

~MORTAR 1 (119)

- A vessel having a bowl-shaped interior in which grain, spices, olives, or other substances were pulverized by pounding with a pestle.
- Egyptian tomb paintings depict mortars with considerable capacity. These were probably wooden mortars and likely the pestles were made of metal.
- One tomb painting shows two men at one mortar, alternately raising and dropping metal pestles, club-shaped at both ends, which they gripped at the center with both hands.
- The painting indicates that after a quantity of material in the mortar had been pounded sufficiently, it was sifted into another container and the coarser remains were returned to the mortar for further pounding.
- In the wilderness the Israelites prepared manna for consumption by grinding it in hand mills or pounding it in a mortar **Hebrew, *medho-khah'***.
- Incidentally, the manna was like coriander seed, and its look was like the look of bdellium gum. (**Numbers 11:7**)
- The people spread out and picked it up and ground it in hand mills or pounded it in a **mortar**, and they boiled it in cooking pots or made it into round cakes, and its taste proved to be like the taste of an oiled sweet cake. (**Numbers 11:8**)
- The finest olive oil was obtained by beating the olives in a **mortar** with a pestle. This produced oil from only the olive meat, whereas a press crushed the seeds also.
- Pure, beaten olive oil was required for burning in the lampstand in the tent of meeting. Beaten oil was also used in connection with the constant burnt offering and evidently in the holy anointing oil. Incense beaten into powder was used in the sanctuary.
- As for you, you are to command the sons of Israel that they get for you pure, beaten olive oil for the luminary, in order to light up

the lamps constantly. (**Exodus 27:20**)

- In the tent of meeting, outside the curtain that is by the Testimony, Aaron and his sons will set it in order from evening till morning before Yehowah. It is a statute to time indefinite for their generations, to be performed by the sons of Israel. (**Exodus 27:21**)
- And a tenth part of an ephah measure of fine flour moistened with the fourth of a hin of beaten oil, and a drink offering of the fourth of a hin of wine, will go for the first young ram. (**Exodus 29:40**)
- It is a constant burnt offering throughout your generations at the entrance of the tent of meeting before Yehowah, where I shall present myself to you people to speak to you there. (**Exodus 29:42**)
- As for you, take to yourself the choicest perfumes, myrrh in congealed drops five hundred units, and sweet cinnamon in half that amount, two hundred and fifty units, and sweet calamus two hundred and fifty units. (**Exodus 30:23**)
- And cassia five hundred units by the shekel of the holy place, and olive oil a hin. (**Exodus 30:24**)
- Then you must make out of it a holy anointing oil, an ointment, a mixture that is the work of an ointment maker. It is to be a holy anointing oil. (**Exodus 30:25**)
- And you must make it into an incense, a spice mixture, the work of an ointment maker, salted, pure, something holy. (**Exodus 30:35**)
- And you must pound some of it into fine powder and put some of it before the Testimony in the tent of meeting, where I shall present myself to you. It should be most holy to you people. (**Exodus 30:36**)
- Since a **mortar** has a hollow interior, it is suitably used in the Bible to describe the configuration of a specific land area. For instance, according to.
- Now he became very thirsty, and he began to call on Yehowah

and say; It was you that gave this great salvation into the hand of your servant, and now shall I die of thirst and must I fall into the hand of the uncircumcised? (**Judges 15:18**)

- So God split open a **mortar-shaped hollow** that was in Lehi, and water began to come out of it, and he proceeded to drink, after which his spirit returned and he revived. That is why he called its name En-hakkore, which is in Lehi down to this day. (**Judges 15:19**)
- God provided drinking water for Samson by splitting open a **mortar-shaped hollow**, Hebrew, *makh-tesh'*, in Lehi. Also, a certain section of Jerusalem, the **Maktesh** or **Mortar-Quarter**, Hebrew, *Makh-tesh'*, meaning, **mortar**, may have been so named to identify a **basin-like hollow or depression** in that area of the city.
- Howl, you inhabitants of **Maktesh**, for all the people who are tradesmen have been silenced, all those weighing out silver have been cut off. (**Zephaniah 1:11**) Footnote
- Grain reduced to flour in a **mortar** undergoes very severe treatment. Therefore, the Scriptures use this procedure illustratively, saying; Even if you should pound the foolish one fine with a pestle in a mortar Hebrew, *bam-makh-tesh'*, in among cracked grain, his foolishness will not depart from him.
- Even if you should pound the foolish one fine with a **pestle** in a **mortar**, in among cracked grain, his foolishness will not depart from him. (**Proverbs 27:22**)