

Lesson 7.01
Painting & Sculpture

Did Jewish people in the Bible have art?

We recently studied about various professions that required skill like art – making things beautiful.

The word “art” can mean

- painting
- carving
- making statues
- writing
- poetry
- drama
- etc.

We know that in ancient times, painting was important in Egypt. We still have many Egyptian pictures that tell stories. But those pictures look flat. They don’t look like real life.

Roman paintings looked good, equal to painters in Europe 1000 years later.

But Israel had no painting pictures.

What did King David look like?

What did Jesus look like?

We don’t know.

Egyptian kings and Roman emperors...

We can see their pictures.

We can see their statues.

But there are no statues that show the real Moses,
no pictures that show Jesus. and His 12 Disciples.

In ancient times, many people made statues for worshipping idols of false gods.
In the First Commandment God forbids carving idols for false worship.

Carving pictures for art is fine. God commanded that Israel’s worship tent (Tabernacle) have several carved pictures and statues. But worshipping those statues was forbidden.

Many times Jewish people ignored God’s command, like when they worshipped a gold calf.
Also many people wandered from God, and they worshipped a false god named Baal.



Egyptian Painting



Roman Emperor
Julius Caesar

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God sent His prophets, trying to get their attention and turn back to Him.
But people ignored God, and they followed false gods.

Finally, God put the people into slavery in Babylon.
They suffered for 70 years in slavery.
All around were many idols. Sick!

Finally they understood.
When 70 years were finished, they were free, and they moved back to the land of Israel.
They never worshiped idols again.
They became very strict about that.

Many years later, when the Roman soldiers came and took control,
the Romans brought their fancy shields that had Roman Emperor's face carved on them.

But Jewish priests said, "No, no! You can't bring those shields here. Images are forbidden!"
They were strict!

STUDY QUESTION

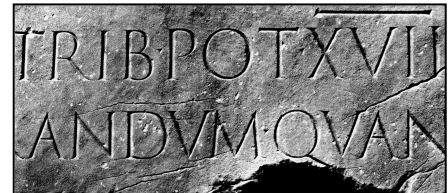
Read Numbers 21:4-9 and 2 Kings 18:3-5

What happened to the bronze snake that Moses had made?

Lesson 7.02

Writing

When a king gave a formal announcement, his statement was engraved (carved) in stone, like we see on many old buildings and also the Ten Commandments.



But chiseling stone is no good for everyday writing.
So what did they do? How did they write?

Long ago during Abraham's time, people in the Middle East wrote on clay tablets.



While the clay was still wet, they had a stick they pressed into the clay.

This kind of writing is called **cuneiform**.

When the writing was finished, they let the clay dry in the sun. Then they put the clay tablet in fire to make the clay hard and the writing permanent.

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Sometimes they made clay covers like an envelope.



But during Israel's time, they wrote their history, their stories, their letters, their songs, and their contracts not on clay and not on stone. They wrote on animal skins – sheep or goats.

They scraped the skin very clean and very thin almost like paper. That animal skin for writing is called **parchment**.

The Hebrew language is written right to left.
They wrote in columns.
When the ink was dry, they rolled up the parchment.
That made a **scroll**.

And when they needed to add more columns, they sewed on another animal skin. That made the scroll longer.

Animal skins are really wonderful for writing, because they stay good thousands of years.

Our oldest Bible scrolls that we have found, are written on animal skins. Those Old Testament Bible scrolls are called **the Dead Sea Scrolls**.

Today we use paper for writing. Back during Bible times, Egyptians made paper from tall grass that grew in water. That grass was called **papyrus**.

They lay the grass stalk side by side.
Then they lay a second layer of grass, perpendicular to the first, like a thin mat.
When that was finished, they pressed the grass mat and let it dry.
Then they trimmed the edges straight
Papyrus became like paper for writing a letter.

Animal skin parchment remains good a long time.
But papyrus can quickly fall apart.

STUDY QUESTION

Read 2 Timothy 4:13

Paul asked Timothy to bring what?

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Lesson 7.03
Scrolls and Books

When you read the Bible, New Testament, often you read the word “book.”
The Greek word is *biblios*, and that word means “book.”

