

~BREAD (424)

[Hebrew, *le'chem*, Greek, *ar'tos*]

.. Figurative Use

- **A baked food, sometimes leavened, the basic ingredient of which is flour or meal.** Bread Hebrew, *le'chem*, Greek, *ar'tos* was a staple in the diet of the Jews and other peoples of antiquity, the art of bread making being common knowledge among the Israelites, Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, and others.
- Even in modern times in some parts of the Middle East, bread is of chief importance, and other types of food are of secondary significance. At times the Bible seems to use bread for food in general, as at;
- In the sweat of your face you will **eat bread** until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken. For dust you are and to dust you will return. (**Genesis 3:19**)
- And in the model prayer, which contains the request; Give us today our **bread** for this day.
- Give us today our **bread** for this day. (**Matthew 6:11**)
- **Bread** is for the laughter of the workers, and wine itself makes life rejoice, but money is what meets a response in all things. (**Ecclesiastes 10:19**) Footnote
- In making **bread**, the Hebrews generally used wheat flour or barley flour. Wheat was more expensive, so persons might often have to content themselves with barley bread. Reference is made to barley bread at
- Gideon now came, and, look! There was a man relating a dream to his companion, and he went on to say; Here is a dream that I have dreamed. And, look! There was a round cake of barley **bread** turning over and over into the camp of Midian. Then it came to a tent and struck it so that it fell, and it went turning it upside down, and the tent fell flat. (**Judges 7:13**)
- And there was a man that came from Baal-shalishah, and he came bringing to the man of the true God **bread** of the first ripe

fruits, twenty barley loaves, and new grain in his bread bag. Then he said, Give it to the people that they may eat. (2 Kings 4:42)

- Here is a little boy that has **five barley loaves** and two small fishes. But what are these among so many? (John 6:9)
- Therefore they gathered them together, and they filled twelve baskets with fragments from the **five barley loaves**, which were left over by those who had eaten. (John 6:13)
- Some flour was rather coarse, being prepared by the use of mortar and pestle. However, fine flour was also in use.
- So Abraham went hurrying to the tent to Sarah and said, Hurry! Get three seah measures of **fine flour**, knead the dough and make round cakes. (Genesis 18:6)
- Now in case some soul would present as an **offering a grain offering to Yehowah**, his offering should prove to be **fine flour**, and he must **pour oil over it and put frankincense upon it**. (Leviticus 2:1)
- And Solomon's food for each day regularly proved to be thirty cor measures of **fine flour and sixty cor measures of flour**. (1 Kings 4:22)
- The **manna** Yehowah God provided for the Israelites during their wilderness trek was **ground in hand mills or pounded in a mortar**.
- The people spread out and picked it up and ground it in **hand mills or pounded it in a mortar**, and they boiled it in cooking pots or made it into round cakes, and its taste proved to be like the **taste** of an **oiled sweet cake**. (Numbers 11:8)
- It was customary to grind the grain and bake fresh **bread** daily, and often the bread was unleavened **Hebrew, mats-tsah'**. The flour was simply mixed with water, and no leaven was added before the kneading of the dough.
- In making leavened **bread**, the general practice was to take a piece of dough retained from a previous baking and use it as a leavening agent by crumbling it into the water prior to the mixing in of

the flour. Such a mixture would be kneaded and permitted to stand until it leavened.

- A little leaven ferments the whole lump. (Galatians 5:9)

See Also CAKE

See Also LEAVEN

See Also LOAF

- Offerings made to Yehowah by the Israelites consisted of some baked things.
- And in case you would present as an offering a grain offering in the way of something baked in the oven, it should be of fine flour, unfermented ring-shaped cakes moistened with oil or unfermented wafers smeared with oil. (Leviticus 2:4)
- And if your offering is a grain offering from off the griddle, it should prove to be of fine flour moistened with oil, unfermented. (Leviticus 2:5)
- There should be a breaking of it up into pieces, and you must pour oil upon it. It is a grain offering. (Leviticus 2:6)
- And if your offering is a grain offering out of the deep-fat kettle, it should be made of fine flour with oil. (Leviticus 2:7)
- And you must bring the grain offering that was made of these to Yehowah, and it must be presented to the priest and he must bring it near to the altar. (Leviticus 2:8)
- And the priest must lift off some of the grain offering as a remembrancer of it and must make it smoke on the altar, as an offering made by fire of a restful odor to Yehowah. (Leviticus 2:9)
- And what is left of the grain offering belongs to Aaron and his sons, as something most holy of Yehowah's offerings by fire. (Leviticus 2:10)
- No grain offering that you will present to Yehowah should be made a leavened thing, because you must make no sourdough and no honey at all smoke as an offering made by fire to Yehowah. (Leviticus 2:11)

