

~PRESS (262)

[Hebrew, *gath*, Greek, *le-nos*]

.. Figurative Use

- **An apparatus used to apply pressure to fruit so that liquid is forced out.** Since the harvest of olives came after that of grapes, the same presses were often used for extracting both grape juice and olive oil, although there was also a pillar type of press used for olives.
- Common presses usually consisted of two shallow sinklike cavities cut out of natural limestone, the one on a higher level connected by a small channel to the lower one.
- And it must be reckoned to you as your contribution, like the grain of the threshing floor and like the full produce of the wine or oil **press**. (**Numbers 18:27**)
- And you must say to them; When you contribute the best of them, then it will certainly be reckoned to the Levites as the produce of the threshing floor and as the produce of the wine or oil **press**. (**Numbers 18:30**)
- To this he said; If Yehowah does not save you, from what source shall I save you? either from the threshing floor or from the wine or oil **press**? (**2 Kings 6:27**)
- The grapes or olives were trodden or crushed in the upper basin, *gath*.
- In those days I saw in Judah people treading wine**presses** on the Sabbath and bringing in grain heaps and loading them upon asses, and also wine, grapes and figs and every sort of burden, and bringing them into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day, and I proceeded to bear witness against them on the day of their selling provisions. (**Nehemiah 13:15**)
- Allowing the juices to flow by gravity into the lower vat *ye'qev*.
- They also got to capture the two princes of Midian, namely, Oreb and Zeeb, and they proceeded to kill Oreb on the rock of Oreb, and they killed Zeeb at the wine vat of Zeeb. And they kept on pursuing Midian, and they brought the head of Oreb and that of

Zeeb to Gideon in the region of the Jordan. (**Judges 7:25**)

- Then your stores of supply will be filled with plenty, and with new wine your own **press vats** will overflow. (**Proverbs 3:10**)
- And the threshing floors must be full of cleansed grain, and the **press vats** must overflow with new wine and oil. (**Joel 2:24**)
- From when those things happened to be, one came to a heap of twenty measures, and it proved to be ten, one came to the **press vat** to draw off fifty measures of the wine **trough**, and it proved to be twenty. (**Haggai 2:16**)
- Thrust in a sickle, for harvest has grown ripe. Come, descend, for the **winepress has become full**. The press vats actually overflow, for their badness has become abundant. (**Joel 3:13**)
- Both terms occur; Come, descend, for the **winepress, gath**, has become full. The **press vats, ha-yeqa-vim'**, plural of **ye'qev**, actually overflow. Apparently the **Hebrew term ye'qev** was also used in reference to **single-basin presses**, in which both the treading of the grapes and the collecting of the juice took place.
- Between the terrace walls they pass the noontime, **winepresses** they have to tread, and yet they go thirsty. (**Job 24:11**)
- And he proceeded to dig it up and to rid it of stones and to plant it with a choice red vine, and to build a tower in the middle of it. And there was also a **winepress** that he hewed out in it. And he kept hoping for it to produce grapes, but it gradually produced wild grapes. (**Isaiah 5:2**)
- And rejoicing and joyfulness have been taken away from the orchard, and in the vineyards there is no joyful crying out, there is no shouting done. No wine in the **presses** does the treader tread out. Shouting I have caused to cease. (**Isaiah 16:10**)
- And rejoicing and joyfulness have been taken away from the orchard and from the land of Moab. And from the **winepresses** I have caused the wine itself to cease. No one will be doing the treading with shouting. The shouting will be no shouting. (**Jeremiah 48:33**)

- The bottoms of these **presses** were more on an incline than the conventional two-basin type, to allow for the collecting of the juice at the lower end. If the press was long and narrow, like a trough, it was called *pu-rah'*.
- The wine trough I have trodden by myself, while there was no man with me from the peoples. And I kept treading them in my anger, and I kept trampling them down in my rage. And their spurting blood kept spattering upon my garments, and all my clothing I have polluted. (**Isaiah 63:3**)
- From when those things happened to be, one came to a heap of twenty measures, and it proved to be ten, one came to the **press vat** to draw off fifty measures of the wine trough, and it proved to be twenty. (**Haggai 2:16**)
- The **Christian Greek Scriptures** also speak of the **winepress**, *le-nos'*.
- Hear another illustration, There was a man, a householder, who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a **winepress** in it and erected a tower, and let it out to cultivators, and traveled abroad. (**Matthew 21:33**)
- As well as the **vat for the winepress**, *hy-po-le'ni-on*.
- Also, he started to speak to them with illustrations; A man planted a vineyard, and put a fence around it, and dug a vat for the **winepress** and erected a tower, and let it out to cultivators, and traveled abroad. (**Mark 12:1**)
- One such **winepress** was found, the upper basin of which measured 2.4 meters (8 feet) square and 38 centimeters (15 inches) deep.
- The smaller vat, some 0.6 meters (2 feet) lower in elevation, into which the juice ran, was 1.2 meters (4 feet) square and 0.9 meters (3 feet) deep. Such a **winepress** served Gideon as a place in which to thresh his wheat.
- Later Yehowah's angel came and sat under the big tree that was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abi-ezrite, while Gideon his son was beating out wheat in the **winepress** so as to get it quickly out of the sight of Midian. (**Judges 6:11**)

