

~WINNOWING (98)

.. Figurative Use

- The final step in separating cereal grains such as barley and wheat from their chaff and straw. After threshing has broken the grain kernels loose from the chaff, and the straw has been cut into small pieces, the whole mixture is winnowed by tossing it into the air against the wind with a winnowing shovel or fork.
- And the cattle and the full-grown asses cultivating the ground will eat fodder seasoned with sorrel, which was winnowed with the shovel and with the fork. ([Isaiah 30:24](#))
- The breeze, especially strong in the evening, blows the chaff away, carries the straw off to the side, and lets the heavy kernels fall back onto the threshing floor.
- And now, is not Boaz, with whose young women you have continued, our kinsman? Look! He is **winnowing** barley at the threshing floor tonight. ([Ruth 3:2](#))
- After the grain is passed through a sieve to remove pebbles and the like, it is ready for grinding or storage.
- For, look! I am commanding, and I will jiggle the house of Israel among all the nations, just as one jiggles the sieve, so that not a pebble falls to the earth. ([Amos 9:9](#))
- Simon, Simon, look! Satan has demanded to have you men to sift you as wheat. ([Luke 22:31](#))

.. Figurative Use

- Often **winnowing** is used in a figurative sense. For example, Yehowah purposed to send **winnowers** against Babylon and her inhabitants so that these might **winnow** her.
- This is what Yehowah has said; Here I am rousing up against Babylon and against the inhabitants of Leb-kamai a ruinous wind. ([Jeremiah 51:1](#))
- And I will send to Babylon winnowers who will certainly winnow

her and who will make her land empty, for they will actually prove to be against her on all sides in the day of calamity. (Jeremiah 51:2)

- The **winnowers** proved to be the Medes and the Persians under Cyrus. In effect, they tossed Babylon and her inhabitants into the air, that the wind might catch them and blow them away like chaff to be burned.
- His **winnowing** shovel is in his hand, and he will completely clean up his threshing floor, and will gather his wheat into the storehouse, but the chaff he will burn up with fire that cannot be put out. (Matthew 3:12)
- His **winnowing** shovel is in his hand to clean up his threshing floor completely and to gather the wheat into his storehouse, but the chaff he will burn up with fire that cannot be put out. (Luke 3:17)
- Similarly, as foretold, Yehowah had earlier used Babylon to winnow his people, scattering them in defeat.
- And I shall **winnow** them with a fork in the gates of the land. I shall certainly bereave them of children. I will destroy my people, since they have not turned back from their own ways. (Jeremiah 15:7)
- And, through the prophet Isaiah, Yehowah gave the assurance to his people that the time would come when they would reduce their enemies to chaff and **winnow** them.
- Do not be afraid, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel. I myself will help you, is the utterance of Yehowah, even your Repurchaser, the Holy One of Israel. (Isaiah 41:14)
- Look! I have made you a threshing sledge, a new threshing instrument having double-edged teeth. You will tread down the mountains and crush them, and the hills you will make just like the chaff. (Isaiah 41:15)
- You will winnow them, and a wind itself will carry them away, and a windstorm itself will drive them different ways. And you yourself will be joyful in Yehowah. In the Holy One of Israel you will boast about yourself. (Isaiah 41:16)

- At that time it will be said to this people and to Jerusalem! There is a searing wind of the beaten paths through the wilderness on the way to the daughter of my people, it is not for **winnowing**, nor for cleansing. (**Jeremiah 4:11**)
- A **searing wind** to come against Jerusalem is said to be not for **winnowing**, nor for cleansing. A tempestuous, searing wind would not be suitable for **winnowing**, so this points to its destructive nature.