

## ~HOUSE (1108)

[Hebrew, *ba'yith*, Greek, *oi'kos*]

.. Building Materials, Construction Methods

.. Floors

.. Windows

.. Doors

.. Interior Decorations And Furniture

.. Roof And Upper Chamber

.. The Law Protected Property Rights

.. A Place For Spiritual Instruction

- The word house as used in the Bible Hebrew, *ba'yith*, Greek, *oi'kos*, or *oi ki'a*, may denote, among other things,
- A **household** or all the offspring of one man.
- And Yehowah proceeded to say to Abram; Go your way out of your country and from your relatives and from the **house** of your father to the country that I shall show you. (**Genesis 12:1**)
- Every man born in your **house** and every man purchased with money of yours must without fail get circumcised, and my covenant in the flesh of you men must serve as a covenant to time indefinite. (**Genesis 17:13**)
- Abraham then proceeded to take Ishmael his son and all the men born in his **house** and everyone purchased with money of his, every male among the men of the **household** of Abraham, and he went to circumcising the flesh of their foreskins in this very day, just as God had spoken with him. (**Genesis 17:23**)
- And in Mount Zion is where those escaping will prove to be, and it must become something holy, and the **house** of Jacob must take possession of the things for them to possess. (**Obadiah 1:17**)
- And the **house** of Jacob must become a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau as stubble, and they must set them ablaze and devour them. And there will prove to be no survivor to the house of Esau, for Yehowah himself has spoken it. (**Obadiah 1:18**)

- It is because of the revolt of Jacob that there is all this, even because of the sins of the **house** of Israel. What is the revolt of Jacob? Is it not Samaria? And what are the high places of Judah? Are they not Jerusalem? (**Micah 1:5**)
- Dwelling **house**
- And he proceeded to say; Please, now, my lords, turn aside, please, into the **house** of your servant and stay overnight and have your feet washed. Then you must get up early and travel on your way. To this they said; No, but in the public square is where we shall stay overnight. (**Genesis 19:2**)
- But he was very insistent with them, so that they turned aside to him and came into his house. Then he made a feast for them, and he baked unfermented cakes, and they went to eating. (**Genesis 19:3**)
- Before they could lie down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, surrounded the **house**, from boy to old man, all the people in one mob. (**Genesis 19:4**)
- Jail or, figuratively, a country of enslavement.
- Then the chief of the bodyguard assigned Joseph to be with them that he might wait upon them, and they continued in **jail** for some days. (**Genesis 40:4**)
- Nevertheless, you must keep me in your remembrance as soon as it goes well with you, and you must, please, perform loving-kindness with me and mention me to Pharaoh, and you must get me out of this **house**. (**Genesis 40:14**)
- And Moses went on to say to the people; Let there be a remembering of this day on which you went out of Egypt, from the **house** of slaves, because by strength of hand Yehowah brought you out from here. So nothing leavened may be eaten. (**Exodus 13:3**)
- Dwelling place of animals and birds.
- Whose **house** I have appointed the desert plain and whose dwelling places the salt country? (**Job 39:6**)

- Where the birds themselves make nests. As for the stork, the juniper trees are its **house**. (**Psalms 104:17**)
- **Spiderweb**
- Whose confidence is cut off, and whose trust is a spider's **house**. (**Job 8:14**)
- **Royal residence or palace**
- And Hiram the king of Tyre proceeded to send messengers to David, and also cedar trees and workers in wood and workers in stone for walls, and they began to build a house for David. (**2 Samuel 5:11**)
- Then the king said to Nathan the prophet; See, now, I am dwelling in a **house** of cedars while the ark of the true God is dwelling in the middle of tent cloths. (**2 Samuel 7:2**)
- **Priestly line**
- And I shall certainly raise up for myself a faithful priest. In harmony with what is in my heart and in my soul he will do, and I shall certainly build for him a lasting **house**, and he will certainly walk before my anointed one always. (**1 Samuel 2:35**)
- **Royal dynasty.**
- Pardon, please, the transgression of your slave girl, because Yehowah will without fail make for my lord a lasting **house**, because the wars of Yehowah are what my lord is fighting, and as for badness, it will not be found in you throughout your days. (**1 Samuel 25:28**)
- Even from the day that I put judges in command over my people Israel, and I will give you rest from all your enemies. And Yehowah has told you that a **house** is what Yehowah will make for you. (**2 Samuel 7:11**)
- **Yehowah's tabernacle or temple**, both literal and as referred to in an illustrative way.
- The best of the first ripe fruits of your ground you are to bring to