We see that word “book,” and we visualize a normal book with pages.
Wrong. They did not have books in Bible times. They had scrolls.
Books were not invented yet.

So when you read the word “book” in the Bible, visualize a scroll, not a book.

When did scrolls change to books?

Our previous lesson explained about animal skin scrolls.
Hebrews wrote from right to left, and they arranged their columns from right to left.
Greeks and Romans wrote from left to right, and they arranged their columns.
When they needed more columns, they sewed on more animal skin parchment.

If you wanted to bring your Bible to a meeting, you carried an armload of scrolls. If you wanted to find a specific chapter or verse, you must roll the scroll, until you find the verse. Then when you wanted to find another verse, you must roll the scroll again. That wastes a lot of time.

Jewish people solved that problem by memorizing a lot of God’s Word.
So they did not always need to look up verses.

But that did not help Christians in Greece, Italy, and other countries.

So the Romans invented a good trick.

If we open a scroll – unroll it – use a sharp knife to cut the scroll between each column of text.
Then stack the pieces of parchment.
Sew or glue left side of the stack and cover it.

When you finish, you have a book.
It is easy to flip pages to find verses.
And you can carry a book more easily than scrolls.

Also, on scrolls you can write only on one side of the parchment.
But you can write on both sides of book pages.



The formal name for “book” is **codex**.

But always remember, when you see the word “book” the Bible, visualize a scroll

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Scribes

Long ago, people did not have printing presses.
They did not have copy machines. No Xerox machines.
They did not have computers, email, or printers.

All writing was done by hand.

A scroll that has writing is called a **manuscript**.
That word means “hand written.”

And a person that does writing for his work, his job, that person is called, a **scribe**.
That word means “writer.”

A scribe managed legal papers, like a notary.

Professional scribes worked for kings and government officials, writing laws and history.

Scribes in Israel were responsible for copying God’s Word, and they taught God’s people.

Also, when Paul wrote his letters in the New Testament, Paul did not write those letters himself.
He spoke while a friend wrote for him. Then at the end, Paul wrote his short personal greeting,
like a signature.

Scribes wrote using pen and ink.
The pen was a thin wood stick, or a grass stalk.
Ink was kept in a cow’s horn that had a cap.

Take off cap, dip the pen in the ink, and then write.

STUDY QUESTIONS

Read Jeremiah 36:4. Who was Jeremiah’s scribe? _____

Read Romans 16:22. Who was Paul's scribe? _____

Read 1 Peter 5:12. Who was Peter's scribe? _____

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Lesson 7.04

Literature

The Bible, from beginning to end, has many different writers.

The writers lived in
different times
different places
different cultures.

But they all had the same message.

They all give the same information about God's relationship with us.

The Bible has two parts: Old Testament (OT) and New Testament (NT).

The Old Testament has

1. History
2. Poetry
3. Prophecy

1. OT History

Old Testament history explains about God's dealings with His people.

2. OT Poetry

Old Testament poetry has prayers, confession to God. praise, and worship.
Bible poetry also has teaching.

3. OT Prophecy

Old Testament prophets were preachers, giving information from God, to the people, sometimes warning people to turn back to God, and telling them about God's love, mercy and forgiveness.

Sometimes prophets told about future events.

Sometimes prophets announce God's promise for the Savior that will come.

The Old Testament was written in the Hebrew language.

The New Testament was written in the Greek language.

People all over the Roman Empire could speak the Greek language to each other.

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The New Testament has

1. History
2. Letters
3. Prophecy

1. NT History

The New Testament tells the history of Jesus' life, crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension. The NT tells the story about the Holy Spirit touching the Apostles and God's Word spreading to other countries.

2. NT Letters (Epistles)

The Bible has many letters.

Paul, with his scribes, wrote most of those New Testament letters.

Paul travel many places and he established many churches.

Later Paul wrote letters back to those people,

giving them more teaching,

encouraging them,

sometimes scolding them for their mistakes.

The problems those churches had are the same problems that we have today.

Paul's letters answer those problems. His letters still help us today.

Paul also wrote letters to individual friends.

We have several of those letters in the Bible.

A few other apostles wrote the rest of the New Testament letters.

