

BASKETS - HOW WERE THEY USED?

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You would always find some baskets in Israel. Baskets were used instead of sacks, shopping bags and boxes we have today.

The farmer used big baskets when he picked his olives and his grapes. Some of these baskets were so big they were carried on a pole between two men.

The baker put his bread in a big basket. He carried this basket on his head. Once Joseph was in prison in Egypt. There was a baker in the prison too. This baker had a dream he could not understand. In his dream, the baker had three baskets on his head. In the top basket there was bread for Pharaoh. Birds came and were eating the bread in this basket.

(See Genesis 40:17)

The farmer had smaller baskets too. Every year when he picked his grapes or olives or cut his wheat, he used this basket in a special way. He put the very first fruit that grew on his land into a basket. He gave this basket full to God.

(See Deuteronomy 26:2-4) In this way he said thank you to God for the land and for the rain and sun God had sent to make the plants grow.

TURN CARD OVER

There were small baskets that men carried on a journey. The disciples used 12 baskets like this to gather all the bread left over after Jesus fed the 5000 people. (See Mark 6:43)

Sometimes a mother in Israel used a basket to hold food she served her family at a meal. She used bigger baskets to store some food for her family.

One basket was so big and so strong it could be used to lift a man down over a wall. Remember after Paul became a Christian, he preached in Damascus. The people in that city did not like to hear Paul. They planned to kill him. Men watched the gates of the city day and night to catch Paul. To see what Paul's friends did to save his life, look in Acts 9:25.