

~EARRING (195)

[Hebrew, *ne'zem*]

- A ring or other ornament worn on the ear for purposes of adornment. The Hebrews do not appear to have had a specific word for earring, for one of the words they applied to this ornament Hebrew, *ne'zem* can be used for either a nose ring or an earring.
- As a gold nose ring in the snout of a pig, so is a woman that is pretty but that is turning away from sensibleness. (Proverbs 11:22)
- At this Aaron said to them; Tear off the gold earrings that are in the ears of your wives, of your sons and of your daughters and bring them to me. (Exodus 32:2)
- The context in which *ne'zem* appears in the Scriptures sometimes, though not always, makes it possible to determine whether an earring or a nose ring is meant. Probably in many cases earrings and nose rings varied little in shape. The Hebrew word '*a-ghil*' is also used to designate an earring and relates to a circular ornament.
- So let us present each one what he has found as Yehowah's offering, articles of gold, ankle chainlets, and bracelets, signet rings, earrings, and female ornaments, in order to make atonement for our souls before Yehowah. (Numbers 31:50)
- Furthermore, I put a nose ring in your nostril and earrings on your ears and a beautiful crown on your head. (Ezekiel 16:12)
- In many nations of antiquity men, women, and children all wore earrings. That they were worn by men of many lands is evident from representations of foreigners on Egyptian monuments.
- However, in Egypt it seems that it was not customary for men to wear earrings, and it is uncertain whether Israelite men customarily wore them or not. Earrings were worn by the Midianites, from whom the Israelites took them as part of the spoils of war.
- Yehowah then spoke to Moses, saying; (Numbers 31:1)
- Take vengeance for the sons of Israel upon the Midianites.

Afterward you will be gathered to your people. (**Numbers 31:2**)

- So let us present each one what he has found as Yehowah's offering, articles of gold, ankle chainlets, and bracelets, signet rings, **earrings**, and female ornaments, in order to make atonement for our souls before Yehowah. (**Numbers 31:50**)
- When Aaron was about to make the golden calf in the wilderness, he instructed the Israelites; Tear off the gold **earrings** that are in the ears of your wives, of your sons and of your daughters and bring them to me.
- Meanwhile the people got to see that Moses was taking a long time about coming down from the mountain. So the people congregated themselves about Aaron and said to him, Get up, make for us a god who will go ahead of us, because as regards this Moses, the man who led us up out of the land of Egypt, we certainly do not know what has happened to him. (**Exodus 32:1**)
- At this Aaron said to them; Tear off the gold **earrings** that are in the ears of your wives, of your sons and of your daughters and bring them to me. (**Exodus 32:2**)
- And all the people began tearing off the gold **earrings** that were in their ears and bringing them to Aaron. (**Exodus 32:3**)
- Then he took the gold from their hands, and he formed it with a graving tool and proceeded to make it into a molten statue of a calf. And they began to say; This is your God, O Israel, who led you up out of the land of Egypt. (**Exodus 32:4**)
- Common with Egyptian women were **earrings** consisting of large golden hoops, some being 4 to 5 centimeters (1.5 to 2 inches) in diameter, though others were even larger and were made of as many as six individual **rings** soldered together.
- Silver earrings were found at Thebes, some of them being merely studs. At times Egyptian earrings, like those of the Assyrians, were quite elaborately designed, some of them were cross-shaped. It was customary to attach the earring by passing the ring itself or a hook through a hole that had been pierced in ones earlobe.

- In ancient Egypt, persons of high station sometimes wore golden ear ornaments having the form of an asp, the body of which was studded with precious stones.
- Middle Eastern **earrings** at times consisted of rings to which jewels of some sort were attached as pendants. Some were called eardrops **Hebrew**, *neti-phohth'*, from *na-taph'*, meaning **drip** or **drop**
- This term evidently relates to a drop-shaped ornament or pendant. **Eardrops** could have been pearls or spherical beads of silver or gold, but they are not described in the Bible.
- And the weight of the nose rings of gold that he had requested amounted to one thousand seven hundred gold shekels, besides the moon-shaped ornaments and the **eardrops** and the garments of wool dyed reddish purple that were upon the kings of Midian and besides the necklaces that were on the necks of the camels. (**Judges 8:26**)
- They were among the things Yehowah said he would take away from the haughty daughters of Zion.
- And Yehowah says; For the reason that the daughters of Zion have become haughty and they walk with their throats stretched forth and ogling with their eyes, they go walking with tripping steps, and with their feet they make a tinkling sound. (**Isaiah 3:16**)
- The **eardrops** and the bracelets and the veils. (**Isaiah 3:19**)
- Faithful Hebrews and Christians did not wear **earrings** as amulets, though others of ancient times did so. While the Bible does not specifically say that the **earrings** possessed by Jacob's household had been viewed as amulets, Jacob buried both the foreign gods and the **earrings** of his household under the big tree near Shechem.
- Then Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him; Put away the foreign gods that are in the midst of you and cleanse yourselves and change your mantles. (**Genesis 35:2**)
- And let us rise and go up to Bethel. And there I shall make an altar to the true God who answered me in the day of my distress in that he proved to be with me in the way that I have gone. (**Genesis 35:3**)

- So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods that were in their hands and the **earrings** that were in their ears, and Jacob hid them under the big tree that was close by Shechem. (**Genesis 35:4**)
- The ornamental humming shells possessed by the haughty daughters of Zion were charms of some type that may have been suspended from necklaces or worn on the **ears**.
- The headdresses and the step chains and the breastbands and the houses of the soul and the ornamental humming shells. (**Isaiah 3:20**)
- When Israel was granted the privilege of making contributions for the tabernacle, willing hearted persons donated various articles, including **earrings**.
- Accordingly all the assembly of the sons of Israel went out from before Moses. (**Exodus 35:20**)
- Then they came, everyone whose heart impelled him, and they brought, everyone whose spirit incited him, Yehowah's contribution for the work of the tent of meeting and for all its service and for the holy garments. (**Exodus 35:21**)
- And they kept coming, the men along with the women, every willing-hearted one. They brought brooches and **earrings** and rings and female ornaments, all sorts of articles of gold, that is, everyone who presented the wave offering of gold to Yehowah. (**Exodus 35:22**)
- Centuries later, Yehowah told Jerusalem that, among other things, he had shown her love by placing **earrings** on her ears.
- And the word of Yehowah came further to me, saying; (**Ezekiel 16:1**)
- Son of man, make known to Jerusalem her detestable things. (**Ezekiel 16:2**)
- Furthermore, I put a nose ring in your nostril and **earrings** on your ears and a beautiful crown on your head. (**Ezekiel 16:12**)

- And Solomon used a gold **earring** illustratively when he said; An **earring** of gold, and an ornament of special gold, is a wise reprover upon the hearing ear.
- These also are the proverbs of Solomon that the men of Hezekiah the king of Judah transcribed: (**Proverbs 25:1**)
- An **earring** of gold, and an ornament of special gold, is a wise reprover upon the hearing ear. (**Proverbs 25:12**)