- the **house** of Yehowah your God. You must not boil a kid in its mother's milk. (**Exodus 23:19**)
- The best of the first ripe fruits of your soil you are to bring to the **house** of Yehowah your God. You must not boil a kid in its mother's milk. (**Exodus 34:26**)
  - And it came about in the four hundred and eightieth year after the sons of Israel came out from the land of Egypt, in the fourth year, in the month of Ziv, that is, the second month, after Solomon became king over Israel, that he proceeded to build the **house** to Yehowah. (**1 Kings 6:1**)
  - You yourselves also as living stones are being built up a spiritual **house** for the purpose of a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (**1 Peter 2:5**)
  - **Dwelling place of Yehowah**, heaven itself.
  - In the **house** of my Father there are many abodes. Otherwise, I would have told you, because I am going my way to prepare a place for you. (**John 14:2**)
  - **Sanctuary of a false god.**
  - And they went out as usual into the field and engaged in gathering the grapes of their vineyards and in treading them and in carrying on a festal exultation, after which they went into the **house of their god** and ate and drank and called down evil upon Abimelech. (**Judges 9:27**)
  - And the Philistines proceeded to take the ark of the true God and bring it into the **house of Dagon** and station it beside Dagon. (**1 Samuel 5:2**)
  - Further, he set up an altar to Baal at the **house of Baal** that he built in Samaria. (**1 Kings 16:32**)
  - In this thing may Yehowah forgive your servant. When my lord comes into the **house of Rimmon** to bow down there, and he is supporting himself upon my hand, and I have to bow down at the house of Rimmon, when I bow down at the house of Rimmon may Yehowah, please, forgive your servant in this respect. (**2 Kings 5:18**)

- **Corruptible physical body of human's.**
- In the day when the keepers of the **house** tremble, and the men of vital energy have bent themselves, and the grinding women have quit working because they have become few, and the ladies seeing at the windows have found it dark. (**Ecclesiastes 12:3**)
- For we know that if our earthly **house**, this tent, should be dissolved, we are to have a building from God, a house not made with hands, everlasting in the heavens. (**2 Corinthians 5:1**)
- For in this dwelling **house** we do indeed groan, earnestly desiring to put on the one for us from heaven. (**2 Corinthians 5:2**)
- So that, having really put it on, we shall not be found naked. (**2 Corinthians 5:3**)
- In fact, we who are in this tent groan, being weighed down, because we want, not to put it off, but to put on the other, that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. (**2 Corinthians 5:4**)
- **Incorruptible spiritual body**
- For we know that if our earthly **house**, this tent, should be dissolved, we are to have a building from God, a house not made with hands, everlasting in the heavens. (**2 Corinthians 5:1**)
- **Common grave**
- If I keep waiting, Sheol is my **house**, in the darkness I shall have to spread out my lounge. (**Job 17:13**)
- Also, they have become afraid merely at what is high, and there are terrors in the way. And the almond tree carries blossoms, and the grasshopper drags itself along, and the caper berry bursts, because man is walking to his long-lasting **house** and the wailers have marched around in the street. (**Ecclesiastes 12:5**)
- **Association of workers engaged in the same profession.**
- The sons of Shelah the son of Judah were Er the father of Lecah and Laadah the father of Mareshah and the families of the **house** of the workers of fine fabric of the house of Ashbea. (**1**

## Chronicles 4:21)

- **Building for housing official records of state.**
- It was then that Darius the king put an order through, and they made an investigation in the **house** of the records of the treasures deposited there in Babylon. (**Ezra 6:1**)
- A form of the **Hebrew** word for **house**, *ba'yith*, often constitutes part of a proper name, as in Bethel, meaning, **House of God**, and Bethlehem, meaning **House of Bread**.

## · Building Materials, Construction Methods

- Anciently, as today, different types of **dwelling**s existed. Construction techniques varied according to the time period, the economic circumstances of the builder, and the available materials.
- The builders of Babel, for instance, used brick instead of stone, and bitumen served as mortar for them.
- And they began to say, each one to the other; Come on! Let us make bricks and bake them with a burning process. So brick served as stone for them, but bitumen served as mortar for them. (**Genesis 11:3**)
- Many of the Israelites began dwelling in the **houses** of the dispossessed Canaanites and likely followed similar construction methods for years afterward.
- And it must occur that when Yehowah your God will bring you into the land that he swore to your forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to give you, great and good-looking cities that you did not build. (**Deuteronomy 6:10**)
- And **houses** full of all good things and that you did not fill, and cisterns hewn out that you did not hew out, vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant, and you shall have eaten and become satisfied. (**Deuteronomy 6:11**)
- Apparently stone **houses** were preferred.
- Bricks are what have fallen, but with hewn stone we shall build. Sycamore trees are what have been cut down, but with cedars

we shall make replacement. (**Isaiah 9:10**)

