

~QUEEN (419)

[Hebrew, *mal-kah'*, Greek, *ba-si'lis-sa*]

- Israel
- Babylon
- Egypt
- In False Worship

• In the modern sense, a title given either to a wife of a king or to a female monarch. In the Bible the title most often refers to women outside the kingdoms of Israel and Judah.

• The Hebrew word most nearly expressing the idea of queen as it is understood today is *mal-kah'*. But it was rare in the Orient for a woman to possess ruling authority. The queen of Sheba may have been one with such power.

• Now the queen of Sheba was hearing the report about Solomon in connection with the name of Yehowah. So she came to test him with perplexing questions. (1 Kings 10:1)

• The queen of the south will be raised up in the judgment with this generation and will condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, but, look! something more than Solomon is here. (Matthew 12:42)

• In the Christian Greek Scriptures, queen is translated from the word *ba-si'lis-sa*, the feminine form of the word for king. The title is applied to Queen Candace of Ethiopia.

• With that he rose and went, and, look! An Ethiopian eunuch, a man in power under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, and who was over all her treasure. He had gone to Jerusalem to worship. (Acts of Apostles 8:27)

• In the Hebrew Scriptures *mal-kah'* is more often used with reference to a queen consort, or the leading wife of a king of a foreign power. Vashti, as the chief wife of King Ahasuerus of Persia, was a consort queen rather than a ruling one.

• She was replaced by the Jewess Esther, making Esther consort queen, and while Esther had royal dignity, she was not an associate ruler

- Also, Vashti the **queen** herself held a banquet for the women at the royal house that belonged to King Ahasuerus. (**Esther 1:9**)
- But **Queen** Vashti kept refusing to come at the king's word that was conveyed by means of the court officials. At this the king grew highly indignant and his very rage flared up within him. (**Esther 1:12**)
- If to the king it does seem good, let a royal word go out from his person, and let it be written among the laws of Persia and Media, that it may not pass away, that Vashti may not come in before King Ahasuerus, and her royal dignity let the king give to a companion of hers, a woman better than she is. (**Esther 1:19**)
- And the king came to love Esther more than all the other women, so that she gained more favor and loving-kindness before him than all the other virgins. And he proceeded to put the royal headress upon her head and make her **queen** instead of Vashti. (**Esther 2:17**)
- And the thing came to be known to Mordecai, and he immediately told Esther the **queen**. In turn Esther talked to the king in Mordecai's name. (**Esther 2:22**)
- All the king's servants and the people of the king's jurisdictional districts are aware that, as regards any man or woman that comes in to the king at the inner courtyard who is not called, his one Law is to have him put to death, only in case the king holds out to him the golden scepter, he will also certainly stay alive. As for me, I have not been called to come in to the king now for thirty days. (**Esther 4:11**)
- Any authority she might have had was by the king's grant.
- On that day King Ahasuerus gave to Esther the **queen** the house of Haman, the one showing hostility to the Jews, and Mordecai himself came in before the king, because Esther had told what he was to her. (**Esther 8:1**)
- Then the king removed his signet ring that he had taken away from Haman and gave it to Mordecai, and Esther went on to place Mordecai over the house of Haman. (**Esther 8:2**)