- As an offering of the firstfruits, you will present them to Yehowah, and they must not come up onto the altar for a restful odor. (**Leviticus 2:12**)
- And every offering of your **grain offering** you will season with **salt**, and you must **not allow** the **salt** of the **covenant** of your God to be missing upon your **grain offering**. Along **with every offering of yours you will present salt**. (**Leviticus 2:13**)
- It was **not permissible to use leaven in offerings** made by fire to Yehowah, though certain offerings were not burned on the altar and could contain leaven.
- Along with ring-shaped cakes of **leavened bread** he will present his offering together with the thanksgiving sacrifice of his communion sacrifices. (**Leviticus 7:13**)
- Out of your dwelling places you should bring **two loaves as a wave offering**. Of two tenths of an ephah of **fine flour** they should prove to be. They should be **baked leavened**, as first ripe fruits to Yehowah. (**Leviticus 23:17**)
- The use of **leavened bread** was not allowed during the Passover and the Festival of Unfermented Cakes associated with it.
- And they must eat the flesh on this night. They should eat it roasted with fire and with **unfermented cakes** along with bitter greens. (**Exodus 12:8**)
- Seven days you are to eat **unfermented cakes**. Yes, on the first day you are to take away sourdough from your houses, **because anyone eating what is leavened**, from the first day down to the seventh, that soul **must be cut off from Israel**. (**Exodus 12:15**)
- In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, in the evening you are to eat **unfermented cakes** down till the twenty-first day of the month in the evening. (**Exodus 12:18**)

See Also SHOWBREAD

- The prominence of **bread** in the daily diet of Biblical times is indicated by repeated references to it throughout the Scriptures. For

example, Melchizedek brought out **bread** and wine before blessing Abraham.

- And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out **bread** and wine, and he was priest of the Most High God. (**Genesis 14:18**)
- When Abraham sent away Hagar and Ishmael he took **bread** and a skin water bottle and gave it to Hagar.
- So Abraham got up early in the morning and took **bread** and a skin water bottle and gave it to Hagar, setting it upon her shoulder, and the child, and then dismissed her. And she went her way and wandered about in the wilderness of Beersheba. (**Genesis 21:14**)
- Imprisoned Jeremiah was given a daily ration of **a round loaf of bread**.
- Accordingly King Zedekiah commanded, and they then put Jeremiah in custody in the Courtyard of the Guard, and there was a giving of **a round loaf of bread** to him daily from the street of the bakers, until all the bread was exhausted from the city. And Jeremiah continued dwelling in the Courtyard of the Guard. (**Jeremiah 37:21**)
- On two occasions Jesus Christ miraculously multiplied **bread** to feed vast crowds.
- Now when he came forth he saw a great crowd, and he felt pity for them, and he cured their sick ones. (**Matthew 14:14**)
- But when evening fell his disciples came to him and said; The place is lonely and the hour is already far advanced, send the crowds away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves things to eat. (**Matthew 14:15**)
- However, Jesus said to them; They do not have to leave. You give them something to eat. (**Matthew 14:16**)
- They said to him; We have nothing here but **five loaves** and two fishes. (**Matthew 14:17**)
- He said; Bring them here to me. (**Matthew 14:18**)

- Next he commanded the crowds to recline on the grass and took the **five loaves** and two fishes, and, looking up to heaven, he said a blessing and, after **breaking the loaves**, he distributed them to the disciples, the disciples in turn to the crowds. (**Matthew 14:19**)
- So all ate and were satisfied, and they took up **the surplus of fragments, twelve baskets full**. (**Matthew 14:20**)
- Yet those **eating were about five thousand men**, besides women and young children. (**Matthew 14:21**)
- But Jesus called his disciples to him and said; I feel pity for the crowd, because it is already three days that they have stayed with me and **they have nothing to eat**, and I do not want to send them away fasting. They may possibly give out on the road. (**Matthew 15:32**)
- However, the disciples said to him; Where are we in this lonely place going to get **sufficient loaves** to satisfy a crowd of this size? (**Matthew 15:33**)
- At this Jesus said to them; How many **loaves** have you? They said; **Seven**, and a few little fishes. (**Matthew 15:34**)
- So, after instructing the crowd to recline upon the ground. (**Matthew 15:35**)
- He took the **seven loaves** and the fishes and, after offering thanks, he broke them and began distributing to the disciples, the disciples in turn to the crowds. (**Matthew 15:36**)
- And all ate and were satisfied, and as a surplus of fragments they took up seven provision baskets full. (**Matthew 15:37**)
- Jesus taught his followers to pray for **bread** for the day according to the days requirement.
- Give us our **bread** for the day according to the days requirement. (**Luke 11:3**)
- And the psalmist fittingly identified Yehowah God as the one providing **bread** that sustains the very heart of mortal man.

