu'ach*, from *na-phach'*, blow]

- A device that can be alternately expanded and contracted, first drawing in air through a valve, then forcibly expelling it out an exit tube. For giving furnaces a forced draft, the bellows are more efficient than mere fanning, or the antiquated lung-powered hollow reeds and blow tubes also used for this purpose. The construction of bellows was simple: A bag mounted on a frame or base was attached to a tube leading to the furnace, which tube may have been of iron, or reed tipped with fire-resistant clay.
- Hand-operated bellows were useful for small forges, but for large high-temperature furnaces, dual foot-powered bellows were employed, one under each foot of the operator, who pumped down alternately, first one foot and then the other, each time pulling a cord to refill the compressed one. To give these big furnaces a constant draft, two men worked two pairs of bellows. The Hebrew word for bellows is *map-pu'ach*, which comes from the root *na-phach'*, meaning blow.
- And Yehowah God proceeded to form the man out of dust from the ground and to **blow** into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man came to be a living soul. (Genesis 2:7)
- This instrument is specifically mentioned only once in the Scriptures;
- The **bellows** have been scorched. Out from their fire there is lead. One has kept refining intensely simply for nothing, and those who are bad have not been separated. (Jeremiah 6:29)
- Though perhaps alluded to at;
- Look! I myself have created the craftsman, the one **blowing** upon the fire of charcoal and bringing forth a weapon as his workmanship. I myself, too, have created the ruinous man for wrecking work. (Isaiah 54:16)
- As in collecting silver and copper and iron and lead and tin into the midst of a furnace, in order to **blow** upon it with fire to cause a liquefying, so I shall collect them together in my anger and in my rage, and I will blow and cause you people to liquefy. (Ezekiel

**22:20)**

- And I will bring you together and **blow** upon you with the fire of my fury, and you must be liquefied in the midst of her. (**Ezekiel 22:21**)
- In these texts the references are **figurative**, and the illustrations are drawn from the methods used for refining metals.

**See Also REFINE**  
**See Also REFINER**