- Moreover, Esther spoke again before the king and fell down before his feet and wept and implored favor of him to turn away the badness of Haman the Agagite and his scheme that he had schemed against the Jews. (**Esther 8:3**)
- Then the king held the golden scepter out to Esther, at which Esther rose and stood before the king. (**Esther 8:4**)
- She now said; If to the king it does seem good, and if I have found favor before him and the thing is proper before the king and I am good in his eyes, let it be written to undo the written documents, the scheme of Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews that are in all the kings jurisdictional districts. (**Esther 8:5**)
- For how can I bear it when I must look upon the calamity that will find my people, and how can I bear it when I must look upon the destruction of my relatives? (**Esther 8:6**)
- So King Ahasuerus said to Esther the **queen** and to Mordecai the Jew; Look! The house of Haman I have given to Esther, and him they have hanged on the stake, for the reason that he thrust out his hand against the Jews. (**Esther 8:7**)
- And you yourselves write in behalf of the Jews according to what is good in your own eyes in the kings name and seal it with the kings signet ring, for a writing that is written in the kings name and sealed with the kings signet ring it is not possible to undo. (**Esther 8:8**)
- And he proceeded to write in the name of King Ahasuerus and do the sealing with the kings signet ring and send written documents by the hand of the couriers on horses, riding post horses used in the royal service, sons of speedy mares. (**Esther 8:10**)
- And Esther the **queen**, the daughter of Abihail, and Mordecai the Jew proceeded to write with all forcefulness to confirm this second letter concerning Purim. (**Esther 9:29**)
- Then he sent written documents to all the Jews in the one hundred and twenty-seven jurisdictional districts, the realm of Ahasuerus, in words of peace and truth. (**Esther 9:30**)

- To confirm these days of Purim at their appointed times, just as Mordecai the Jew and Esther the **queen** had imposed upon them, and just as they had imposed upon their own soul and upon their offspring, the matters of the fasts and their cry for aid. (**Esther 9:31**)
- And the very saying of Esther confirmed these matters of Purim, and it was written down in a book. (**Esther 9:32**)

• Israel

- The **Hebrew** word *gevi-rah'*, translated, **queen** in some versions, means, more correctly, **lady** or **mistress**. In the instances where the title is used, it seems to apply mainly to the mother or grandmother of the king, such women being given **royal respect**, for example, Jezebel the mother of King Jehoram of Israel.
- And Jehu himself encountered the brothers of Ahaziah the king of Judah. When he said to them, Who are you? Then they said; We are the brothers of Ahaziah, and we are on our way down to ask if all is well with the sons of the king and the sons of the lady. (**2 Kings 10:13**)
- When Solomon's mother approached him with a request, he bowed to her and had a **throne set for her at his right**.
- So Bath-sheba came in to King Solomon to speak to him for Adonijah. At once the king rose to meet her and bowed down to her. Then he sat down upon his throne and had a throne set for the mother of the king, that she might sit at his right. (**1 Kings 2:19**)
- The **lady** could be deposed by the king, as was Maacah the grandmother of King Asa of Judah, whom he removed from being **lady** because she had made a horrible idol to the sacred pole.
- As for even Maacah his grandmother, he went on to remove her from being **lady**, because she had made a horrible idol to the sacred pole, after which Asa cut down her horrible idol and burned it at the torrent valley of Kidron. (**1 Kings 15:13**)
- No woman could legally become head of state in the kingdoms of Israel and Judah.

- **When you eventually come into the land that Yehowah your God is giving you, and you have taken possession of it and have dwelt in it, and you have said; Let me set a king over myself like all the nations who are round about me. ([Deuteronomy 17:14](#))**
- **You should without fail set over yourself a king whom Yehowah your God will choose. From among your brothers you should set a king over yourself. You will not be allowed to put over yourself a foreigner who is not your brother. ([Deuteronomy 17:15](#))**
- **However, after the death of her son Ahaziah king of Judah, Athaliah, who was the daughter of wicked King Ahab of Israel and his wife Jezebel, destroyed all the kingdom heirs except Ahaziah's son Jehoash, whom Ahaziah's sister Jehosheba had hidden. Athaliah then reigned illegally for six years, until executed on orders from High Priest Jehoiada.**
- **Now as regards Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah, she saw that her son had died. So she rose up and destroyed all the offspring of the kingdom. ([2 Kings 11:1](#))**
- **However, Jehosheba the daughter of King Jehoram, the sister of Ahaziah, took Jehoash the son of Ahaziah and stole him from among the sons of the king that were to be put to death, even him and his nursing woman, into the inner room for the couches, and they kept him concealed from the face of Athaliah, and he was not put to death. ([2 Kings 11:2](#))**
- **And he continued with her at the house of Yehowah in hiding for six years, while Athaliah was reigning over the land. ([2 Kings 11:3](#))**
- **When Athaliah heard the sound of the people running, she at once came to the people at the house of Yehowah. ([2 Kings 11:13](#))**
- **Then she saw, and there the king was standing by the pillar according to the custom, and the chiefs and the trumpets by the king, and all the people of the land rejoicing and blowing the trumpets. Immediately Athaliah ripped her garments apart and began crying; Conspiracy! Conspiracy! ([2 Kings 11:14](#))**
- **But Jehoiada the priest commanded the chiefs of hundreds, the appointed ones of the military force, and said to them; Take her**

