

ANCIENT WORLD

Jacob's wife Leah was "tender eyed". (This seems to mean her eyes were clouded or inflamed in some way. Since eyes were a focal point of beauty in the **ancient world**, this was seen as a terrible defect.)

- **Genesis 29:17:** "Leah was tender eyed; but Rachel was beautiful and well favoured."

It seems it was a common practice in the **ancient world** for wives to give their maids to their husbands, so they could have children through them (even though that made things worse, not better).

- **Genesis 30:3:** "And she said, Behold my maid Bilhah, go in unto her; and she shall bear upon my knees, that I may also have children by her."

Joseph gave his younger brother Benjamin 300 pieces of silver (which was a large sum of money in the **ancient world**).

- **Genesis 45:22:** "To all of them he gave each man changes of raiment; but to Benjamin he gave three hundred pieces of silver, and five changes of raiment."

In the **ancient world**, a kiss was a common greeting.

- **Exodus 4:27:** "And the LORD said to Aaron, Go into the wilderness to meet Moses. And he went, and met him in the mount of God, and kissed him."
- **2 Samuel 15:5:** "And it was so, that when any man came

nigh to him to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him."

- **2 Samuel 19:39:** "And all the people went over Jordan. And when the king was come over, the king kissed Barzillai, and blessed him; and he returned unto his own place."

In the **ancient world**, a garden of herbs was usually watered by hand.

- **Deuteronomy 11:10:** "For the land, whither thou goest in to possess it, is not as the land of Egypt, from whence ye came out, where thou sowedst thy seed, and wateredst it with thy foot, as a garden of herbs:"

In the **ancient world**, horses and chariots were formidable weapons of war.

- **Deuteronomy 20:1:** "When thou goest out to battle against thine enemies, and seest horses, and chariots, and a people more than thou, be not afraid of them: for the LORD thy God is with thee, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt."
- **Judges 4:3:** "And the children of Israel cried unto the LORD: for he had nine hundred chariots of iron; and twenty years he mightily oppressed the children of Israel."

Under the Mosaic Law, if a man lied and claimed that his new wife wasn't a virgin when she actually was, he would be fined 100 shekels of silver (which was a large sum of money in the **ancient world**).

- **Deuteronomy 22:17, 19:** "And, lo, he hath given occasions of speech against her, saying, I found not thy daughter a maid; and yet these are the tokens of my daughter's virginity. And they shall spread the cloth before the elders of the city. ... And they shall amerce him in an hundred shekels of silver, and give them unto the father of the damsel, because he hath brought up an evil name upon a virgin of Israel: and she shall be his wife; he may not put her away all his days."

In the **ancient world**, people were expected to keep their promises even if they were tricked into making them. (The Gibeonites lied to the Hebrews to trick them into making a treaty with them, and yet they still expected them to honor the agreement anyway.)

- **Joshua 9:3-4, 6:** "And when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done unto Jericho and to Ai, They did work wilily, and went and made as if they had been ambassadors, and took old sacks upon their asses, and wine bottles, old, and rent, and bound up; ... And they went to Joshua unto the camp at Gilgal, and said unto him, and to the men of Israel, We be come from a far country: now therefore make ye a league with us."

It seems it was common in the **ancient world** to have someone fetch the arrows after they were shot.

- **1 Samuel 20:21:** "And, behold, I will send a lad, saying, Go, find out the arrows. If I expressly say unto the lad, Behold, the arrows are on this side of thee, take them; then come thou: for there is peace to thee, and no hurt; as the LORD liveth."

In the **ancient world**, someone who was 80 was considered to be very old.

- **2 Samuel 19:32:** "Now Barzillai was a very aged man, even fourscore years old; and he had provided the king of sustenance while he lay at Mahanaim; for he was a very great man."

When Joab met Amasa at the great stone in Gibeon, Joab grabbed Amasa's beard by his right hand, as if he was going to kiss him (which was a common greeting in the **ancient world**). Joab then murdered him.