3. NT Prophecy

The New Testament book of prophecy is the book of Revelation – the last book of the Bible.

Between the Old Testament and New Testament there is a time gap of about 400 years.

During that time Jewish people wrote their history and poetry.

Those scrolls are called the **Apocrypha**.

That is not included in the Bible. The Apocrypha is separate. It is not God's Word.

But the Apocrypha tells us about Jewish history.

STUDY QUESTION

Read 2 Timothy 3:15-17

The Bible was written for what reason?

Lesson 7.05

Music

The Bible, from the beginning to the end, has a lot of verses about music.

Psalms is the song book in the Bible.

The word “psalm” means song.

We don’t really know what the music sounded like.

Long ago, there were no recordings, so we can’t hear their music.

And they did not have papers with music notes, so we cannot read their music.

But several psalm verses explain how they played music for those psalms.

Many songs they played on stringed instruments, like a guitar.

Another instrument was like a flat box that had ten strings the length of the box that they played with their fingers.

Another stringed instrument was a **harp**, shaped like a triangle.

Another kind of instrument, called **cymbals**, were two metal disks that they hit together, making a loud crashing sound, like cymbals of today.

Another instrument was the **tambourine**. It was a wooded ring with small metal disks that made a noise when they shook it or hit it. They used this for worship in the temple.

Another kind of musical instruments were **pipes** and **flutes**.

Shepherds made music with flutes out in the country.

And people played pipes and flutes for weddings and for funerals.

Also in the Bible we see many verses about **trumpets**.

The first trumpets were animal horns, like a mountain sheep ram. It is called a **shofar**.

Jewish people today still use that *shofar* horn for worship

But *shofar* was used for announcing attention, not for music.

We see metal trumpets in the Old Testament that can be very loud, and they are good for music.

From Old Testament times, up to today, Jewish people love dancing with their music.

They only had group dancing, not romantic couple dancing.

People in other countries, like Romans, had solo women doing sexy dancing.

But Jewish tradition forbids that.

STUDY QUESTION

Read Exodus 15:19-21

After the Israelites left Egypt through the Red Sea, the women celebrated how?

Lesson 7.06

Sciences

Medicine

In the beginning... the world was perfect -- nothing wrong, no sickness.

But Adam and Eve sinned.

And since that time, sin has spread and touched everything in the world.

All living things suffer sickness and death.

When sickness hits, people look for medicine and therapies to make them healthy.

People who study, learn, and try to help sick people are called “doctors.”

And we pay them to help us.

In the Old Testament, the Bible has many rules for keeping good health—

How to eat healthy foods.

How to stay clean that protects against diseases germs.

(That was long before they knew anything about germs!)

We find doctors in the Bible, in both the Old Testament and the New Testament.

How did those doctors do their work?

What medicines did they use?

What therapies did they invent?

We don't know.

But the Bible does say that those doctors really did not help much.

Of course, everyone had their home-made medicines.

The Bible says that if people had a cut and they were bleeding,

they washed with clean water,

they poured on alcohol wine and olive oil,

and they wrap the wound.

People made various medicines, called **slaves** that they rubbed on skin problems.

Near the Dead Sea there were warm water springs.

People enjoyed sitting in that natural warm water, that made them feel better.

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One disease that we notice in many stories throughout the Bible is called **leprosy**. This is a serious skin disease that can spread.

A person who has leprosy is called a **leper**. Lepers must stay separated from other people

Jesus helped people that had different sicknesses and various health problems.

- lepers
- blind
- deaf
- paralyzed
- epileptic
- etc.

The Bible says nothing about surgery.

STUDY QUESTION

Read Luke 10:29-37

What kind of medical help did the Samaritan give to the man that was hurt?

Lesson 7.07

Mathematics, Physics, Engineering

Back in Bible times people understood math, physics, and engineering.

We see proof in their

- buildings
- Egyptian pyramids
- Roman stadiums
- Jewish temple (that the Romans destroyed)

Those stones are really big!

How did they move them?

How did they put them up to build a wall?

It is amazing.

People who built those did not have power machines, no big cranes.

They did all that using human and animal work.

Today we are still trying to figure out how they did that.

Astronomy

People in Bible times may have understood little about astronomy.