- Therefore, for the reason that you are extracting farm rent from someone lowly, and the tribute of grain you keep taking from him, **houses** of hewn stone you have built, but you will not keep dwelling in them, and desirable vineyards you have planted, but you will not keep drinking the wine of them. (**Amos 5:11**)
- As these were more substantial and safer from intruders than those built of mud brick. Robbers could readily gain access to mud **houses** by simply digging through a wall.
- In the darkness he has dug into **houses**, by day they must keep themselves locked in. They have not known daylight. (**Job 24:16**)
- However, in the lowlands, where little good-quality limestone and sandstone was available, sun-dried or, sometimes, kiln-baked mud bricks were used for the walls of **dwellings**. Sycamore, juniper, and, particularly in the better **houses**, cedar beams and rafters were used.
- The beams of our grand **house** are cedars, our rafters juniper trees. (**Song of Solomon 1:17**)
- Bricks are what have fallen, but with hewn stone we shall build. Sycamore trees are what have been cut down, but with cedars we shall make replacement. (**Isaiah 9:10**)
- Archaeologists have excavated the ruins of several kinds of ancient Palestinian **dwellings**. Often there was an oven in the courtyard and sometimes also a well or a cistern.
- However, a young man got to see them and told Absalom. So the two of them went off speedily and came to the **house** of a man in Bahurim, who had a well in his courtyard, and they went down into it. (**2 Samuel 17:18**)
- The ruins of **houses** that have been found indicate considerable variation in size. One was only about 5 meters (16 feet) square, whereas another measured 32 by 30 meters (104 by 97 feet). Rooms often were from about 3.5 to 4.5 meters (12 to 15 feet) square.
- Some **houses** were built atop wide city walls.

- After that she had them descend by a rope through the window, for her **house** was on a side of the wall, and it was on the wall that she was dwelling. (**Joshua 2:15**)
- But preferably they were constructed on a rock-mass.
- Therefore everyone that hears these sayings of mine and does them will be likened to a discreet man, who built his **house** upon the rock-mass. (**Matthew 7:24**)
- And generally mud-brick work was not started until two or three rows of stone had first been laid. When a **house** could not be erected on a rock-mass, often a solid foundation was laid, its depth below ground being equivalent to the height of the stone wall above ground.
- Some foundations were built with large uncut stones, and the cracks were filled with small rocks, others were constructed of hewn stones.
- The ruins of one mud-brick **house** excavated by archaeologists had stonework to a height of over 0.5 meters (1.5 feet), in another the stone construction rose to a height of about 1 meters (3 feet). The walls of some houses were about 1 meters (3 feet) thick. Often a kind of whitewash was applied to the exterior walls
- Say to those plastering with whitewash that it will fall. A flooding downpour will certainly occur, and you, O hailstones, will fall, and a blast of windstorms itself will cause a splitting. (**Ezekiel 13:11**)
- And I will bring my rage to its finish upon the wall and upon those plastering it with whitewash, and I shall say to you men; The wall is no more, and those plastering it are no more. (**Ezekiel 13:15**)
- And mud-brick walls on the street side were sometimes faced with pebbles to protect their surface.
- Building stones were aligned and bonded with carefully smoothed and fitted cornerstones.
- The stone that the builders rejected has become the head of the corner. (**Psalms 118:22**)



- Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said; Here I am laying as a foundation in Zion a stone, a tried stone, the precious corner of a sure foundation. No one exercising faith will get panicky. ([Isaiah 28:16](#))
- A mixture of clay and straw commonly served as mortar. At times this mixture included lime, ashes, pulverized pottery fragments, pounded shells, or limestone. It was applied to the bricks or stones to hold them together, and it was also used as a plaster for interior walls.
- And he will have the **house** scraped off all around inside, and they must pour the clay mortar that they cut off outside the city into an unclean place. ([Leviticus 14:41](#))
- And they must take other stones and insert them in the place of the former stones, and he will have different clay mortar taken, and he must have the **house** plastered. ([Leviticus 14:42](#))
- In some cases, however, stones were so accurately cut that mortar was not needed.