out from inside the rows, and, as for anyone coming after her, let there be an execution of death with the sword! For the priest had said; Do not let her be put to death in the house of Yehowah. (2 Kings 11:15)

- So they laid their hands upon her and she came by the way of the horse entry of the king's house, and she got put to death there. (2 Kings 11:16)

•• Babylon

- In Babylon the throne was confined to kings.
- As regards the **queen**, because of the words of the king and his grandees she entered right into the banqueting hall. The queen answered and said; O king, keep living even to times indefinite. Do not let your thoughts frighten you, nor let your complexion be changed. (Daniel 5:10)
- The **queen**, Aramaic, *mal-kah'*, was apparently, not the wife, but the mother of Belshazzar, as is indicated by her familiarity with events regarding Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar's grandfather. As the queen mother, she possessed a certain amount of royal dignity and was greatly respected by all, including Belshazzar.

•• Egypt

- Early Egyptian heads of state were men. **Queens** were actually consorts. Tahpenes the wife of Pharaoh is called, **lady** at.
- And Hadad continued to find favor in the eyes of Pharaoh, so much that he gave him a wife, the sister of his own wife, the sister of Tahpenes the **lady**. (1 Kings 11:19)
- Hatshepsut ruled as **queen** only because she refused to surrender her regency when the heir, Thutmose III, became of age. After her death, Thutmose III obliterated or destroyed all her monuments. Later, however, during the time of Ptolemaic, or Macedonian, reign over Egypt, there were ruling queens.

•• In False Worship

- The apostate Israelites of Jeremiah's day forsook Yehowah, their real King, and idolatrously made cakes, drink offerings, and sacrificial smoke to the **queen, Hebrew, mele'khet**, of the heavens.
- The sons are picking up sticks of wood, and the fathers are lighting the fire, and the wives are kneading flour dough in order to make sacrificial cakes to the **queen of the heavens**, and there is a pouring out of drink offerings to other gods for the purpose of offending me. (**Jeremiah 7:18**)
- But we shall positively do every word that has gone forth from our mouth, in order to make sacrificial smoke to the **queen of the heavens** and to pour out to her drink offerings, just as we ourselves and our forefathers, our kings and our princes did in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, when we used to be satisfied with bread and to be well off, and we did not see any calamity at all. (**Jeremiah 44:17**)
- And from the time that we ceased to make sacrificial smoke to the **queen of the heavens** and pour out drink offerings to her we have lacked everything, and by the sword and by the famine we have come to our finish. (**Jeremiah 44:18**)

See Also QUEEN OF THE HEAVENS

- Babylon the Great is shown, at;
- To the extent that she glorified herself and lived in shameless luxury, to that extent give her torment and mourning. For in her heart she keeps saying; I sit a **queen**, and I am no widow, and I shall never see mourning. (**Revelation 18:7**)
- To be saying boastfully, I sit a **queen Greek, ba-si'lis-sa**, sitting on peoples and crowds and nations and tongues.
- And he says to me; The waters that you saw, where the harlot is sitting, **mean peoples and crowds and nations and tongues**. (**Revelation 17:15**)
- She maintains her control through her immoral relations with earthly rulers, and by ruling in the same manner, and in imitation of them, even as did many **queens** of the past.
- And one of the seven angels that had the seven bowls came and

spoke with me, saying; Come, I will show you the judgment upon the great harlot who sits on many waters. (**Revelation 17:1**)

