

~DEPUTY (189)

[Hebrew, *nits-tsav'*]

- The Hebrew participle translated deputy *nits-tsav'* has the basic meaning of one stationed, put in position, or set by appointment to fulfill a duty.
- At this Doeg the Edomite, being **stationed** as he was over the servants of Saul, answered and said; I saw the son of Jesse come to Nob to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub. (**1 Samuel 22:9**)
- Go to Pharaoh in the morning. Look! He is going out to the water! And you must **put yourself in position** to meet him by the edge of the Nile River, and the rod that turned into a serpent you are to take in your hand. (**Exodus 7:15**)
- Subsequently Boaz said to the young man who was set over the harvesters; To whom does this young woman belong? (**Ruth 2:5**)
- During the reign of Solomon, **1037-998 B.C.E**, **12 deputies** were appointed to high-ranking administrative positions. Each was responsible for providing food and other supplies for the royal household one month during the year, on a rotational basis.
- And Solomon had **twelve deputies** over all Israel, and they provided the king and his household with food. It would devolve upon each one to provide the food one month in the year. (**1 Kings 4:7**)
- In lieu of a general tax for the support of the government, foodstuffs were taken from the produce of the land. The **deputies** were therefore overseers of production, harvesting, storage, and delivery of the monthly quotas, which amounted to a considerable tonnage.
- 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**)
- Ten fat cattle and twenty pastured cattle and a hundred sheep, besides some stags and gazelles and roebucks and fattened cuckoos. (**1 Kings 4:23**)

- These **deputies** may also have served as civil administrators in their assigned territories, in addition to their work of supervising the commissary supplies.
- There was equity in this system, for it appears that the districts were set up with due consideration to population and productivity of the land, rather than according to the fixed tribal boundaries.
- Nine of the administrative districts were located West of the Jordan, the other three, East. Since the listing of the districts is not in any sequence according to location, they may be listed according to the monthly order in which each **deputy** furnished his supplies.
- The personal names of only seven **deputies** are given in the **Masoretic** text, the other five are listed only as son of so-and-so.
- And these were their names, the son of Hur, in the mountainous region of Ephraim. (**1 Kings 4:8**)
- The son of Deker, in Makaz and in Shaalbim and Beth-shemesh and Elon-beth-hanan. (**1 Kings 4:9**)
- The son of Hesed, in Arubboth, he had Socoh and all the land of Hopher. (**1 Kings 4:10**)
- The son of Abinadab, all the mountain ridge of Dor Taphath, Solomon's daughter, herself became his wife. (**1 Kings 4:11**)
- Baana the son of Ahilud, in Taanach and Megiddo and all Beth-shean, which is beside Zarethan below Jezreel, from Beth-shean to Abel-meholah to the region of Jokmeam. (**1 Kings 4:12**)
- The son of Geber, in Ramoth-gilead, he had the tent villages of Jair the son of Manasseh, which are in Gilead, he had the region of Argob, which is in Bashan, sixty large cities with wall and copper bar. (**1 Kings 4:13**)
- Ahinadab the son of Iddo, in Mahanaim. (**1 Kings 4:14**)
- Ahimaaz, in Naphtali, he, too, took Basemath, Solomon's daughter, as a wife. (**1 Kings 4:15**)
- Baana the son of Hushai, in Asher and Bealoth. (**1 Kings 4:16**)

- Jehoshaphat the son of Paruah, in Issachar. (**1 Kings 4:17**)
- Shimei the son of Ela, in Benjamin. (**1 Kings 4:18**)
- Geber the son of Uri, in the land of Gilead, the land of Sihon the king of the Amorites, and of Og the king of Bashan, and there was one **deputy** over all the other deputies that were in the land. (**1 Kings 4:19**)
- Some translations, **AS, AT, Dy, Ro, RS**, simply prefix Ben, meaning son of, to the father's name, as Ben-hur, Ben-deker, Ben-hesed, Ben-abinadab, Ben-geber.
- So that all ran smoothly, with no shortages, the 12 **deputies** were placed under the supervision of one of Solomon's leading princes, Azariah the son of Nathan.
- And Azariah the son of Nathan was over the **deputies**, and Zabud the son of Nathan was a priest, the friend of the king. (**1 Kings 4:5**)
- **Princely deputies** also served as foremen and overseers of the labor force engaged in construction during Solomon's reign. It seems that the two accounts of these deputies in **First Kings and Second Chronicles** differed only in methods of classification, the first listing 3,300 plus 550 for a total of 3,850.
- Besides Solomon's **princely deputies** who were over the work, three thousand three hundred foremen over the people who were active in the work. (**1 Kings 5:16**)
- These were the chiefs of the **deputies** who were over the work of Solomon, five hundred and fifty, the foremen over the people who were active in the work. (**1 Kings 9:23**)
- And the second giving 3,600 plus 250, which also totals 3,850.
- So he made seventy thousand of them burden bearers and eighty thousand cutters in the mountain and three thousand six hundred overseers for keeping the people in service. (**2 Chronicles 2:18**)
- These were the chiefs of the deputies that belonged to King Solomon, two hundred and fifty, the foremen over the people. (**2**

Chronicles 8:10)

- Scholars [Ewald, Keil, Michaelis] suggest that the Chronicles figures distinguish between the 3,600 non-Israelite and the 250 Israelite deputies, whereas in Kings the distinction in deputies is between 3,300 subordinate foremen and 550 chief supervisors, this latter figure including 300 non-Israelites.
- During the rule of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, 936-c. 911 B.C.E, a **deputy** was king in Edom, which, at the time, was under Judean control.
- As regards a king, there was none in Edom, a **deputy** was king. (1 Kings 22:47)
- This indicates that a vicegerent had been appointed or approved to act in the place of the king.
- **Deputy rulers**, Hebrew, *segħa-nim'*, always used in the plural occurs 17 times in the Bible, as, for example, at;
- For they have accepted some of their daughters for themselves and for their sons, and they, the holy seed, have become mingled with the peoples of the lands, and the hand of the princes and the **deputy rulers** has proved to be foremost in this unfaithfulness. (Ezra 9:2)
- And the **deputy rulers** themselves did not know where I had gone and what I was doing, and to the Jews and the priests and the nobles and the deputy rulers and the rest of the doers of the work I had not yet told anything. (Nehemiah 2:16)
- I have roused up someone from the north, and he will come. From the rising of the sun he will call upon my name. And he will come upon **deputy rulers** as if they were clay and just as a potter that tramples down the moist material. (Isaiah 41:25)
- And by you I will dash shepherd and his drove to pieces, and by you I will dash farmer and his span of animals to pieces, and by you I will dash governor's and **deputy rulers** to pieces. (Jeremiah 51:23)
- Governor's clothed with blue material, and **deputy rulers**, desirable young men all of them, cavalrymen riding horses.

(Ezekiel 23:6)

- It meant subordinate rulers or petty officials, as distinguished from nobles, princes, and governor's. Some translators render it **deputies**. Mo, Ro