## • Floors

- Floors, including those of the courtyard, consisted of beaten earth or were paved with stone, brick, or lime plaster. A depression in the floor commonly served as a fireplace, but braziers were used to heat the finer homes.
- And the king was sitting in the winter **house**, in the ninth month, with a brazier burning before him. ([Jeremiah 36:22](#))
- Then it came about that as soon as Jehudi had read three or four page-columns, he proceeded to tear it apart with the secretary's knife, pitching it also into the fire that was in the brazier until all the roll ended up in the fire that was in the brazier. ([Jeremiah 36:23](#))
- Smoke escaped through a hole in the roof.
- Therefore they will become like the clouds of morning and like the dew that early goes away, like chaff that is stormed away from the threshing floor and like smoke from the roof hole. ([Hosea 13:3](#))

- The rooms of palatial **houses** perhaps had wooden floors, like the temple.
- And he proceeded to build the walls of the **house** inside it with boards of cedar. From the floor of the house up to the rafters of the ceiling he overlaid it with timber inside, and he went on to overlay the floor of the house with boards of juniper. (**1 Kings 6:15**)

## •• Windows

- Rectangular openings in the walls served as windows. At least some of these were large enough for a man to pass through.
- After that she had them descend by a rope through the window, for her **house** was on a side of the wall, and it was on the wall that she was dwelling. (**Joshua 2:15**)
- Immediately Michal had David descend through the window, that he might go and run away and escape. (**1 Samuel 19:12**)
- Seated at the window, a certain young man named Eutychus fell into a deep sleep while Paul kept talking on, and, collapsing in sleep, he fell down from the third story and was picked up dead. (**Acts of Apostles 20:9**)
- Particularly the windows facing the street were equipped with lattices.
- From the window a woman looked out and kept watching for him, the mother of Sisera from the lattice; Why has his war chariot delayed in coming? Why must the hoofbeats of his chariots be so late? (**Judges 5:28**)
- For at the window of my **house**, through my lattice I looked down. (**Proverbs 7:6**)

## •• Doors

- Doors were commonly made of wood and turned on pivots.
- A door keeps turning upon its pivot, and the lazy one upon his couch. (**Proverbs 26:14**)

- **Fitted into sockets in the wooden or stone lintel and threshold. Two upright wooden posts served as jambs.**
- **And you must take a bunch of hyssop and dip it into the blood in a basin and strike upon the upper part of the doorway and upon the two doorposts some of the blood that is in the basin, and none of you should go out of the entrance of his **house** until morning. ([Exodus 12:22](#))**
- **Then when Yehowah does pass through to plague the Egyptians and does see the blood upon the upper part of the doorway and upon the two doorposts, Yehowah will certainly pass over the entrance, and he will not allow the ruination to enter into your **houses** to plague you. ([Exodus 12:23](#))**
- **Although some **houses** had two entranceways, usually only one door led from the street into the courtyard, from which access could be gained to all the rooms of the house.**

## •• Interior Decorations And Furniture

- **In luxurious homes the walls of the rooms were paneled with cedar or other costly woods and were smeared with vermilion.**
- **The one saying; I am going to build for myself a roomy **house** and commodious upper chambers, and my windows must be widened out for it, and the paneling will be with cedar and smeared with vermilion. ([Jeremiah 22:14](#))**
- **Is it the time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled **houses**, while this house is waste? ([Haggai 1:4](#))**
- **The **houses** of ivory of some wealthy ones evidently had rooms paneled with wood inlaid with ivory.**
- **As for the rest of the affairs of Ahab and all that he did and the **house** of ivory that he built and all the cities that he built, are they not written in the book of the affairs of the days of the kings of Israel? ([1 Kings 22:39](#))**
- **And I will strike down the winter **house** in addition to the summer house. And the houses of ivory will have to perish, and many houses will have to come to their finish, is the utterance of Yehowah. ([Amos 3:15](#))**

- Aside from the various cooking utensils, vessels, baskets, and other **household** items, the furnishings of the home might include beds or divans, chairs, stools, tables, and lampstands.
- How much more so when wicked men themselves have killed a righteous man in his own **house** upon his bed? And now should I not require his blood from your hands, and must I not clear you out of the earth? (**2 Samuel 4:11**)
- Please, let us make a little roof chamber on the wall and put there for him a couch and a table and a chair and a lampstand, and it must occur that whenever he comes in to us he can turn aside there. (**2 Kings 4:10**)
- Yehowah himself will sustain him upon a divan of illness, all his bed you will certainly change during his sickness. (**Psalms 41:3**)
- People light a lamp and set it, not under the measuring basket, but upon the lampstand, and it shines upon all those in the **house**. (**Matthew 5:15**)
- The furniture in the homes of some wealthy persons was beautified with inlaid work of ivory, gold, and silver.
- 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**)

## •• Roof And Upper Chamber

- Most roofs were flat, and the Law required that Israelite roofs be surrounded by a parapet to prevent accidents.