- **2 Samuel 20:9-10:** "And Joab said to Amasa, Art thou in health, my brother? And Joab took Amasa by the beard with the right hand to kiss him. But Amasa took no heed to the sword that was in Joab's hand: so he smote him therewith in the fifth rib, and shed out his bowels to the ground, and struck him not again; and he died. So Joab and Abishai his brother pursued after Sheba the son of Bichri."

Medical care in the **ancient world** was very primitive. (When David developed circulation problems in his old age and struggled to stay warm, it seems his treatment options were pretty slim.)

- **1 Kings 1:1-2:** "Now king David was old and stricken in years; and they covered him with clothes, but he gat no heat. Wherefore his servants said unto him, Let there be sought for my lord the king a young virgin: and let her stand before the king, and let her cherish him, and let her lie in thy bosom, that my lord the king may get heat."

In the **ancient world**, stones that were hewed with saws were costly.

- **1 Kings 7:9:** "All these were of costly stones, according to the measures of hewed stones, sawed with saws, within and without, even from the foundation unto the coping, and so on the outside toward the great court."

In the **ancient world**, there were times when birds ate people who died in a field and weren't buried.

- **1 Kings 21:24:** "Him that dieth of Ahab in the city the dogs shall eat; and him that dieth in the field shall the fowls of the air eat."

In the **ancient world**, there were times when dogs ate people who died in the city and weren't buried.

- **1 Kings 21:24:** "Him that dieth of Ahab in the city the dogs shall eat; and him that dieth in the field shall the fowls of the air eat."

In the **ancient world**, one of the ways people expressed grief was by tearing their clothes.

- **2 Kings 2:11-12:** "And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them

in two pieces."

- **2 Kings 19:1:** "And it came to pass, when king Hezekiah heard it, that he rent his clothes, and covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the LORD."
- **2 Kings 22:11:** "And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes."
- **Jeremiah 41:5:** "That there came certain from Shechem, from Shiloh, and from Samaria, even fourscore men, having their beards shaven, and their clothes rent, and having cut themselves, with offerings and incense in their hand, to bring them to the house of the LORD."

Axe heads were precious in the **ancient world**.

- **2 Kings 6:5:** "But as one was felling a beam, the axe head fell into the water: and he cried, and said, Alas, master! for it was borrowed."

In the **ancient world**, wearing sackcloth was a sign of grief.

- **2 Kings 19:1:** "And it came to pass, when king Hezekiah heard it, that he rent his clothes, and covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the LORD."

In the **ancient world**, having your beard shaved was considered to be humiliating.

- **1 Chronicles 19:5:** "Then there went certain, and told David how the men were served. And he sent to meet them: for the men were greatly ashamed. And the king said, Tarry at Jericho until your beards be grown, and

then return."

70 years old was considered to be a good old age in the **ancient world**. (David died when he was 70 years old.)

- **1 Chronicles 29:26, 28:** "Thus David the son of Jesse reigned over all Israel. ... And he died in a good old age, full of days, riches, and honour: and Solomon his son reigned in his stead."

16 years old was considered to be young in the **ancient world**. (In the eighth year of Josiah's reign he would have been 16 years old.)

- **2 Chronicles 34:1, 3:** "Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem one and thirty years. ... For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David his father: and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem from the high places, and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images."

It was possible to obtain a mortgage in the **ancient world**.

- **Nehemiah 5:3:** "Some also there were that said, We have mortgaged our lands, vineyards, and houses, that we might buy corn, because of the dearth."

The garden of King Ahasuerus was decorated with purple (which was an expensive color in the **ancient world**).

- **Esther 1:5-6:** "And when these days were expired, the king made a feast unto all the people that were present in

Shushan the palace, both unto great and small, seven days, in the court of the garden of the king's palace; Where were white, green, and blue, hangings, fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings and pillars of marble: the beds were of gold and silver, upon a pavement of red, and blue, and white, and black, marble."

Even though the consequences for disobeying an absolute monarch in the **ancient world** were severe, Vashti still disobeyed King Ahasuerus anyway.

- **Esther 1:12:** "But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's commandment by his chamberlains: therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him."

It seems that lightning and thunderstorms weren't well understood in the **ancient world**.