- With whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, whereas those who inhabit the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication. (**Revelation 17:2**)
- And he carried me away in the power of the spirit into a wilderness. And I caught sight of a woman sitting upon a scarlet-colored wild beast that was full of blasphemous names and that had seven heads and ten horns. (**Revelation 17:3**)
- And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and was adorned with gold and precious stone and pearls and had in her hand a golden cup that was full of disgusting things and the unclean things of her fornication. (**Revelation 17:4**)
- And upon her forehead was written a name, a mystery. Babylon the Great, the mother of the harlots and of the disgusting things of the earth. (**Revelation 17:5**)
- For because of the wine of the anger of her fornication all the nations have fallen victim, and the kings of the earth committed fornication with her, and the traveling merchants of the earth became rich due to the power of her shameless luxury. (**Revelation 18:3**)
- And the kings of the earth who committed fornication with her and lived in shameless luxury will weep and beat themselves in grief over her, when they look at the smoke from the burning of her. (**Revelation 18:9**)

See Also BABYLON THE GREAT

- **Queenly Consort** in Heaven. Since;
- But with reference to the Son; God is your throne forever and ever, and the scepter of your kingdom is the scepter of uprightness. (**Hebrews 1:8**)
- You loved righteousness, and you hated lawlessness. That is why God, your God, anointed you with the oil of exultation more than your partners. (**Hebrews 1:9**)

- **Applies**
- **God is your throne to time indefinite, even forever, the scepter of your kingship is a scepter of uprightness. (Psalms 45:6)**
- **You have loved righteousness and you hate wickedness. That is why God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of exultation more than your partners. (Psalms 45:7)**
- **To Christ Jesus, it seems likely that the king's daughter of,**
- **The king's daughter is all glorious within the house, her clothing is with settings of gold. (Psalms 45:13)**
- **Is prophetic of his bride class. This would make the **queenly** consort, **Hebrew, *she-ghal'*** mentioned in;**
- **The daughters of kings are among your precious women. The **queenly** consort has taken her stand at your right hand in gold of Ophir. (Psalms 45:9)**
- **The wife of the Great King, Yehowah is his son Jesus Christ.**
- **But I want you to know that the head of every man is the Christ, in turn the head of a woman is the man, in turn **the head of the Christ is God.** (1 Corinthians 11:3)**
- **It is upon this **queenly consort** Jesus Christ and his 144,000 associates redeemed from the earth that Yehowah confers authority to rule as kings.**
- **And I saw thrones, and there were those who sat down on them, and power of judging was given them. Yes, I saw the souls of those executed with the ax for the witness they bore to Jesus and for speaking about God, and those who had worshiped neither the wild beast nor its image and who had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand. And they came to life and ruled as kings with the Christ for a thousand years. (Revelation 20:4)**
- **Happy and holy is anyone having part in the first resurrection, over these the second death has no authority, but they will be priests of God and of the Christ, and will rule as kings with him**

for the thousand years. ([Revelation 20:6](#))

- **I kept on beholding in the visions of the night, and, see there! With the clouds of the heavens someone like a son of man happened to be coming, and to the Ancient of Days he gained access, and they brought him up close even before that One. ([Daniel 7:13](#))**
- **And to him there were given rulership and dignity and kingdom, that the peoples, national groups and languages should all serve even him. His rulership is an indefinitely lasting rulership that will not pass away, and his kingdom one that will not be brought to ruin. ([Daniel 7:14](#))**
- **And the kingdom and the rulership and the grandeur of the kingdoms under all the heavens were given to the people who are the holy ones of the Supreme One. Their kingdom is an indefinitely lasting kingdom, and all the rulerships will serve and obey even them. ([Daniel 7:27](#))**