- In case you build a new **house**, you must also make a parapet for your roof, that you may not place bloodguilt upon your house because someone falling might fall from it. (**Deuteronomy 22:8**)
- When a slight slope was given to the roof, this permitted the rain to run off. The roof rested on strong wooden beams laid from wall to wall. Smaller wooden rafters were placed across these beams and, in turn, were covered with branches, reeds, and the like.
- Next came a layer of earth several inches thick that was coated with a thick plaster of clay or of clay and lime. An opening could easily be dug through such an earthen roof, as was done by men who were endeavoring to get a paralytic into Jesus presence so that he might be healed.
- 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**)
- The beams of the roof often were supported by a row of upright wooden posts resting on stone bases. Grass could sprout from these roofs
- They will become like green grass of the roofs, which before it has been torn out has dried up. (**Psalms 129:6**)
- And it was difficult to keep them from leaking.
- A stupid son means adversities to his father, and the contentions of a wife are as a leaking roof that drives one away. (**Proverbs 19:13**)
- A leaking roof that drives one away in the day of a steady rain and a contentious wife are comparable (**Proverbs 27:15**)
- Through great laziness the beamwork sinks in, and through the letting down of the hands the **house** leaks. (**Ecclesiastes 10:18**)
- Probably before the rainy season began, roofs were repaired and rolled smooth to allow a better runoff of water.

- The roofs were places of considerable activity in both peaceful and calamitous times.
- The pronouncement of the valley of the vision! What is the matter with you, then, that you have gone up in your entirety to the roofs? ([Isaiah 22:1](#))
- On all the roofs of Moab and in her public squares, all of it, there is wailing, for I have broken Moab just like a vessel in which there is no delight, is the utterance of Yehowah. ([Jeremiah 48:38](#))
- From them announcements could be made or certain actions could quickly be brought to public notice.
- Accordingly they pitched a tent for Absalom upon the roof, and Absalom began to have relations with the concubines of his father under the eyes of all Israel. ([2 Samuel 16:22](#))
- What I tell you in the darkness, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, preach from the **housetops**. ([Matthew 10:27](#))
- Flax was dried on the roofs.
- She, though, had taken them up to the roof, and she kept them out of sight among stalks of flax laid in rows for her upon the roof. ([Joshua 2:6](#))
- There persons might converse.
- Subsequently they went down from the high place to the city, and he continued speaking with Saul on the **housetop**. ([1 Samuel 9:25](#))
- Walk in the cool evening.
- And it came about at the time of evening that David proceeded to rise from his bed and walk about on the rooftop of the king's house, and from the rooftop he caught sight of a woman bathing herself, and the woman was very good in appearance. ([2 Samuel 11:2](#))
- Engage in true or false worship.

- And the **houses** of Jerusalem and the houses of the kings of Judah must become like the place of Topheth, unclean ones, that is, all the houses upon the roofs of which they made sacrificial smoke to all the army of the heavens and there was a pouring out of drink offerings to other gods. (**Jeremiah 19:13**)
- And those who are bowing down upon the roofs to the army of the heavens, and those who are bowing down, making sworn oaths to Yehowah and making sworn oaths by Malcam. (**Zephaniah 1:5**)
- The next day as they were pursuing their journey and were approaching the city, Peter went up to the **housetop** about the sixth hour to pray. (**Acts of Apostles 10:9**)
- Sleep.
- Then they rose early, and it came about that as soon as the dawn ascended Samuel proceeded to call to Saul on the **housetop**, saying; Do get up, that I may send you away. So Saul got up and both of them, he and Samuel, went forth out of doors. (**1 Samuel 9:26**)
- During the Festival of Ingathering, booths were erected on the rooftops and in the courtyards of the **houses**.
- And the people proceeded to go out and bring them in and make booths for themselves, each one upon his own roof and in their courtyards and in the courtyards of the **house** of the true God and in the public square of the Water Gate and in the public square of the Gate of Ephraim. (**Nehemiah 8:16**)
- Often a roof chamber or upper chamber was built on the **housetop**. This was a pleasant, cool room that often served as a guest room.
- And the people proceeded to go out and bring them in and make booths for themselves, each one upon his own roof and in their courtyards and in the courtyards of the **house** of the true God and in the public square of the Water Gate and in the public square of the Gate of Ephraim. (**Nehemiah 8:16**)
- But he said to her; Give me your son. Then he took him from her bosom and carried him up to the roof chamber, where he was

dwelling, and laid him upon his own couch. (1 Kings 17:19)