- **Job 37:15:** "Dost thou know when God disposed them, and caused the light of his cloud to shine?"

It seems that weather wasn't well understood in the **ancient world**.

- **Job 37:16-17:** "Dost thou know the balancings of the clouds, the wondrous works of him which is perfect in knowledge? How thy garments are warm, when he quieteth the earth by the south wind?"

It seems there was no weapon in the **ancient world** that could pierce the skin of the leviathan (which was a fire-

breathing dragon).

- **Job 41:7-8, 26-29:** "Canst thou fill his skin with barbed irons? or his head with fish spears? Lay thine hand upon him, remember the battle, do no more. ... The sword of him that layeth at him cannot hold: the spear, the dart, nor the habergeon. He esteemeth iron as straw, and brass as rotten wood. The arrow cannot make him flee: slingstones are turned with him into stubble. Darts are counted as stubble: he laugheth at the shaking of a spear."

The strongest metals of the **ancient world** were ineffective against the leviathan (which was a fire-breathing dragon).

- **Job 41:27:** "He esteemeth iron as straw, and brass as rotten wood."

David said that God had 20,000 chariots. (In the **ancient world** this would have been an overwhelming army.)

- **Psalms 68:17:** "The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels: the Lord is among them, as in Sinai, in the holy place."

People produced butter in the **ancient world**.

- **Proverbs 30:33:** "Surely the churning of milk bringeth forth butter, and the wringing of the nose bringeth forth blood: so the forcing of wrath bringeth forth strife."

In the **ancient world**, dark skin was viewed as less beautiful than light skin.

- **Song of Solomon 1:6:** "Look not upon me, because I am black, because the sun hath looked upon me: my mother's children were angry with me; they made me the keeper of the vineyards; but mine own vineyard have I not kept."

In the **ancient world**, the eyes of a dove were considered to be objects of beauty.

- **Song of Solomon 1:15:** "Behold, thou art fair, my love; behold, thou art fair; thou hast doves' eyes."

It seems that privacy in the bedroom wasn't important in the **ancient world**. (Solomon's bed was surrounded by 70 soldiers, which meant he and his wives had no privacy for whatever they decided to do.)

- **Song of Solomon 3:7:** "Behold his bed, which is Solomon's; threescore valiant men are about it, of the valiant of Israel."

Solomon compared his beloved's head to purple (which was an expensive color in the **ancient world**).

- **Song of Solomon 7:5:** "Thine head upon thee is like Carmel, and the hair of thine head like purple; the king is held in the galleries."

After Moab's destruction, fugitives would take whatever goods were left and carry them to the brook of the willows. (This seems to have been a specific place in the **ancient world**.)

- **Isaiah 15:7:** "Therefore the abundance they have gotten,

and that which they have laid up, shall they carry away to the brook of the willows."

There were once traveling companies from Dedanim. (These seem to have been merchants in the **ancient world** who lived near the Edomites.)

- **Isaiah 21:13:** "The burden upon Arabia. In the forest in Arabia shall ye lodge, O ye travelling companies of Dedanim."

In the **ancient world** there were fiery flying serpents. (These seem to have been a form of dragons.)

- **Isaiah 30:6:** "The burden of the beasts of the south: into the land of trouble and anguish, from whence come the young and old lion, the viper and fiery flying serpent, they will carry their riches upon the shoulders of young asses, and their treasures upon the bunches of camels, to a people that shall not profit them."

In the **ancient world**, lions were known for breaking people's bones.

- **Isaiah 38:13:** "I reckoned till morning, that, as a lion, so will he break all my bones: from day even to night wilt thou make an end of me."

Some idols in the **ancient world** had silver chains.

- **Isaiah 40:19:** "The workman melteth a graven image, and the goldsmith spreadeth it over with gold, and casteth silver chains."

Some idols in the **ancient world** were covered in gold.

- **Isaiah 40:19:** "The workman melteth a graven image, and the goldsmith spreadeth it over with gold, and casteth silver chains."

Some idols in the **ancient world** were made of wood.

- **Isaiah 40:20:** "He that is so impoverished that he hath no oblation chooseth a tree that will not rot; he seeketh unto him a cunning workman to prepare a graven image, that shall not be moved."