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Obviously, they could see the sun, moon, stars and all that God made. And they invented names for various stars and names for the various star patterns (constellations).

Back in Bible times, religions in other countries studied the stars because they worshipped the stars as false gods, the same as they worshipped the sun and the moon.

God warned Israelites: Never worship the stars!
Don't get involved with **astrology**.

Time & the Calendar – Days and Hours

How we count days, months, and years, and the way Jewish people in the Bible figure days, months, and years are different.

Your day begins when? ...what time?

Sunrise?

Our clocks say that one day ends, and a new day begins at midnight.

But in Israel, the day ends at sunset, and that is when a new day begins, at sunset.

Still today in Jewish homes, the Sabbath begins on Friday night and ends on Saturday, when the sun sets.

We divide each day into 24 hours.

Jews in Bible times did the same.

But when the Bible says, “the third hour,” that is not what we call 3:00.

No. Count , three hours after sunrise, that means “the third hour.”

The third hour is about 9:00 in the morning.

Also in the Bible we notice that people divided the night into three-hour or four-hour segments.

That follows a military way for standing watch during the night.

Soldiers take turns. After three or four hours, they trade.

The soldier standing watch steps down, and another soldier steps up to stand watch.

So that 3-hour or 4-hour span is called a **watch**.

In the Old Testament, Jews had 4-hour watch spans.

In the New Testament, they followed the Roman system of 3-hour watch spans.

The first watch is from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The second watch is from 9:00 p.m. to midnight.

The third watch is from midnight to 3:00 a.m.

etc.

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The Bible says that Jesus' first trial in the Jewish court was during the third watch, between midnight and 3:00 a.m. That was illegal, because Jewish law did not permit night trials.

Remember the story about Jesus walking on water, during a bad storm.
The Bible says that happened during the fourth watch, between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m.

How did people know what time it was?
During the day, they had sundial clocks.
Later, wealthy people had water clocks.

STUDY QUESTION

Read Mark 15:25-37

What time was Jesus crucified?
What time did He die?

Lesson 7.08

Weeks

Long ago in early Bible times, the way people counted one week, still today, has not changed.
One week is seven days.

Jewish law requires that work is permitted for six days.
On the 7th day, all work must stop for rest for one day.
The 7th day is called the **Sabbath**.
We call the 7th day, Saturday.

That 7th day for rest honors God, our maker.
For the duration of 6 days, God made the world.
On the 7th day, He rested.

That established the 7-day week ever since.

God's law to Israel requires that they rest on the 7th day.
Most work is forbidden, and that day is for worshipping God.

The Jewish seventh day begins on Friday at sundown about 6:00 p.m.
and it ends on Saturday at sundown.

Months

Long ago, the way Jews count months and today, the way we count months today are different.

The Jewish calendar months follow the **moon**.

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You know that every night the moon slowly changes, like this:



That cycle repeats 29 ½ ...always.
One month equals 29 or 30 days.

When the moon is completely dark, that is called, the **new moon**.
That is the beginning of the new month.

Our English word “month” is from that word “moon.”

The Hebrew names for months in the Old Testament are:

Month	Hebrew Name	Approximate Time
1	NISAN	APRIL
2	IYAR	MAY
3	SIVAN	JUNE
4	TAMMUZ	JULY
5	AB or AV	AUGUST
6	ELUL	SEPTEMBER
7	TISHRI	OCTOBER
8	MARCHESHVAN	NOVEMBER
9	CHISLEU	DECEMBER
10	TEBETH	JANUARY
11	SHEBAT	FEBRUARY
12	ADAR	MARCH

Sometimes the Bible names months:

- 1st month
- 2nd month
- 3rd month
- etc.

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A calendar that uses the moon to mark the months is called **lunar**.

Years

How many months are in one year? 12. Right.

But if your months follow the moon 12 months total 355 days.

The Roman calendar which we follow marks the year and months with by the sun not the moon. One year that follows the earth's orbit around the sun has around 365 days.

Notice that a year that follow lunar months is short by 10 days.

So what do Jews do about that?

The Jewish calendar adds one month every 4 or 5 years for keeping the lunar year matching the solar (sun) year.