- Then Ahaziah fell down through the grating in his roof chamber that was in Samaria and got sick. So he sent messengers and said to them; Go, inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron whether I shall revive from this sickness. (2 Kings 1:2)
- Please, let us make a little roof chamber on the wall and put there for him a couch and a table and a chair and a lampstand, and it must occur that whenever he comes in to us he can turn aside there. (2 Kings 4:10)
- Of course, some homes were two-story buildings with a regular upper story. In a large upper chamber, either a roof chamber or a room of an upper story, Jesus celebrated the last Passover with his disciples and instituted the commemoration of the Lord's Evening Meal.
- And you must say to the landlord of the house; The Teacher says to you; Where is the guest room in which I may eat the Passover with my disciples? (Luke 22:11)
- And that man will show you a large upper room furnished. Get it ready there. (Luke 22:12)
- 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)
- Also, the cup in the same way after they had the evening meal, he saying; This cup means the New Covenant by virtue of my blood, which is to be poured out in your behalf. (Luke 22:20)
- And on the day of Pentecost, 33 C.E, some 120 disciples were apparently in an upper chamber of a house in Jerusalem when God's spirit was poured out upon them.
- So, when they had entered, they went up into the upper chamber, where they were staying, Peter as well as John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the zealous one, and Judas the son of James. (Acts of Apostles 1:13)
- With one accord all these were persisting in prayer, together with some women and Mary the mother of Jesus and with his



brothers. (**Acts of Apostles 1:14**)

- Now during these days Peter rose up in the midst of the brothers and said, the crowd of persons was all together about one hundred and twenty. (**Acts of Apostles 1:15**)
- Now while the day of the festival of Pentecost was in progress they were all together at the same place. (**Acts of Apostles 2:1**)
- And suddenly there occurred from heaven a noise just like that of a rushing stiff breeze, and it filled the whole **house** in which they were sitting. (**Acts of Apostles 2:2**)
- And tongues as if of fire became visible to them and were distributed about, and one sat upon each one of them. (**Acts of Apostles 2:3**)
- And they all became filled with Holy Spirit and started to speak with different tongues, just as the spirit was granting them to make utterance. (**Acts of Apostles 2:4**)
- Usually outside stairs or, in the poorer homes, ladders led from the courtyard to the roof. Therefore, when necessary, a person on the **housetop** could leave without having to go into the house itself.
- Since many homes were built close together, it was often possible to walk from rooftop to rooftop. These factors may have some bearing on the meaning of Jesus counsel at;
- Let the man on the **housetop** not come down to take the goods out of his house. (**Matthew 24:17**)
- Let the man on the **housetop** not come down, nor go inside to take anything out of his house. (**Mark 13:15**)
- In the better homes an interior staircase gave access to the upper story.

#### .. The Law Protected Property Rights

- It was Yehowah's purpose that his obedient people have the joy of living in their own **houses**.
- And they will certainly build **houses** and have occupancy, and

- they will certainly plant vineyards and eat their fruitage. (**Isaiah 65:21**)
- For someone else to gain occupancy of the **house** of its builder was a calamity to fall upon disobedient ones.
  - You will become engaged to a woman, but another man will rape her. You will build a **house**, but you will not dwell in it. You will plant a vineyard, but you will not begin to use it. (**Deuteronomy 28:30**)
  - Our own hereditary possession has been turned over to strangers, our **houses** to foreigners. (**Lamentations 5:2**)
  - And a man who had not yet inaugurated his new **house** was exempted from military service.
  - The officers too must speak to the people, saying; Who is the man that has built a new **house** and has not inaugurated it? Let him go and return to his house, for fear he may die in the battle and another man should inaugurate it. (**Deuteronomy 20:5**)
  - And who is the man that has planted a vineyard and not begun to use it? Let him go and return to his **house**, for fear he may die in the battle and another man should begin to use it. (**Deuteronomy 20:6**)
  - Certain provisions of God's Law to Israel protected property rights. The Law condemned coveting another's possessions, including his **house**.
  - You must not desire your fellowman's **house**. You must not desire your fellowman's wife, nor his slave man nor his slave girl nor his bull nor his ass nor anything that belongs to your fellowman. (**Exodus 20:17**)
  - And Yehowah, through his prophets, denounced the unlawful seizure of **houses**.
  - And they have desired fields and have seized them, also **houses**, and have taken them, and they have defrauded an able-bodied man and his household, a man and his hereditary possession. (**Micah 2:2**)

