

## ~IRON (279)

### .. Figurative Usage

- One of the **oldest metals** known to man. Today it is rated the **most abundant, most useful, and cheapest of all metals**. It is the fourth most plentiful element in the crust of the earth, while the earth's core is said to be nearly 90 percent iron.
- The Bible record reveals that it was used in the making of tools, nails, gates, weapons, fetters, instruments for writing, and even false gods.
- Pure iron in commerce is uncommon. Pig iron contains about 3 percent carbon plus small amounts of other elements. Wrought iron has much less carbon.
- Its bones are tubes of copper, its strong bones are like **wrought-iron rods**. (**Job 40:18**)
- The many varieties of **steel** are simply **iron** alloyed with carbon and other additives to give them special characteristics. **Steel** in the **King James Version**, however, is a mistranslation for copper.
- He is teaching my hands for warfare, and my arms have pressed down a bow of **copper**. (**2 Samuel 22:35**)
- He will run away from armor of **iron**, a bow of **copper** will cut him up. (**Job 20:24**)
- He is teaching my hands for warfare, and my arms have pressed down a bow of **copper**. (**Psalms 18:34**)
- Can one break **iron** in pieces, **iron** out of the north, and copper? (**Jeremiah 15:12**)
- Because of the crude furnaces and smelting methods, the **iron** in Bible times was never totally purified, but was an alloy of carbon and other elements. Tubal-cain of the **Fourth Millennium B.C.E.** was the first person known to forge and work with **iron**.
- As for Zillah, she too gave birth to Tubalcain, the forger of every sort of tool of copper and **iron**. And the sister of Tubalcain was

Naamah. ([Genesis 4:22](#))

- Meteoric **iron** was one type used at an early time by man. In Egyptian tombs **iron** beads have been found that have proved to be meteoric in composition.
- But man was not limited to that source of supply. He mined **iron** oxides and sulfides and smelted the same, notwithstanding the high temperatures needed to melt **iron**.
- **Iron** itself is taken from the very dust and from stone copper is being poured out. ([Job 28:2](#))
- 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](#))
- However, its use was quite limited compared with copper and bronze, which could be worked cold. Nevertheless, **iron** doubtless was especially valued because of its great strength and utility. **Iron** was included among the spoils of war highly esteemed by the Israelites.
- Only the gold and the silver, the copper, the **iron**, the tin and the lead. ([Numbers 31:22](#))
- But all the silver and the gold and the articles of copper and **iron** are something holy to Yehowah. Into the treasure of Yehowah it should go. ([Joshua 6:19](#))
- And they burned the city with fire and everything that was in it. Only the silver and the gold and the articles of copper and **iron** they gave to the treasure of Yehowah's house. ([Joshua 6:24](#))
- And he went on to say to them; Return to your tents with many riches and with very much livestock, with silver and gold and copper and **iron** and garments in very great quantity. Take your share of the spoil of your enemies together with your brothers. ([Joshua 22:8](#))
- But more than captured **iron** was to be their portion. Moses promised that upon reaching Palestine, they would find **iron** deposits, and so it proved to be.

- A land in which you will not eat bread with scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land the stones of which are **iron** and out of the mountains of which you will mine copper. (**Deuteronomy 8:9**)
- Other sources of **iron** mentioned in the Bible included Tarshish, as well as, Vedan and Javan from Uzal.
- Tarshish was your merchant because of the abundance of all sorts of valuable things. For its silver, **iron**, tin and lead, your stores were given. (**Ezekiel 27:12**)
- Vedan and Javan from Uzal, for your stores they gave. **Iron** in wrought works, cassia and cane, for your articles of exchange they proved to be. (**Ezekiel 27:19**)

**See Also REFINE, REFINER**

- In their conquest of the Promised Land, the Israelites were confronted with war chariots equipped with **iron scythes**.
- Then the sons of Joseph said; The mountainous region is not enough for us, and there are war chariots with **iron scythes** among all the Canaanites dwelling in the land of the low plain, both those who are in Beth-shean and its dependent towns and those who are in the low plain of Jezreel. (**Joshua 17:16**)
- But the mountainous region should become yours. Because it is a forest, you must cut it down, and it must become the termination point for you. For you should drive away the Canaanites, although they have war chariots with **iron scythes** and they are strong. (**Joshua 17:18**)
- And Yehowah continued with Judah, so that he took possession of the mountainous region, but he could not dispossess the inhabitants of the low plain, because they had war chariots with **iron scythes**. (**Judges 1:19**)
- At one point during Saul's reign, there was not a blacksmith, metalworker, to be found in all the land of Israel.
- Because of a ban imposed by the Philistines, only the king and his son Jonathan had a sword. Israel was forced to take all metal tools down to the Philistines to have them sharpened.