- **Crushing the fruit in these presses was usually done by bare feet or by heavy stones. From two to seven or more treaders worked as a team in the press. It was therefore noteworthy that Isaiah said the Great Treader, Yehowah, will tread the wine trough alone.**
- **The wine trough I have trodden by myself, while there was no man with me from the peoples. And I kept treading them in my anger, and I kept trampling them down in my rage. And their spurting blood kept spattering upon my garments, and all my clothing I have polluted. (Isaiah 63:3)**
- **Above the heads of the treaders was a crossbeam from which ropes extended for the men to hold on to for support. The splashing of the blood of grapes stained the upper garments of the treaders.**
- **Tying his full-grown ass to a vine and the descendant of his own she-ass to a choice vine, he will certainly wash his clothing in wine and his garment in the blood of grapes. (Genesis 49:11)**
- **Why is it that your clothing is red, and your garments are like those of one treading in the winepress? (Isaiah 63:2)**
- **Although it meant plenty of hard work, the crushing season was usually a time of rejoicing, joyful shouting and singing helped to keep rhythm in the treading.**
- **And they went out as usual into the field and engaged in gathering the grapes of their vineyards and in treading them and in carrying on a festal exultation, after which they went into the house of their god and ate and drank and called down evil upon Abimelech. (Judges 9:27)**
- **And as for you, you will prophesy to them all these words, and you must say to them, From on high Yehowah himself will roar, and from his holy dwelling he will give forth his voice. Without fail he will roar upon his abiding place. A shout like that of those treading the winepress he will sing out against all the inhabitants of the earth. (Jeremiah 25:30)**
- **And rejoicing and joyfulness have been taken away from the orchard and from the land of Moab. And from the winepresses I have caused the wine itself to cease. No one will be doing the treading with shouting. The shouting will be no shouting. (Jeremiah 48:33)**

- The expression, **upon the Gittith**, rendered, **winepresses**, in the **Greek Septuagint** and the **Latin Vulgate**, appearing in the superscription of three (**Psalms Chapters 8,81,84**) may indicate that they were songs associated with the vintage.

•• **Figurative Use**

- There are a number of Scriptural instances where the **winepress** is referred to in a figurative sense.
- Why is it that your clothing is red, and your garments are like those of one treading in the **winepress**? (**Isaiah 63:2**)
- The wine trough I have trodden by myself, while there was no man with me from the peoples. And I kept treading them in my anger, and I kept trampling them down in my rage. And their spurting blood kept spattering upon my garments, and all my clothing I have polluted. (**Isaiah 63:3**)
- All my powerful ones Yehowah has tossed aside from the midst of me. He has called against me a meeting, in order to break my young men to pieces. Yehowah has trodden the very **winepress** belonging to the virgin daughter of Judah. (**Lamentations 1:15**)
- In the day of Yehowah when crowds are assembled in the low plain of decision, the command goes forth.
- Thrust in a sickle, for harvest has grown ripe. Come, descend, for the **winepress** has become full. The **press vats actually overflow, of wickedness**, for their badness has become abundant. (**Joel 3:13**)
- Crowds, crowds are in the low plain of the decision, for the day of Yehowah is near in the low plain of the decision. (**Joel 3:14**)
- Similarly, John saw in vision the vine of the earth hurled into the great **winepress of the anger of God**, there trodden until the blood came out of the **winepress** as high up as the bridles of the horses.
- The one called, **Faithful and True, The Word of God**, is the one who treads this **winepress of the anger of the wrath of God the Almighty**.

- And the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and he hurled it into the great **winepress** of the anger of God. (**Revelation 14:19**)
- And the **winepress** was trodden outside the city, and blood came out of the **winepress** as high up as the bridles of the horses, for a distance of a thousand six hundred furlongs. (**Revelation 14:20**)
- And I saw the heaven opened, and, look! A white horse. And the one seated upon it is called Faithful and True, and he judges and carries on war in righteousness. (**Revelation 19:11**)
- His eyes are a fiery flame, and upon his head are many diadems. He has a name written that no one knows but he himself. (**Revelation 19:12**)
- And he is arrayed with an outer garment sprinkled with blood, and the name he is called is **The Word of God**. (**Revelation 19:13**)
- Also, the armies that were in heaven were following him on white horses, and they were clothed in white, clean, fine linen. (**Revelation 19:14**)
- 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**)
- And upon his outer garment, even upon his thigh, he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords. (**Revelation 19:16**)