- However, there came to be a great outcry of the people and their wives against their Jewish brothers. (**Nehemiah 5:1**)
- And there were those who were saying; Our sons and our daughters we are giving as security that we may get grain and eat and keep alive. (**Nehemiah 5:2**)
- And there were those who were saying; Our fields and our vineyards and our houses we are giving as security that we may get grain during the food shortage. (**Nehemiah 5:3**)
- And there were those who were saying; We have borrowed money for the kings tribute on our fields and our vineyards. (**Nehemiah 5:4**)
- And now our flesh is the same as the flesh of our brothers, our sons are the same as their sons, but here we are reducing our sons and our daughters to slaves, and there are some of our daughters already reduced, and there is no power in our hands while our fields and our vineyards belong to others. (**Nehemiah 5:5**)
- Please, restore to them on this day their fields, their vineyards, their olive groves and their **houses**, and the hundredth of the money and the grain, the new wine and the oil that you are exacting as interest from them. (**Nehemiah 5:11**)
- A creditor could not force his way into the **house** of his debtor and seize a pledge.
- In case you lend your fellowman a loan of any sort, you must not enter into his **house** to take from him what he has pledged. (**Deuteronomy 24:10**)
- You should stand on the outside, and the man to whom you are making a loan should bring the pledge outside to you. (**Deuteronomy 24:11**)
- An Israelite who sanctified his **house** to Yehowah could buy it back by paying 120 percent of its estimated value to the sanctuary.
- Now in case a man should sanctify his **house** as something holy to Yehowah, the priest must then make a valuation of it whether it is good or bad. According to what valuation the priest makes

of it, so much it should cost. (**Leviticus 27:14**)

- But if the sanctifier wants to buy his **house** back, he must then give a fifth of the money of the estimated value in addition to it, and it must become his. (**Leviticus 27:15**)
- Also, those who had to sell their **houses** retained repurchase rights, at least for a time. **Houses** in unwalled villages could be bought back by their original owners and had to be returned to them in the Jubilee year.
- But **houses** in walled cities became the permanent property of the buyer if they were not bought back within the allotted one-year period during which the repurchase right continued in force.
- The right of repurchase was permanent in the case of houses located in walled Levite cities. If not bought back earlier, all **houses** formerly belonging to Levites had to be returned to their original owners in the Jubilee year.
- Now in case a man should sell a dwelling **house** in a walled city, his right of repurchase must also continue till the year from the time of his sale finishes out, his right of repurchase should continue a whole year. (**Leviticus 25:29**)
- But if it should not be bought back before the complete year has come to the full for him, the **house** that is in the city that has a wall must also stand in perpetuity as the property of its purchaser during his generations. It should not go out in the Jubilee. (**Leviticus 25:30**)
- However, the **houses** of settlements that have no wall about them should be accounted as part of the field of the country. Right of repurchase should continue for it, and in the Jubilee it should go out. (**Leviticus 25:31**)
- As for cities of the Levites with the **houses** of the cities of their possession, the right of repurchase should continue to time indefinite for the Levites. (**Leviticus 25:32**)
- And where property of the Levites is not bought back, the **house** sold in the city of his possession must also go out in the Jubilee, because the houses of the cities of the Levites are their possession in the midst of the sons of Israel. (**Leviticus 25:33**)

## · A Place For Spiritual Instruction

- From earliest times the home functioned as a center for giving instruction in pure worship. God's Law to Israel specifically commanded fathers to teach their sons when sitting in the **house**, as well as at other times.
- And these words that I am commanding you today must prove to be on your heart. (**Deuteronomy 6:6**)
- And you must inculcate them in your son and speak of them when you sit in your **house** and when you walk on the road and when you lie down and when you get up. (**Deuteronomy 6:7**)
- You must also teach them to your sons, so as to speak of them when you sit in your **house** and when you walk on the road and when you lie down and when you get up. (**Deuteronomy 11:19**)
- Also, God's Law was to be written, apparently figuratively, on the doorposts of their **houses**.
- And you must write them upon the doorposts of your **house** and on your gates. (**Deuteronomy 6:9**)
- And you must write them upon the doorposts of your **house** and on your gates. (**Deuteronomy 11:20**)
- And the **home** was to be kept free from all appendages of idolatry.
- And you must not bring a detestable thing into your **house** and actually become a thing devoted to destruction like it. You should thoroughly loathe it and absolutely detest it, because it is something devoted to destruction. (**Deuteronomy 7:26**)
- In view of the fact that the **home** was used for such a sacred purpose, **houses** infected with malignant leprosy were to be torn down.
- The Law concerning leprous **houses** would have reminded the Israelites that they could live only in **homes** that were clean from God's standpoint.
- And Yehowah proceeded to speak to Moses and Aaron, saying;