- Now there was not a smith to be found in all the land of Israel, because the Philistines had said; That the Hebrews may not make a sword or a spear. (**1 Samuel 13:19**)
- And all the Israelites would go down to the Philistines to get each one his plowshare or his mattock or his ax or his sickle sharpened. (**1 Samuel 13:20**)
- And the price for sharpening proved to be a pim for the plowshares and for the mattocks and for the three-toothed instruments and for the axes and for fixing fast the oxgoad. (**1 Samuel 13:21**)
- And it happened on the day of battle that not a sword or a spear was found in the hand of any of the people that were with Saul and Jonathan, but there could be found one belonging to Saul and to Jonathan his son. (**1 Samuel 13:22**)
- Later, however, King David gathered together huge quantities of **iron** for use in the temple construction. Under Solomon's reign there was contributed, **iron** worth a hundred thousand talents, or, according to many translations, a hundred thousand talents of iron.
- And here during my affliction I have prepared for Yehowah's house a hundred thousand talents of gold and a million talents of silver, and the copper and the **iron** there is no means of weighing because they have come to be in such quantity, and timbers and stones I have prepared, but to them you will make additions. (**1 Chronicles 22:14**)
- The gold, the silver and the copper and the **iron** there is no means of numbering. Rise and act, and may Yehowah prove to be with you. (**1 Chronicles 22:16**)
- And according to all my power I have prepared for the house of my God the gold for the goldwork, and the silver for the silverwork, and the copper for the copperwork, the **iron** for the ironwork, and the timbers for the timberwork, onyx stones, and stones to be set with hard mortar, and mosaic pebbles, and every precious stone, and alabaster stones in great quantity. (**1 Chronicles 29:2**)
- Accordingly they gave to the service of the house of the true God

gold worth five thousand talents and ten thousand darics and silver worth ten thousand talents and copper worth eighteen thousand talents and **iron** worth a hundred thousand talents. (**1 Chronicles 29:7**)

- If the reference is to the **value** of the **iron** and if the talents were silver, then the iron was worth \$660,600,000. If the reference is to the **weight** of the iron, then it amounted to about 3,420 metric tons (3,770 tons)

## •• Figurative Usage

- The **iron furnace** is a symbol of hard and hot oppression.
- But you are the ones Yehowah took that he might bring you out of the **iron furnace**, out of Egypt, to become a people of private ownership to him as at this day. (**Deuteronomy 4:20**)
- For they are your people and your inheritance, whom you brought out from Egypt, from inside the **iron furnace**. (**1 Kings 8:51**)
- Which I commanded your forefathers in the day of my bringing them out of the land of Egypt, out of the furnace of **iron**, saying; Obey my voice, and you must do things according to all that I command you, and you will certainly become my people and I myself shall become your God. (**Jeremiah 11:4**)
- **Iron** yokes, unbreakable bondage.
- And you will have to serve your enemies whom Yehowah will send against you with hunger and thirst and nakedness and the want of everything, and he will certainly put an **iron yoke** upon your neck until he has annihilated you. (**Deuteronomy 28:48**)
- Go, and you must say to Hananiah; This is what Yehowah has said; Yoke bars of wood you have broken, and instead of them you will have to make yoke bars of **iron**. (**Jeremiah 28:13**)
- For this is what Yehowah of armies, the God of Israel, has said; A yoke of **iron** I will put upon the neck of all these nations, to serve Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, and they must serve him. And even the wild beasts of the field I will give him. (**Jeremiah 28:14**)

- In a figurative sense **iron** symbolizes hardness.
- And I shall have to break the pride of your strength and make your heavens like **iron** and your earth like copper. ([Leviticus 26:19](#))
- Your skies that are over your head must also become copper, and the earth that is beneath you **iron**. ([Deuteronomy 28:23](#))
- **Stubbornness.**
- Due to my knowing that you are hard and that your neck is an **iron** sinew and your forehead is copper. ([Isaiah 48:4](#))
- All of them are the most stubborn men, walking about as slanderers, copper and **iron**. They are all of them ruinous. ([Jeremiah 6:28](#))
- **Strength**
- But as for me, here I have made you today a fortified city and an **iron** pillar and copper walls against all the land, toward the kings of Judah, toward her princes, toward her priests and toward the people of the land. ([Jeremiah 1:18](#))
- After this I kept on beholding in the visions of the night, and, see there! A fourth beast, fearsome and terrible and unusually strong. And it had teeth of **iron**, big ones. It was devouring and crushing, and what was left it was treading down with its feet. And it was something different from all the other beasts that were prior to it, and it had ten horns. ([Daniel 7:7](#))
- And they had breastplates like **iron** breastplates. And the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running into battle. ([Revelation 9:9](#))
- **Kingly power**, and judicial authority.
- You will break them with an **iron scepter**, as though a potters vessel you will dash them to pieces. ([Psalms 2:9](#))
- And he shall shepherd the people with an **iron rod** so that they will be broken to pieces like clay vessels, the same as I have

received from my Father. (**Revelation 2:27**)

- And she gave birth to a son, a male, who is to shepherd all the nations with an **iron rod**. And her child was caught away to God and to his throne. (**Revelation 12:5**)
- And out of his mouth there protrudes a sharp long sword, that he may strike the nations with it, and he will shepherd them with a **rod of iron**. He treads too the winepress of the anger of the wrath of God the Almighty. (**Revelation 19:15**)