

## ~QUARRY (163)

[Hebrew, *pesi-lim* ]

- **An open-pit excavation from which various types of stone are cut.** Limestone and marble, lying near the surface, are thus quarried. A large area near the present Damascus Gate of Jerusalem is believed to have been an ancient quarry. The first Bible reference to such a place is at;
- So about three thousand men of the people went up there, but they took to flight before the men of Ai. ([Joshua 7:4](#))
- And the men of Ai got to strike down about thirty-six men of them, and they went pursuing them from before the gate as far as Shebarim and continued striking them down on the descent. Consequently the heart of the people began to melt and became as water. ([Joshua 7:5](#))
- Where it is reported that about 3,000 Israelites fled from Ai as far as **Shebarim**, meaning, **Quarries**. When Solomon prepared to build the temple, he commanded that great foundation stones be **quarried** from the mountains of Lebanon, and tens of thousands of men were conscripted for the work.
- And King Solomon kept bringing up those conscripted for forced labor out of all Israel, and those conscripted for forced labor amounted to thirty thousand men. ([1 Kings 5:13](#))
- And he would send them to Lebanon in shifts of ten thousand a month. For a month they would continue in Lebanon, for two months at their homes, and Adoniram was over those conscripted for forced labor. ([1 Kings 5:14](#))
- And Solomon came to have seventy thousand burden bearers and eighty thousand cutters in the mountain. ([1 Kings 5:15](#))
- Besides Solomon's princely deputies who were over the work, three thousand three hundred foremen over the people who were active in the work. ([1 Kings 5:16](#))
- Accordingly the king commanded that they should **quarry** great stones, expensive stones, to lay the foundation of the house with

**hewn stones. (1 Kings 5:17)**

- **So Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders and the Gebalites did the cutting, and they kept preparing the timbers and the stones to build the house. (1 Kings 5:18)**
- **As for the house, while it was being built, it was of **quarry** stone already completed that it was built, and as for hammers and axes or any tools of iron, they were not heard in the house while it was being built. (1 Kings 6:7)**
- **When it was necessary to repair the temple in the days of Jehoash, hewers of stone were hired for the work.**
- **And they gave the money that had been counted off over to the hands of doers of the work that were appointed to the house of Yehowah. In turn they paid it out to the workers in wood and to the builders that were working at the house of Yehowah. (2 Kings 12:11)**
- **And to the masons and to the hewers of stone, and to buy timbers and hewn stones for repairing the cracks of the house of Yehowah and for all that was expended upon the house to repair it. (2 Kings 12:12)**
- **The tomb where Jesus was buried was one quarried out of rock.**
- **And Joseph took the body, wrapped it up in clean fine linen. (Matthew 27:59)**
- **And laid it in his new memorial tomb, which he had quarried in the rock-mass. And, after rolling a big stone to the door of the memorial tomb, he left. (Matthew 27:60)**
- **Accordingly he bought fine linen and took him down, wrapped him in the fine linen and laid him in a tomb which was quarried out of a rock-mass, and he rolled a stone up to the door of the memorial tomb. (Mark 15:46)**
- **Using an eloquent metaphor, Yehowah, by the mouth of Isaiah, calls to mind the **quarry** and its operation.**
- **Listen to me, you people who are pursuing after righteousness, you who are seeking to find Yehowah. Look to the rock from**

which you were hewn out, and to the hollow of the pit from which you were dug out. (**Isaiah 51:1**)

- As indicated in the succeeding verse, the rock was apparently Abraham, as the human source of the nation, and the hollow of the pit was Sarah, whose pitlike womb bore Israel's ancestor Isaac.
- Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who gradually brought you forth with childbirth pains. For he was one when I called him, and I proceeded to bless him and to make him many. (**Isaiah 51:2**)
- However, since the birth of Isaac was by divine power and a miraculous act, the metaphoric **quarrying** may also have a higher spiritual application.
- The Rock who fathered you, you proceeded to forget, and you began to leave God out of memory, the One bringing you forth with childbirth pains. (**Deuteronomy 32:18**)
- Refers to Yehowah as The Rock who fathered Israel, the One bringing you forth the same verb used of Sarah at;
- Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who gradually brought you forth with childbirth pains. For he was one when I called him, and I proceeded to bless him and to make him many. (**Isaiah 51:2**)
- With childbirth pains.
- Sometimes the product of the **quarry** was called by the same name. Hence the **Hebrew** word *pesi-lim'*, rendered, **quarries** at;
- And he himself turned back at the quarries that were at Gilgal, and he proceeded to say; I have a secret word for you, O king. So he said; Keep silence! With that all those who were standing by him went on out from him. (**Judges 3:19**)
- As for Ehud, he escaped while they were lingering, and he himself passed by the **quarries** and made his escape to Seirah. (**Judges 3:26**)
- Is elsewhere translated, graven images.

- On the other hand, this is what you should do to them. Their altars you should pull down, and their sacred pillars you should break down, and their sacred poles you should cut down, and their **graven images** you should burn with fire. (**Deuteronomy 7:5**)
- And they kept offending him with their high places, and with their **graven images** they kept inciting him to jealousy. (**Psalms 78:58**)
- Whenever my hand has reached the kingdoms of the valueless god whose **graven images** are more than those at Jerusalem and at Samaria. (**Isaiah 10:10**)
- For this reason some have suggested that it may have been at a grove of such pagan gods, the product of the **quarry**, that Ehud turned back to pay Eglon a personal visit. Most translators, however, prefer the rendering, **quarries**.
- Old **quarries** where partially finished work was abandoned have shed some light on the ancient methods of **quarrying**. Narrow channels were cut deep in the rock.
- Into these, dry wood was driven, where it was then made to swell with water until the rock split along its cleavage lines. In Roman times, stones weighing as much as five or ten tons were **quarried** some distance from the building sites. These were then moved on rollers or on sledges, the power being supplied by great armies of slave labor.