The last month of the lunar year is **Adar**.

When they add a 13th month, they call that **2nd Adar**.

When does the Jewish New Year begin?

The religious calendar year begins in the spring time around our month of April.

The Jewish name for that month is **Nisan**.

That is when Jews celebrate Passover, remembering Israel's slavery and freedom from Egypt.

But for farmers and businesses, their new year begins in the fall, the same way American school year begins in the fall. the last part of August or the first week in September.

The fall Jewish celebration called, **the Feast of Trumpets**, is also called the "Jewish New Year" -- Rosh Hashanah.

Seasons

Our concept of seasons is connected to the weather and temperature.

We have 4 seasons – summer, fall, winter, spring.

In the Middle East, they count two seasons:

summer – the dry season.

winter -- the rainy season.

During the summer, the dry season, how farm plants get natural water only from the morning dew.

Farms in Israel have two seasons for harvesting food.

In the spring and early summer, they harvest grain – wheat, barley, etc.

In fall, they harvest fruit -- grapes.
Also, in the fall, they sow grain seeds.

STUDY QUESTION

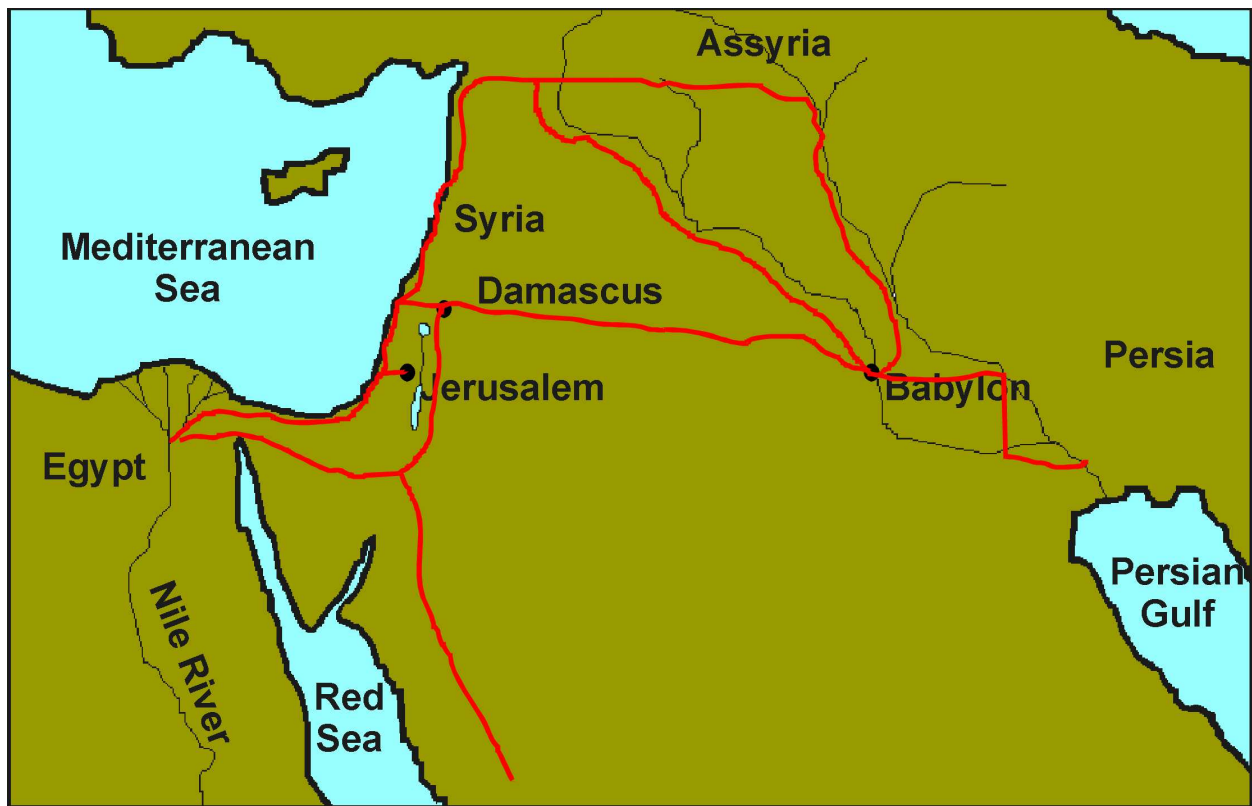
Read Exodus 20:11 and Exodus 31:16-17

Why was the 7th day of the week (Saturday) the day for Jewish worship?

