

## ~TOWER (327)

[Hebrew, *migh-dal'*]

.. Jerusalem's Towers

.. Figurative Use

- A building, or a part of a structure, that is usually higher than its diameter and tall in relation to its surroundings. The history of tower building goes back to the time shortly after the Flood when men on the Plains of Shinar declared; Come on! Let us build ourselves a city and also a tower with its top in the heavens.
- And it came about that in their journeying eastward they eventually discovered a valley plain in the land of Shinar, and they took up dwelling there. ([Genesis 11:2](#))
- And they began to say, each one to the other; Come on! Let us make bricks and bake them with a burning process. So brick served as stone for them, but bitumen served as mortar for them. ([Genesis 11:3](#))
- They now said; Come on! Let us build ourselves a city and also a **tower** with its top in the heavens, and let us make a celebrated name for ourselves, for fear we may be scattered over all the surface of the earth. ([Genesis 11:4](#))
- That **tower** is thought to have been styled along the oblique pyramid lines of the religious ziggurats discovered in that part of the earth.

See Also BABEL

See Also ARCHAEOLOGY (Babylonia)

- Simple **towers** were built in vineyards as vantage points for watchmen in guarding the vines against thieves and animals.
- Let me sing, please, to my beloved one a song of my loved one concerning his vineyard. There was a vineyard that my beloved one came to have on a fruitful hillside. ([Isaiah 5:1](#))
- 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](#))
- 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](#))
  - 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](#))
  - For military defense, **towers** were built into the walls of cities, usually with more prominent ones at the corners and flanking the gates.
  - Moreover, Uzziah built **towers** in Jerusalem by the Corner Gate and by the Valley Gate and by the Buttress, and made them strong. ([2 Chronicles 26:9](#))
  - Furthermore, he took courage and built up all the broken-down wall and raised **towers** upon it, and on the outside another wall, and repaired the Mound of the City of David, and made missiles in abundance and shields. ([2 Chronicles 32:5](#))
  - And they will certainly bring the walls of Tyre to ruin and tear down her **towers**, and I will scrape her dust away from her and make her a shining, bare surface of a crag. ([Ezekiel 26:4](#))
  - And the strike of his attack engine he will direct against your walls, and your **towers** he will pull down, with his swords. ([Ezekiel 26:9](#))
  - A day of horn and of alarm signal, against the fortified cities and against the high **corner towers**. ([Zephaniah 1:16](#))
  - I cut off nations, their **corner towers** were desolated. I devastated their streets, so that there was no one passing through. Their cities were laid waste, so that there was no man, so that there was no inhabitant. ([Zephaniah 3:6](#))

- In some instances **towers** served as a chain of outposts along a frontier, or as places of refuge in isolated areas for shepherds and others.
- Further, he built **towers** in the wilderness, and hewed out many cisterns, for there was a great deal of livestock that became his, and also in the Shephelah and on the tableland. There were farmers and vinedressers in the mountains and in Carmel, for a lover of agriculture he proved to be. (2 Chronicles 26:10)
- And cities he built in the mountainous region of Judah, and in the woodlands he built fortified places and **towers**. (2 Chronicles 27:4)

See Also FORTIFICATIONS

See Also WATCHTOWER

- Often a **tower** inside the city served as a citadel. The **towers** of Shechem, Thebez, and Penuel were such structures.
- Hence he said also to the men of Penuel; When I return in peace, I shall pull down this **tower**. (Judges 8:9)
- And the **tower** of Penuel he pulled down, and he proceeded to kill the men of the city. (Judges 8:17)
- When all the landowners of the **tower** of Shechem heard of it, they immediately went to the vault of the house of El-berith. (Judges 9:46)
- Then it was reported to Abimelech that all the landowners of the **tower** of Shechem had collected together. (Judges 9:47)
- At that Abimelech went up Mount Zalmon, he and all the people that were with him. Abimelech now took an ax in his hand and cut down a branch of the trees and lifted it up and put it on his shoulder and said to the people that were with him; What you have seen me do, hurry up, do like me! (Judges 9:48)
- So all the people cut down also each one a branch for himself and went following Abimelech. Then they put them against the vault, and over them they set the vault on fire, so that all the men of the **tower** of Shechem died too, about a thousand men and women. (Judges 9:49)

- And Abimelech proceeded to go to Thebez and to camp against Thebez and capture it. (**Judges 9:50**)
- As a strong **tower** happened to be in the middle of the city, there was where all the men and women and all the landowners of the city went fleeing, after which they shut it behind them and climbed onto the roof of the tower. (**Judges 9:51**)
- And Abimelech made his way to the **tower** and began fighting against it, and he went on up close to the entrance of the tower to burn it with fire. (**Judges 9:52**)
- Then a certain woman pitched an upper millstone upon Abimelech's head and broke his skull in pieces. (**Judges 9:53**)
- So he quickly called the attendant bearing his weapons and said to him; Draw your sword and put me to death, for fear they should say about me; It was a woman that killed him. Immediately his attendant ran him through, so that he died. (**Judges 9:54**)
- Ruins of other city **towers** have also been found in Jericho, Beth-shan, Lachish, Megiddo, Mizpah, and Samaria.
- The **Hebrew** term *migh-dal'*, meaning, **tower**.
- Therefore here I am against you and against your Nile canals, and I will make the land of Egypt devastated places, dryness, a desolated waste, from Migdol to Syene and to the boundary of Ethiopia. (**Ezekiel 29:10**)
- This is what Yehowah has said; The supporters of Egypt must also fall, and the pride of its strength must come down. From Migdol to Syene they will fall in it even by the sword, is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah. (**Ezekiel 30:6**)
- Forms part of the name of certain places, such as **Migdal-gad**, meaning, **Tower of Good Fortune**, and **Migdal-el**, meaning, **Tower of God**.
- Zenan and Hadashah and **Migdal-gad**. (**Joshua 15:37**)
- And Yiron and **Migdal-el**, Horem and Beth-anath and Beth-

shemesh, nineteen cities and their settlements. (Joshua 19:38)