**(Leviticus 14:33)**

- When you come into the land of Canaan, which I am giving you as a possession, and I do put the plague of leprosy in a **house** of the land of your possession. (**Leviticus 14:34**)
- The one to whom the **house** belongs must then come and tell the priest, saying; Something like a plague has appeared to me in the house. (**Leviticus 14:35**)
- And the priest must give orders, and they must clear out the **house** before the priest may come in to see the plague, that he may not declare unclean everything that is in the house, and after that the priest will come in to see the house. (**Leviticus 14:36**)
- When he has seen the plague, then if the plague is in the walls of the **house**, with yellowish-green or reddish depressions, and their appearance is lower than the wall surface. (**Leviticus 14:37**)
- The priest must then go out of the **house** to the entrance of the house and he must quarantine the house seven days. (**Leviticus 14:38**)
- And the priest must return on the seventh day and must take a look, and if the plague has spread in the walls of the **house**. (**Leviticus 14:39**)
- The priest must then give orders, and they must tear out the stones in which the plague is, and they must throw them outside the city into an unclean place. (**Leviticus 14:40**)
- And he will have the **house** scraped off all around inside, and they must pour the clay mortar that they cut off outside the city into an unclean place. (**Leviticus 14:41**)
- And they must take other stones and insert them in the place of the former stones, and he will have different clay mortar taken, and he must have the **house** plastered. (**Leviticus 14:42**)
- If, though, the plague returns and it does break out in the **house** after having torn out the stones and after having cut off the house and plastered it. (**Leviticus 14:43**)

- The priest must then come in and take a look, and if the plague has spread in the **house**, it is malignant leprosy in the house. It is unclean. (**Leviticus 14:44**)
- And he must have the **house** pulled down with its stones and its timbers and all the clay mortar of the house and must have it carried forth outside the city to an unclean place. (**Leviticus 14:45**)
- But whoever comes into the **house** any of the days of quarantining it will be unclean until the evening. (**Leviticus 14:46**)
- And whoever lies down in the **house** should wash his garments, and whoever eats in the house should wash his garments. (**Leviticus 14:47**)
- However, if the priest comes at all and he does take a look, and, there now, the plague has not spread in the **house** after having plastered the house, the priest must then pronounce the **house** clean, because the plague has been healed. (**Leviticus 14:48**)
- And to purify the **house** from sin he must take two birds and cedar wood and coccus scarlet material and hyssop. (**Leviticus 14:49**)
- And he must kill the one bird in an earthenware vessel over running water. (**Leviticus 14:50**)
- And he must take the cedar wood and the hyssop and the coccus scarlet material and the live bird and dip them in the blood of the bird that was killed and in the running water, and he must spatter it toward the **house** seven times. (**Leviticus 14:51**)
- And he must purify the **house** from sin with the blood of the bird and the running water and the live bird and the cedar wood and the hyssop and the coccus scarlet material. (**Leviticus 14:52**)
- And he must send the live bird away outside the city into the open field and must make atonement for the **house**, and it must be clean. (**Leviticus 14:53**)
- This is the Law respecting any plague of leprosy and respecting the abnormal falling off of hair. (**Leviticus 14:54**)

- And respecting the leprosy of the garment and in the **house**.  
(**Leviticus 14:55**)
- And respecting the eruption and the scab and the blotch.  
(**Leviticus 14:56**)
- In order to give instructions when something is unclean and when something is clean. This is the Law about leprosy.  
(**Leviticus 14:57**)

### **See Also LEPROSY**

- With the establishment of Christianity, preaching and teaching from **house to house** became a prominent part of true worship.
- While I did not hold back from telling you any of the things that were profitable nor from teaching you publicly and from **house to house**. (**Acts of Apostles 20:20**)
- Jesus followers availed themselves of the hospitality accorded them by deserving ones or friends of peace, and they stayed in the **houses** of such persons until completing their ministry in a particular city.
- Into whatever city or village you enter, search out who in it is deserving, and stay there until you leave. (**Matthew 10:11**)
- And if a friend of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if there is not, it will turn back to you. (**Luke 10:6**)
- So stay in that **house**, eating and drinking the things they provide, for the worker is worthy of his wages. Do not be transferring from house to house. (**Luke 10:7**)
- Often groups or congregations of Christians regularly met together in **houses** to consider God's Word.
- And greet the congregation that is in their **house**. Greet my beloved Epaphroditus, who is a firstfruits of Asia for Christ.  
(**Romans 16:5**)
- The congregations of Asia send you their greetings. Aquila and Prisca together with the congregation that is in their **house** greet



you heartily in the Lord. (**1 Corinthians 16:19**)

- Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea and to Nympha and to the congregation at her **house**. (**Colossians 4:15**)
- And to Apphia, our sister, and to Archippus, our fellow soldier, and to the congregation that is in your **house**: (**Philemon 1:2**)
- But any who turned away from the teaching of the Christ were not welcomed in private homes.
- If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, never receive him into your homes or say a greeting to him. (**2 John 1:10**)

**See Also PREACHER, PREACHING From House to House**