Lesson 7.09

Transportation and Travel

Long ago in the Middle East, the main roads for travel followed rivers, connecting important cities, in various countries.



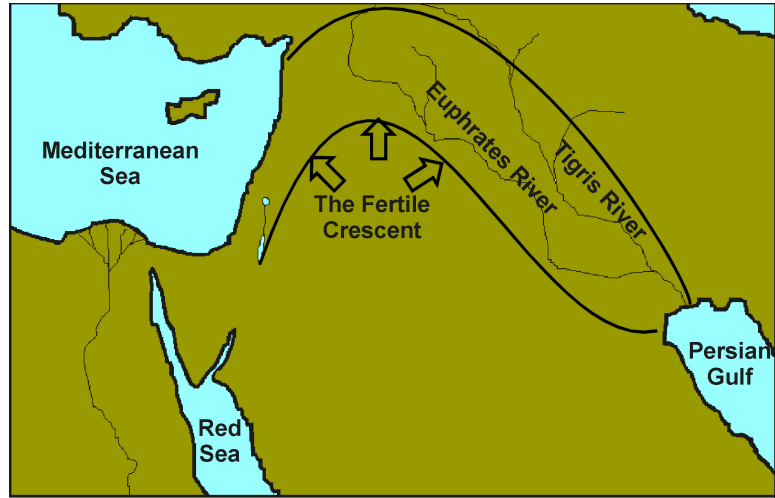
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People in Bible lands, often traveled **Persia** in the east and **Egypt** in the west.
They traveled through **Syria** in the north and **Ethiopia**, south in Africa

Jewish fathers.—

- Abraham.
- Isaac.
- Jacob.
- Joseph.
- etc.

The east-west road did not go straight. It followed two main rivers in a northern curve. This area is called **the fertile crescent**.



People traveled
for business.
for visiting family.
for moving where they live.

Also, armies traveled those roads for engaging in war.

Roads favored flat lands and valleys.
Roads did not go over mountains; the roads went around the mountains

Long ago, most roads were winding, rough, and dirty.
If it rained, the roads became muddy.
They were not like our highways – hard, smooth,
and straight.

Many roads were dangerous. It was not safe to
travel alone.

Most people traveled by walking.
They carried water, dry food, and extra clothes.
Or they had a donkey that helped carry their things.

Normally, people could walk about 15 miles in one
day. At noon, when it was hot, they stopped to rest.

Over night they stopped in a safe place where they
could get water, food, and quiet, rest.

During New Testament times, Jewish people that
lived in **Galilee** in the north, when they traveled
south to Jerusalem, for religious celebrations, they



did not like going straight through the middle country named **Samaria**.

People traveled east across the **Jordan River**, then south, then west across the river again. Then they had a long climb up hill to Jerusalem.

Jesus was different. He loved those people in Samaria. So He regularly traveled straight through Samaria. Jesus told God's Word to those people, too.

STUDY QUESTION

Read Genesis 11:31 – 12:5

Look at an Old Testament map in your Bible.

Find the names of the places where Abram lived and traveled.

Lesson 7.10

Transportation and Travel - continued

Caravans

In our previous lesson we saw that sometimes traveling alone was not safe.

So people prefer to travel in groups.

A large group of people travelling together is called a **caravan**.

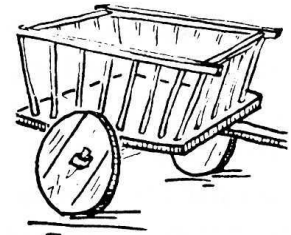
Sometimes the group shared animals for carrying their things, loaded on a donkey or a camel, or a wagon. An ox pulled the wagon.

Most simple wagons had two wheels. This is called an **ox cart**.

Larger, fancier wagons had four wheels and a platform.

For thousands of years people in the Middle East used ox carts.

But now people have cars and trucks.



