

## ~KILN (145)

[Hebrew, *kiv-shan'*]

### .. Limekilns

- A heating chamber designed for processing various materials. Kilns of ancient times were used for baking bricks, firing pottery, and processing lime. Unlike the modern meaning of the English term, kiln, the Hebrew word *kiv-shan'* does not embrace structures classified as ovens.

### See Also OVEN

- In view of the progress made in pre-Flood times in the forging of copper and iron tools
- 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](#))
- **Kilns** were likely developed at an early point in man's history. Though not directly mentioned, there is evidence for their use in Nimrod's day. When about to build the city of Babel and its tower in the land of Shinar, the post-Flood people said; Come on! Let us make bricks and bake them with a burning process.
- 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](#))
- Ancient Babylonian ruins reveal the use of **kiln-fired** bricks from ancient times. Such durable bricks were used in the more important structures for veneered walls and for paved areas.
- Some houses excavated at Ur, Abraham's onetime residence, have the lower level built with burnt bricks, while the second story was evidently of sun-dried bricks.
- Sun-dried bricks, while not as durable as **kiln-fired** bricks, were inexpensive, easy to manufacture, and satisfactory in dry climates.

### See Also BRICK

- Egyptian pottery **kilns** were shaped like a tapered chimney, with a perforated baffle between the fire pit below and the firing chamber above. The pottery was placed in this chamber before the fuel was ignited.
- The correct firing of the **kiln** was a trade secret among Egyptian potters, and skill was required to bring out the desired qualities in the finished products.
- The draft created by the air rushing from the fireplace up the flue drew the fire through the baffle perforations and allowed it to circulate around the pottery before passing out at the top of the stack.
- In preparation for His sixth blow against Egypt and its proud Pharaoh, Yehowah commanded Moses and Aaron; Take for yourselves both hands full of soot from a **kiln**, and Moses must toss it toward the heavens in Pharaoh's sight.
- Complying with these instructions, they took the soot of a **kiln** and stood before Pharaoh, and Moses tossed it toward the heavens, and it became boils with blisters, breaking out on man and beast.
- After that Yehowah said to Moses and Aaron; Take for yourselves both hands full of soot from a **kiln**, and Moses must toss it toward the heavens in Pharaoh's sight. (**Exodus 9:8**)
- And it must become a powder upon all the land of Egypt, and it must become boils breaking out with blisters upon man and beast in all the land of Egypt. (**Exodus 9:9**)
- So they took the soot of a **kiln** and stood before Pharaoh, and Moses tossed it toward the heavens, and it became boils with blisters, breaking out on man and beast. (**Exodus 9:10**)
- Palestinian **kilns**, or furnaces, discovered at Megiddo, measuring about 2.5 by 3 meters (8 by 10 feet), are U-shaped. In this type, the fireplace is located in the bend of the enclosure.
- Evidently, the draft entering below the fireplace door forced the flames through the two firing chambers and out the two flues located at the rear of the kiln.

## ·· Limekilns

- **Limekilns** were used in ancient Palestine because of the abundance of limestone. More recently in that land such **kilns** have been built on hillsides, the hill forming part of the rear wall.
- The **kilns** have been constructed of rough stones without mortar, the spaces between the stones being filled with clay but with a large open flue at the top.
- After the interior was properly packed with crushed limestone, a hot fire made from brush would be started in the fireplace at the base of the kiln.
- The strong draft entering through a tunnel in the bottom of the kiln would carry the flames up through the limestone, heating it until it was converted into lime. This process would normally continue for several days.

#### **See Also LIME**

- The first direct Biblical reference to a **kiln** is at;
- Then he looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah and toward all the land of the District and saw a sight. Why, here thick smoke ascended from the land like the thick smoke of a **kiln**! ([Genesis 19:28](#))
- There the black voluminous smoke of a **kiln** is used to describe the scene Abraham saw when he looked down upon the burning cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and all the District and observed that thick smoke ascended from the land like the thick smoke of a **kiln**!
- When the Israelites gathered at the base of Mount Sinai to meet the true God, the awe-inspiring spectacle before their eyes included Mount Sinai's smoking all over, due to the fact that Yehowah came down upon it in fire, and its smoke kept ascending like the smoke of a **kiln**, and the whole mountain was trembling very much.
- And Mount Sinai smoked all over, due to the fact that Yehowah came down upon it in fire, and its smoke kept ascending like the smoke of a **kiln**, and the whole mountain was trembling very much. ([Exodus 19:18](#))
- The rendering of;

- And the people that were in it, he brought out that he might put them at sawing stones and at sharp instruments of iron and at axes of iron, and he made them serve at brickmaking. And that was the way he proceeded to do to all the cities of the sons of Ammon. Finally David and all the people returned to Jerusalem. (2 Samuel 12:31)
- In the King James Version makes it appear that David caused Ammonite captives to pass through the brick kiln, but the sense of the Hebrew text, by a correction of one letter, appears to be that he made them serve at brickmaking. NW, AT, RS