

## ~OVEN (130)

### .. Illustrative Use

- **A chamber that is heated in order to bake or to roast foods.**  
Various types of ovens were used by the Hebrews and others.
- Ovens of considerable size, consisting of a round hole in the ground, have been used in the Middle East up until modern times, some being as much as 1.5 or 1.8 meters (5 or 6 feet) deep and almost 1 meters (3 feet) in diameter. In an oven of this size, it was possible to roast an entire sheep by suspending it over the hot stones or coals.
- The **bowl** oven was used in Biblical days and was probably similar to that employed by Palestinian peasants of modern times. A large clay bowl is placed inverted upon small stones on which the bread rests. The bowl is heated by the burning of fuel heaped over and around it, and the bread is baked.
- Every Hebrew home likely had a portable **jar** oven, a type still used in Palestine. It was a large earthenware jar, about 0.9 meters (3 feet) high, having an opening at the top and widening toward the bottom.
- To heat it, fuel such as wood or grass was burned inside, the ashes being removed through a hole provided for that purpose. The top was closed, and when the jar was hot enough, dough was spread around the inside or the outside. Bread baked in this manner was very thin.
- A great many **pit** ovens have been unearthed by archaeologists. These were evidently further developments of the **jar** oven. This type, partly in the ground and partly above ground, was built up of clay and was plastered throughout. It tapered toward the top, and the fuel was burned inside.
- Monuments and paintings show that the Egyptians placed the dough on the outside of these ovens. For fuel, the Hebrews employing this type might use dry twigs or grass.
- If, now, God thus clothes the vegetation of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the **oven**, will he not much rather clothe you, you with little faith? (**Matthew 6:30**)

- Meat could also be roasted in such an **oven**.
- It is interesting that **baking ovens** now used by peasants in Palestine differ little from those found in ancient ruins or those depicted on Assyrian and Egyptian reliefs and paintings.
- In ancient Chaldea ovens were located in the courtyards of homes, and today they may be found in small **bakehouses** in the yards of private dwellings, though **ovens** may also be grouped together in some part of the village. Large **public ovens** are still in use.
- Household **ovens** were common among the Israelites and Egyptians in the land of Egypt. Thus, during the second plague, frogs even came up into their **ovens** and their kneading troughs.
- And the Nile River will fairly teem with frogs, and they will certainly come up and enter into your house and your inner bedroom and upon your couch and into the houses of your servants and on your people and into your **ovens** and into your kneading troughs. (**Exodus 8:3**)
- **The Tower of the Bake Ovens** in Jerusalem was repaired under Nehemiah's direction during the restoration of the city's walls.
- Another measured section was what Malchijah the son of Harim and Hasshub the son of Pahath-moab repaired, and also the Tower of the Bake **Ovens**. (**Nehemiah 3:11**)
- And the other thanksgiving choir was walking in front, and I after it, also half of the people, upon the wall up over the Tower of the **Bake Ovens** and on to the Broad Wall. (**Nehemiah 12:38**)
- This names origin is uncertain, but it has been suggested that the tower was so named because commercial bakers had their **ovens** situated in that vicinity.

#### •• Illustrative Use

- The **oven** is used in an expression denoting scarcity at;
- When I have broken for you the rods around which ring-shaped loaves are suspended, ten women will then actually bake your bread in but **one oven** and give back your bread by weight, and

**you must eat but you will not be satisfied. (Leviticus 26:26)**

- **Which reads; When I, Yehowah, have broken for you the rods around which ring-shaped loaves are suspended, ten women will then actually bake your bread in but **one oven** and give back your bread by weight, and you must eat but you will not be satisfied. Under normal conditions, each woman would need an oven to do her daily baking. However;**
- **When I have broken for you the rods around which ring-shaped loaves are suspended, ten women will then actually bake your bread in but **one oven** and give back your bread by weight, and you must eat but you will not be satisfied. (Leviticus 26:26)**
- **Pointed to a time when there would be so little food available that one **oven** would be sufficient to handle all the baking that ten women could do. And**
- **All of them are adulterers, like a furnace set burning by a baker, who ceases poking after kneading dough until it is leavened. (Hosea 7:4)**
- **On the day of our king, princes have sickened themselves, there is a rage because of wine. He has drawn his hand along with deriders. (Hosea 7:5)**
- **For they have brought their heart near as to a furnace, it is burning inside them. All night long their baker is sleeping, by morning the furnace is burning as with a flaming fire. (Hosea 7:6)**
- **They get hot, all of them, like the furnace, and they actually devour their judges. Their own kings have all fallen, none among them is calling out to me. (Hosea 7:7)**
- **Compares adulterous Israelites to a bakers furnace, apparently because of the wicked desires burning within them.**