Inn

When travelers need to stop overnight, they could set up tents.

If they stopped near a city, they stayed overnight in a **khan**, an inn, like a hotel.

An *khan* was not a fancy place.

It was a rectangular building that had small rooms around an open courtyard.

That was where they put their bags. parked their animals.

If the rooms were full. people slept in the open area.

A high wall was around the building, for protection.

If the building had two levels, travelers slept in the downstairs rooms while the owner lived upstairs in larger rooms.

Boats and Rafts

Thus far we have learned about travel on land.
Sometimes people traveled on water.

In Egypt, the Nile River had a variety of boats.

- large barges
- ferries for carrying many people across the river
- fancy pleasure boats for rich people
- small fishing boats for fishing
- rafts -- sometimes they used animal skins inflated as floats and wood boards on the floats.

In Israel, the Sea of Galilee (a large lake) had many fishing boats, like Jesus' disciples had.
If the wind was good, they used sails.
If the wind was not right, they rowed.

Recently, when the water in the Sea of Galilee went down, they found several old boats from around New Testament times.

The Jordan River had rafts for carrying people across.

STUDY QUESTION

Read Mark 6:45-52

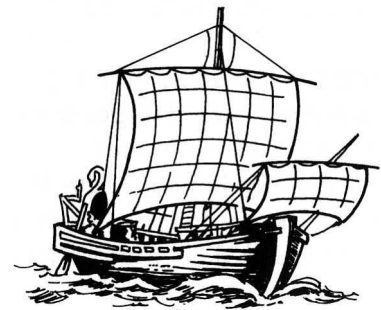
The Disciples had a problem in their boat. What happened?

Lesson 7.11

Ocean Ships

Large ships sailed on the **Mediterranean Sea**.
They had large ships with sails for carrying cargo
and military warships.

- Ocean ships had
- a large hull
 - a tall mast
 - a large square sail
 - a smaller square topsail
 - a bowsprit that had a small square sail.



The wind blew and pushed the ship.

The rear of the ship had two oar rudders.

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The cloth for the sail was **linen** made from flax.
Later, they made strong sails using goat hair cloth.

Ships that carried cargo had a rounded hull with high sides, front, and back.

Recently, one old ship was found.
It was 180 feet long, 45 feet wide, and could carry grain weighing 1,200 tons.

The best time for sailing on the Mediterranean Sea is between March and September.
Winter is very dangerous.
There was no travel on the ocean from the middle of November until spring time.

Israel did not have good places for ocean ships, no good harbors.
But the country of Philistia in the south had a few good places for ships.
In the north, the Phoenicia had many good harbors for ships.
Phoenicians travelled a lot on the ocean.
Their ships carried cargo and trade to many other countries:

- Egypt
- Greece
- Italy
- Spain.

STUDY QUESTION

Read Acts 27

- How many people were in that ship?
- How many of those people died in the shipwreck?

Lesson 7.12
Business Methods

Middle Eastern countries had many roads that people traveled for their business – delivering, trading, earning money, etc.

Notice that several of those roads went through Israel. That business helped Israel.

- Camels came carrying
- spices
 - fancy cloth
 - clothes
 - ivory
 - incense
 - gemstones



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that people in Israel bought.

In exchange, Jewish farmers and business people sold

grapes
grain
olives
dates
wool
linen
asphalt

Traders bought those and sold those things from Israel to other countries all over the world.

When people bought and sold things, they always negotiate the price.

Buyer: “How much?”

Seller: “For you, I offer it for nothing.”

“How much?”

“We are friends. I can’t charge you the regular price.”

“How much?”

(The seller finally names a price.)

“Oh, that’s too high!”

“No. look. It’s the best you can buy.
For you I lowered the price.”

“Forget it! That’s too high!
I will pay half that price.”

They haggle, back and forth, until they get a price they both accept.

We find a few examples in the Bible (See Genesis 23, Ruth 4, Proverbs 20:14).
In Middle Eastern countries business still goes like that in the community markets and international trade.

Today, we like to have prices set and stay – we look, compare, decide, and pay.
That is our recent American invention.

Also, our feelings about business appointments are really different.