- And wine that makes the heart of mortal man rejoice, to make the face shine with oil, and **bread** that sustains the very heart of mortal man. (**Psalms 104:15**)

•• Figurative Use

- The term **bread**, as used in the Bible, has a number of figurative applications. For instance, Joshua and Caleb told the assembled Israelites that the inhabitants of Canaan are **bread** to us, apparently meaning that they could easily be conquered and that the experience would **sustain or strengthen Israel**.
- Only against Yehowah do not rebel, and you, do not you fear the people of the land, for they are **bread** to us. Their shelter has turned away from over them, and Yehowah is with us. Do not fear them. (**Numbers 14:9**)
- Great sorrow that might be associated with divine disfavor seems to be reflected in,
- You have made them eat the **bread** of tears, and you keep making them drink tears upon tears in great measure. (**Psalms 80:5**)
- Where it is said of Israel's Shepherd Yehowah: evidently referring to conditions they would experience under siege and that would be as common to them as bread and water.
- And Yehowah will certainly give you people **bread** in the form of distress and water in the form of oppression, yet your Grand Instructor will no longer hide himself, and your eyes must become eyes seeing your Grand Instructor. (**Isaiah 30:20**)
- In speaking of those who are so wicked that they do not sleep unless they do badness, the book of Proverbs says. They have fed themselves with the **bread of wickedness**.
- Into the path of the wicked one's do not enter, and do not walk straight on into the way of the bad ones. (**Proverbs 4:14**)
- Shun it, do not pass along by it, turn aside from it, and pass along. (**Proverbs 4:15**)
- For they do not sleep unless they do badness, and their sleep has

been snatched away unless they cause someone to stumble.
(**Proverbs 4:16**)

- For they have fed themselves with the **bread of wickedness**, and the wine of acts of violence is what they drink. (**Proverbs 4:17**)
- Yes, they seem to **sustain themselves on wicked deeds**. Of one who may acquire the material provisions for life by deceit or fraud,
- **Bread** gained by falsehood is pleasurable to a man, but afterward his mouth will be filled with gravel. (**Proverbs 20:17**)
- But regarding the good and industrious wife it is said; The **bread of laziness she does not eat**.
- She is watching over the goings-on of her household, and the **bread of laziness she does not eat**. (**Proverbs 31:27**)
- The Bible also uses **bread** figuratively in a favorable sense.
- Why do you people keep **paying out money for what is not bread**, and why is your toil for what results in no satisfaction? Listen intently to me, and eat what is good, and let your soul find its exquisite delight in fatness itself. (**Isaiah 55:2**)
- Shows that Yehowah's spiritual provisions are far more important than material things.
- When instituting the new meal that would commemorate his death, **on Nisan 14,33 C.E.**
- As they continued eating, Jesus took a **loaf** and, after saying a blessing, he **broke** it and, giving it to the disciples, he said; Take, eat. **This means my body**. (**Matthew 26:26**)
- The **loaf** meant **Jesus own fleshly body** which is to be given in your behalf.
- Also, he took a **loaf**, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them, saying; **This means my body** which is to be given in your behalf. Keep doing this in remembrance of me. (**Luke 22:19**)
- For I received from the Lord that which I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which he was going to be

handed over took a **loaf** (1 Corinthians 11:23)

- And, after giving thanks, he broke it and said; **This means my body** which is in your behalf. Keep doing this in remembrance of me. (1 Corinthians 11:24)
- About a year earlier, Jesus Christ had contrasted **bread** that comes down from heaven with the manna eaten by the Israelites in the wilderness and had plainly stated:
- I am the **bread** of life. (John 6:48)
- Your forefathers ate the **manna** in the wilderness and yet died. (John 6:49)
- This is the **bread** that comes down from heaven, so that anyone may eat of it and not die. (John 6:50)
- I am the living **bread** that came down from heaven, if anyone eats of this **bread** he will live forever, and, for a fact, the **bread** that I shall give is my flesh in behalf of the life of the world. (John 6:51)
- This eating would have to be done in a **figurative way**, by **exercising faith** in the value of Jesus perfect human sacrifice.
- For this is the will of my Father, that everyone that beholds the Son and exercises faith in him should have everlasting life, and I will resurrect him at the last day. (John 6:40)
- Jesus presented the merit of his ransom sacrifice to his Father Yehowah God upon his ascension to heaven. By means of this merit, Christ can give life to all obedient one's of mankind. As foretold under divine inspiration, Jesus was born in **Bethlehem**, which means **House of Bread**
- And you, O **Bethlehem** Ephrathah, the one too little to get to be among the thousands of Judah, from you there will come out to me the one who is to become ruler in Israel, whose origin is from early times, from the days of time indefinite. (Micah 5:2)
- Because there was born to you today a Savior, who is Christ the Lord, in David's city. (Luke 2:11)

- **And through Jesus Christ life-giving bread is provided for all believing mankind.**
- **Our forefathers ate the manna in the wilderness, just as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat. (John 6:31)**
- **Hence Jesus said to them; Most truly I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but my Father does give you the true bread from heaven. (John 6:32)**
- **For the bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. (John 6:33)**
- **Therefore they said to him; Lord, always give us this bread. (John 6:34)**
- **Jesus said to them; I am the bread of life. He that comes to me will not get hungry at all, and he that exercises faith in me will never get thirsty at all. (John 6:35)**