- Siege **towers** on occasion were built by the attacking armies when assaulting fortified cities. These served as elevated firing positions for archers or throwers. Also, some assault towers contained battering rams and provided protection for those operating the rams.
- Look! The land of the Chaldeans. This is the people, Assyria did not prove to be the one, they founded her for the desert haunters. They have erected their siege **towers**, they have stripped bare her dwelling **towers**, one has set her as a crumbling ruin. (Isaiah 23:13)

## •• Jerusalem's Towers

- The **Tower of the Bake Ovens** was located on the Northwest side of the city near or at the Corner Gate.
- 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)
- Why it was so named is not certain, but quite possibly commercial bakers were present in that vicinity. It may have been one of the **towers** built by Uzziah, who reigned in Jerusalem from 829 to 778 B.C.E.
- Moreover, Uzziah built **towers** in Jerusalem by the Corner Gate and by the Valley Gate and by the Buttress, and made them strong. (2 Chronicles 26:9)
- Along the North wall of the city were two other important **towers**. The **Tower of Hananel** was restored and sanctified in Nehemiah's day.
- And Eliashib the High Priest and his brothers, the priests, proceeded to get up and build the Sheep Gate. They themselves sanctified it and went setting up its doors, and as far as the **Tower** of Meah they sanctified it, as far as the **Tower of Hananel**. (Nehemiah 3:1)

- And up over the Gate of Ephraim and on to the Gate of the Old City and clear to the Fish Gate and the **Tower of Hananel** and the Tower of Meah and on to the Sheep Gate, and they came to a stand at the Gate of the Guard. (**Nehemiah 12:39**)
- Look! There are days coming, is the utterance of Yehowah, and the city will certainly be built to Yehowah from the **Tower of Hananel** to the Corner Gate. (**Jeremiah 31:38**)
- The whole land will be changed like the Arabah, from Geba to Rimmon to the south of Jerusalem, and she must rise and become inhabited in her place, from the Gate of Benjamin all the way to the place of the First Gate, all the way to the Corner Gate, and from the **Tower of Hananel** all the way to the press vats of the king. (**Zechariah 14:10**)
- Close by it and to the East near the Sheep Gate was the **Tower of Meah**. Why it was called **Meah**, meaning, **Hundred**, is not known.
- And Eliashib the High Priest and his brothers, the priests, proceeded to get up and build the Sheep Gate. They themselves sanctified it and went setting up its doors, and as far as the **Tower of Meah** they sanctified it, as far as the **Tower of Hananel**. (**Nehemiah 3:1**)
- And up over the Gate of Ephraim and on to the Gate of the Old City and clear to the Fish Gate and the **Tower of Hananel** and the **Tower of Meah** and on to the Sheep Gate, and they came to a stand at the Gate of the Guard. (**Nehemiah 12:39**)
- Along the East wall South of the temple area was what is referred to as, **the protruding tower**, and still farther South, somewhere in the vicinity of David's palace, was a tower associated with the King's house near the Courtyard of the Guard.
- After him Palal the son of Uzai did repair work in front of the Buttress and the **tower** that goes out from the King's house, the upper one that belongs to the Courtyard of the Guard. After him there was Pedaiah the son of Parosh. (**Nehemiah 3:25**)
- And the Nethinim themselves happened to be dwellers in Ophel, they did repair work as far as in front of the Water Gate on the east and **the protruding tower**. (**Nehemiah 3:26**)

- After them the Tekoites repaired another measured section, from in front of the **great protruding tower** as far as the wall of Ophel. (**Nehemiah 3:27**)
- Some think that this latter **tower** was the one referred to in The Song of Solomon as, the **tower of David**, built in courses of stone, upon which are hung a thousand shields, all the circular shields of the mighty men.
- Your neck is like the **tower** of David, built in courses of stone, upon which are hung a thousand shields, all the circular shields of the mighty men. (**Song of Solomon 4:4**)
- This **tower** should not be confused with the more modern so-called Tower of David, which incorporates the tower of Phasaël, partly destroyed by Titus in **70 C.E.**
- This Phasaël tower was one of the three built by Herod the Great for the protection of his new palace erected near the site of the ancient Corner Gate on the West side of the city.
- The **Tower in Siloam** was probably in the vicinity of the pool by that name in the Southeast sector of Jerusalem. Jesus mentioned that this tower collapsed, killing 18 men, an event that must have been fresh in the memory of his audience.
- Or those eighteen upon whom the **tower in Siloam** fell, thereby killing them, do you imagine that they were proved greater debtors than all other men inhabiting Jerusalem? (**Luke 13:4**)

**See Also ANTONIA - TOWER OF**

## .. **Figurative Use**

- Those who look in faith and obedience to Yehowah have great security, as David sang;
- For you have proved to be a refuge for me, a **strong tower** in the face of the enemy. (**Psalms 61:3**)
- Those who recognize what his name stands for, and who trust in and faithfully represent that name, have nothing to fear, for; The

**name of Yehowah is a strong tower. Into it the righteous runs and is given protection.**

- **The name of Yehowah is a strong tower. Into it the righteous runs and is given protection. (Proverbs 18:10)**
- **The valuable things of the rich are his strong town, and they are like a protective wall in his imagination. (Proverbs 18:11)**
- **Before a crash the heart of a man is lofty, and before glory there is humility. (Proverbs 18:12)**