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When you have an appointment,
you know the day;
you know the time.
And that is when you arrive.
And you expect other people to do the same.

But long ago in the Middle East, and still today in many countries, time is flexible.
You can arrive any time -- that's fine.

We look at that and think, "That shows no respect."
But people those other countries look at us and think, "You hurry too much. Relax!"

STUDY QUESTION

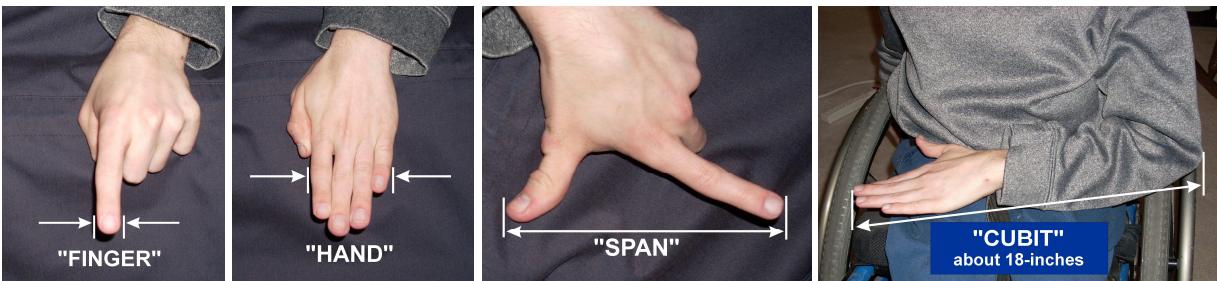
Read Genesis 37:25-28

Traders bought Joseph as a slave.
They were from where?
...going to where?
...carrying what?

Lesson 7.13 Measurements

When we read the Old Testament and we find verses that give information about measurements, we see that they did not have uniform systems for measuring.

In various times and in various places, their kinds of measurements were different.
How they figure weight and money value were different in each country and culture.
Every place had their own way.
And those measurements were not exact.
Their calculations were approximate. For example.



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- 1 Cubit = about 18 inches (46cm).
- 1 Pace or Step = about 30 inches (76cm).
- 1 Reed = about 10 ft. (3 meters).
- 1 Sabbath's Day Journey = about 2/3 mile (1 km).

Volume Measurement

Liquid measurement:

- 1 log = about 1 pint (about 0.5 Liters)
- 1 hin = 12 logs = about 6 quarts, 1.5 gallons (about 11 Liters)
- 1 bath = 6 hins = about 9 gallons (34 Liters)
- 1 homer (1 cor) = 10 baths = 90 gallons (340 Liters)

Dry volume:

- 1 cab < 2 quarts (1.9 Liters)
- 1 seah = 6 cabs < 10 quarts (19 Liters)
- 1 ephah = 3 seahs = about 1 bushel (9.3 gal; 35.2 Liters)
- 1 homer = about 10 bushels
- 1 modius = about 1 peck, 2.3 gal.

Money

Money was really complicated.
Money coins had various sizes and shapes.
The metal in those coins were different.
And their values varied.

Metal in money was

- gold
- silver
- copper
- other cheap metals.

Coins did not have milled (jagged) edges, so it was easy to file a little metal off, and reduce their value. That was not honest.

We really don't know the real value of each coin.
We don't know how much each coin could buy.
We can only guess.



Everyday Life in Bible Times
Chapter 7 – Arts and Sciences

Also, over time money value changes, the same as that happens today.

The Bible New Testament says that work for one day earns one Roman coin called a **denarius**.

Long ago, the value of gold and silver coins was figured by weight only.

What the coin looked like did not matter.

Always measure the weight using a balance scale.

A regular silver coin was called a **shekel**.

One shekel was worth about four days of work.

Another money named in the New Testament is called a **talent**.

The talent was worth a lot, about 6,000 denarii.

6,000 days of work is about 20 years!

If you traveled from one country to another country that had different money, you must exchange your money for the money of that country.

Money exchangers never made a full exchange.

They gave back less and pocketed the profit.

STUDY QUESTION

Read Amos 8:4-6 and Proverbs 11:1

What do these verses say about measurements?

Read chapter 8 in *Everyday Life in Bible Times*.