

~LEVELING INSTRUMENT (96)

[Hebrew, *mish-qe'leth*]

- A device used in making surfaces level or at right angles to a plumb line. The leveling instrument, Hebrew, *mish-qe'leth* or *mish-qo'leth* was employed by carpenters, stonemasons, and other craftsmen of ancient times to achieve horizontal accuracy when building walls and various structures, while the plummet was used to assure vertical accuracy.
- Egyptian masons seem to have employed a level shaped like the letter, A, with a short plumb line suspended from the apex. Evidently when the hanging line coincided with a center mark on the crossbar, this indicated that the surface on which it was placed was level.
- The Scriptures furnish no description of leveling instruments, however, and they refer to this device only in figurative ways.
- A leveling instrument may be used to construct a building properly or to test its fitness for preservation. Yehowah foretold that he would apply to wayward Jerusalem the measuring line applied to Samaria and also the leveling instrument applied to the house of Ahab.
- God had measured and found Samaria and the house of King Ahab to be morally bad or crooked, resulting in their destruction. Likewise, God would judge Jerusalem and its rulers, exposing their wickedness and bringing about the destruction of that city. These events actually occurred in 607 B.C.E.
- And Yehowah kept speaking by means of his servants the prophets, saying; (2 Kings 21:10)
- For the reason that Manasseh the king of Judah has done these detestable things, he has acted more wickedly than all that the Amorites did that were prior to him, and he proceeded to make even Judah sin with his dungy idols. (2 Kings 21:11)
- That is why this is what Yehowah the God of Israel has said; Here I am bringing a calamity upon Jerusalem and Judah, of which if anyone hears both his ears will tingle. (2 Kings 21:12)
- And I shall certainly stretch upon Jerusalem the measuring line

applied to Samaria and also the **leveling** instrument applied to the house of Ahab, and I shall simply wipe Jerusalem clean just as one wipes the handleless bowl clean, wiping it clean and turning it upside down. (**2 Kings 21:13**)

- Moreover, Jehu went on to strike down all who were left over of the house of Ahab in Jezreel and all his distinguished men and his acquaintances and his priests, until he had let no survivor of his remain. (**2 Kings 10:11**)
- Through Isaiah the various wicked braggarts and rulers of the people in Jerusalem were apprised of their coming calamity and of Yehowah's declaration; I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the **leveling** instrument.
- The standards of true justice and genuine righteousness would reveal who were really God's servants and who were not, resulting in either preservation or destruction.
- Therefore hear the word of Yehowah, you braggarts, you rulers of this people who are in Jerusalem. (**Isaiah 28:14**)
- Because you men have said; We have concluded a covenant with Death, and with Sheol we have effected a vision, the overflowing flash flood, in case it should pass through, will not come to us, for we have made a lie our refuge and in falsehood we have concealed ourselves. (**Isaiah 28:15**)
- 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**)
- And I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the **leveling** instrument, and the hail must sweep away the refuge of a lie, and the waters themselves will flood out the very place of concealment. (**Isaiah 28:17**)
- And your covenant with Death will certainly be dissolved, and that vision of yours with Sheol will not stand. The overflowing flash flood, when it passes through, you must also become for it a trampling place. (**Isaiah 28:18**)
- As often as it passes through, it will take you men away, because

morning by morning it will pass through, during the day and during the night, and it must become nothing but a reason for quaking to make others understand what has been heard. (**Isaiah 28:19**)