



FACTS FROM THE BIBLE

By a Mighty Arrow

Baskets

The Israelites used many different kinds of baskets, but it is not easy to decide their size or how much each hold.

The most common basket in the Old Testament was the SAL, which was carried on head or shoulder. In this, beads were presented in the Sanctuary.

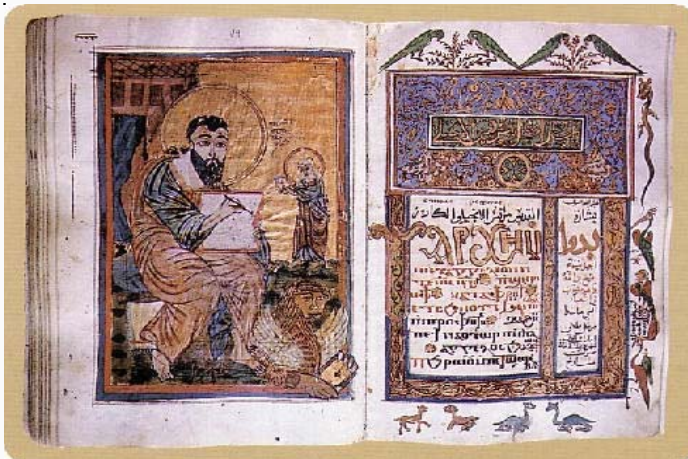
The DUD was used for carrying fruit and merchandise and the tene was a provision carrier, possibly quite large.

The kelub was an enclosed type-many think it was a cage.

The tebah was a basket used by river people of the lower Euphrates and almost certainly it was the kind of the basket which was used for hiding Moses.



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*Miniature of St. Mark the Evangelist with the Gospel's symbol
In the Right there is St. Peter the 17th Patriarch of Alexandria and martyr
From the Coptic Patriarchate Library*

*A*t the beginning of each Holy Gospel the Evangelist starting with a special and distinguishing term.

*A*t the beginning of the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark; "A herald's voice in the desert, crying, Make ready the way of the Lord, Clear him a straight Path" (MK 1:3). Therefore the face of a lion is the symbol of St. Mark.



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BRICKS



".....and Pharaoh commanded the taskmaster no longer to give the people straw to make bricks; let them gather Straws for themselves."

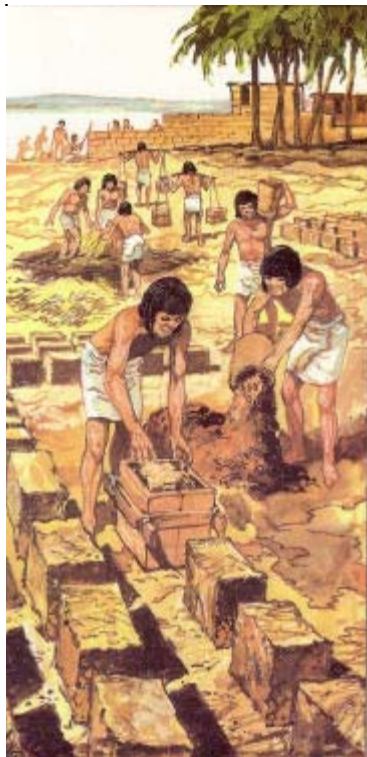
(Exodus 5:7)

There was plenty of stone in Palestine, but bricks were more generally used, perhaps because in very early times metal tools hadn't been invented and also because bricks were more easily and cheaply made.

In Babylon and Egypt the type of soils forced the inhabitants to use bricks for most of their buildings.

Look at the little copy of a tomb-painting showing the work. We have a great deal for which to thank those ancient tomb painters!

Bricks were made by trampling clay or clayey soil mixed with straw to bind it. In olden days in England and elsewhere plaster was mixed with horse hair for the same purpose: in art



schools making plaster casts will put a piece of curtaining in the mould after part of the final layer is added. This strengthens the work.

When the Pharaoh 'who knew not Joseph' set the Hebrews to brick making, he finally ordered that they must gather the straw for themselves and still make the same number of bricks. Corn was not cut at ground level, but near the ears. This was always burnt in the fields to give manure. The chopped straw was that which remained on the threshing floor after the trampling and winnowing of the corn sheaves. The Israelites had therefore to gather the stubble and make it fit for use in brick making, a great loss of time, making their work the harder.