God said that Bel and Nebo stooped down. (Those were idols from the **ancient world**.)

- **Isaiah 46:1:** "Bel boweth down, Nebo stoopeth, their idols were upon the beasts, and upon the cattle: your carriages were heavy loaden; they are a burden to the weary beast."

In the **ancient world**, brides had clothing that they greatly cared about and didn't forget.

- **Jeremiah 2:32:** "Can a maid forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? yet my people have forgotten me days without number."

In the **ancient world**, maids had ornaments that they greatly cared about and didn't forget.

- **Jeremiah 2:32:** "Can a maid forget her ornaments, or a

bride her attire? yet my people have forgotten me days without number."

In the **ancient world**, steel was stronger than iron.

- **Jeremiah 15:12:** "Shall iron break the northern iron and the steel?"

In the **ancient world**, northern iron was stronger than regular iron.

- **Jeremiah 15:12:** "Shall iron break the northern iron and the steel?"

God said that no one was going to cut themselves or shave their head for the Jews who would die in the coming judgment. (These were common ways of mourning people's death in the **ancient world**, and were forbidden under the Mosaic Law.)

- **Jeremiah 16:6:** "Both the great and the small shall die in this land: they shall not be buried, neither shall men lament for them, nor cut themselves, nor make themselves bald for them:"

It was common in the **ancient world** for people to comfort those who lost a relative or loved one.

- **Jeremiah 16:7:** "Neither shall men tear themselves for them in mourning, to comfort them for the dead; neither shall men give them the cup of consolation to drink for their father or for their mother."

In the **ancient world**, some pens had diamond tips.

- **Jeremiah 17:1:** "The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron, and with the point of a diamond: it is graven upon the table of their heart, and upon the horns of your altars;"

In the **ancient world**, some pens were made of iron.

- **Jeremiah 17:1:** "The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron, and with the point of a diamond: it is graven upon the table of their heart, and upon the horns of your altars;"

God asked if cold flowing waters would be forsaken. (In the **ancient world**, people didn't abandon a cold source of pure water. That would have been highly valued.)

- **Jeremiah 18:14:** "Will a man leave the snow of Lebanon which cometh from the rock of the field? or shall the cold flowing waters that come from another place be forsaken?"

In the **ancient world**, Jerusalem was considered to be a great city.

- **Jeremiah 22:8:** "And many nations shall pass by this city, and they shall say every man to his neighbour, Wherefore hath the LORD done thus unto this great city?"

In the **ancient world**, one of the ways people made merry

was through dancing.

- **Jeremiah 31:4:** "Again I will build thee, and thou shalt be built, O virgin of Israel: thou shalt again be adorned with thy tabrets, and shalt go forth in the dances of them that make merry."
- **Jeremiah 31:13:** "Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, both young men and old together: for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow."

In the **ancient world**, one of the ways people mourned was by cutting themselves (which was forbidden by the Mosaic Law).

- **Jeremiah 41:5:** "That there came certain from Shechem, from Shiloh, and from Samaria, even fourscore men, having their beards shaven, and their clothes rent, and having cut themselves, with offerings and incense in their hand, to bring them to the house of the LORD."

In the **ancient world**, one of the ways people mourned was by shaving their beards.

- **Jeremiah 41:5:** "That there came certain from Shechem, from Shiloh, and from Samaria, even fourscore men, having their beards shaven, and their clothes rent, and having cut themselves, with offerings and incense in their hand, to bring them to the house of the LORD."

In the **ancient world**, thieves generally left something behind. (It seems it was rare for them to steal absolutely everything.)

- **Jeremiah 49:9:** "If grapegatherers come to thee, would

they not leave some gleaning grapes? if thieves by night, they will destroy till they have enough."

In the **ancient world**, grape gatherers generally left some grapes behind. (The Mosaic Law required this so that the leftover could be gathered by the poor.)

- **Jeremiah 49:9**: "If grapegatherers come to thee, would they not leave some gleaning grapes? if thieves by night, they will destroy till they have enough."

In the **ancient world**, people used iron pans.

- **Ezekiel 4:3**: "Moreover take thou unto thee an iron pan, and set it for a wall of iron between thee and the city: and set thy face against it, and it shall be besieged, and thou shalt lay siege against it. This shall be a sign to the house of Israel."

Nebuchadnezzar gathered all of his government officials to the plain of Dura (to worship his golden idol). In the **ancient world** this would have taken enormous effort and a lot of time. It also meant that while they were all in Dura, no one was watching over his empire because everyone was out of town.

- **Daniel 3:3**: "Then the princes, the governors, and captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, were gathered together unto the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up."

The constellation of Orion was recognized in the **ancient world**.

- **Amos 5:8:** "Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion, and turneth the shadow of death into the morning, and maketh the day dark with night: that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The LORD is his name:"

In the **ancient world**, sparrows weren't highly esteemed. (They were sold for a small amount of money.)

- **Matthew 10:29:** "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father."

One of the ways people ended up in slavery in the **ancient world** was by being sold to pay a debt.

- **Matthew 18:25:** "But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made."

In the **ancient world**, part of a fisherman's job included mending fishing nets.

- **Mark 1:19:** "And when he had gone a little farther thence, he saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship mending their nets."

In the **ancient world**, people didn't sew a piece of new cloth on an old garment.

- **Mark 2:21:** "No man also seweth a piece of new cloth on an old garment: else the new piece that filled it up taketh away from the old, and the rent is made worse."

In the **ancient world**, people didn't put new wine into old bottles.

- **Mark 2:22:** "And no man putteth new wine into old bottles: else the new wine doth burst the bottles, and the wine is spilled, and the bottles will be marred: but new wine must be put into new bottles."

In the **ancient world**, it wasn't considered stealing for people to pluck ears of corn from someone else's field and eat it.

- **Mark 2:23:** "And it came to pass, that he went through the corn fields on the sabbath day; and his disciples began, as they went, to pluck the ears of corn."

There were times in the **ancient world** when friends arrived unexpectedly at midnight.

- **Luke 11:5-6:** "And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?"

There were times in the **ancient world** when people had no food whatsoever in their house.

- **Luke 11:6:** "For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?"

In the **ancient world**, eating great meals every day was a sign of wealth.

- **Luke 16:19:** "There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:"

In the **ancient world**, wearing fine linen was a sign of wealth.

- **Luke 16:19:** "There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:"

In the **ancient world**, wearing purple was a sign of wealth.

- **Luke 16:19:** "There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:"

Lydia sold purple cloth (which was a luxury item in the **ancient world**).

- **Acts 16:14:** "And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul."

Being able to foretell the future was a lucrative gift in the **ancient world**.

- **Acts 16:16:** "And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met

us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:"

In the **ancient world**, rulers had no problem sentencing people to be beaten without even allowing them to defend themselves.

- **Acts 16:22:** "And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them."

In the **ancient world**, soldiers didn't go to war at their own expense. Instead their expenses were paid by someone else.

- **1 Corinthians 9:7:** "Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock?"

In the **ancient world**, only the winner of the race received a prize.

- **1 Corinthians 9:24:** "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain."

In the **ancient world**, fathers appointed teachers for their children. Those teachers had authority over them and were responsible for instructing them.

- **Galatians 4:1-2:** "Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; But is under tutors and governors until the

time appointed of the father."

Paul believed one the reasons Timothy was frequently sick was because he only drank water (which was frequently polluted in the **ancient world**, because there was no functional sanitation system in those days). Wine was safer to drink because of the sanitizing effect of its alcohol.

- **1 Timothy 5:23:** "Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities."

God used the ark of Noah to save 8 people when He destroyed the entire **ancient world** with water.

- **1 Peter 3:20:** "Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water."
- **2 Peter 2:5:** "And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;"
- **2 Peter 3:6:** "Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:"

God destroyed the **ancient world** because of its sin, and turned Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes because of their evil. God will surely punish false teachers as well, because He doesn't tolerate sin and always punishes it.

- **2 Peter 2:6:** "And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that

after should live ungodly;"