

TOUR

English	Hebrew
<p style="text-align: center;">English</p> <p>Noun:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a traveling around from place to place. 2. a long journey including the visiting of a number of places in sequence, esp. with an organized group led by a guide. 3. a brief trip through a place, as a building or a site, in order to view or inspect it. 4. a journey from town to town to fulfill engagements. 5. a period of duty at one place or in one job. <p>Verb (used without object)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. to travel from place to place. 7. to travel from town to town fulfilling engagements. <p>Verb (used with object)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. to travel through (a place). 9. to send or take (a theatrical company, its production, etc.) from town to town. 10. to guide (someone) on a tour. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Hebrew</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BDB</p> <p>תֹּרַ = seek out, spy out, explore</p> <p>תֹּרַ a <i>searching</i></p> <p>(perhaps orig. <i>turn</i> (to or about), Assyrian <i>târu</i>, <i>turn about, back, taiâru turning back</i>, also <i>merciful</i>, and <i>mercy</i>; Arabic تَوَّرَ (tāra (w)) <i>go about</i> (rare), تَوْرٌ (tawrun))</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>seek out, select</i>: לְתֹרַ לָהֶם מְנוּחָה Nu 10:33, Dt 1:33, Ez 20:6. 2. <i>spy out, explore</i>: Nu 13:2, 16, 17, 21, 25, 32; 14:7, 34, 36, 38. <i>explorers, spies</i>: Nu 14:6. 3. <i>go about</i>, figurative Nu 15:39; 1 K 10:15 2 Ch 9:14, usually <i>merchants</i> Ju 1:23, <i>they made a reconnaissance at Bethel</i>. Pr 12:26 <i>the righteous searches out, or is a guide to his friend</i>. <p>תֹּרַ or תֹּרַ plait, turn Arabic (tāratun) <i>period, succession</i>. Plural תֹּרַיִם <i>plaits</i> (of hair?) Ct 1:10. תֹּרַיִם זָהָב verse 11 <i>plaits, circlets of gold</i>, Est 2:12.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Tower</p> <p>Linguists have great difficulty with this word. They define it as a mass of building standing alone and insulated, usually higher than its diameter, but when of great size not always of that proportion. Or, a building or part of a building that is exceptionally high in proportion to its width and length. Or, to rise or extend far upward, as a tower; reach or stand high: <i>The skyscraper towers above the city</i>. It probably appears very large or occupies a commanding position.</p> <p>These are definitions of its structure, not its purpose.</p> <p>The purpose is seen in additional definition as a tall, slender structure used for observation or signaling. Thus it has a military function.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TWOT</p> <p>Of the twenty-three occurrences of <i>tûr</i> in the OT, more than half are found in Num 13 in the sense of "spying out, reconnoitering" the land of Canaan preparatory to conquering it. "Careful examination" would thus seem to capture the basic meaning of the root, a meaning that is especially clear in Eccl 1:13; 2:3; 7:25, where an intense search for wisdom is such an important preoccupation in the mind of the author.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Klein</p> <p>offers much greater insight into the word from its conjugation, and by offering more of its historical roots.</p>

To me, a great mystery attaches to the total lack of functionality in the definition. This mystery is pervasive from the *Oxford English Dictionary*, to all other dictionaries I have examined.

The fundamental function of a tower is one of surveillance and reconnoitering, to inspect, observe, or survey. The purpose is **to search out the surrounding land, to spy, to explore with one's eyes**. All other definitions are secondary borrowed senses.

This cognate identity to the Semitic word is thus found not only in its function, but also remembered in its pronunciation.

Before 900 Middle English *tour*, earlier *tur*, *tor* continuing Old English *torr*, from Old French *tor* or *tur*. This may be seen in Welsh *turrau*, a tower, Irish *tor*, a castle, and Gaelic *torr*, a tower or castle.

The word may also be seen in Portuguese, Spanish and Italian *torre*, a tower. One source says that these words in the Romance languages may possibly be from a pre-Indo-European Mediterranean language. In light of the other sources this is highly doubtful. The source is not in some pre-IE language; the source is in a Hebrew influence on the languages of the Mediterranean and of Europe.

Scandinavian languages have "n" inflection on the word: Danish *tårn*, Dutch *toren*, Finnish *torni*, Latvian *tornis*, Norwegian *tårn*, Swedish *torn*, all meaning tower or castle.

Ancient Greek had **tursis**, a tower. Latin forms were **turriger**, tower-bearing, **turris**, tower, especially as used in military operations, and **turritus**, turreted, furnished with towers, towering.

תור to spy out, search out, explore.

Syriac (= he contemplated, meditated) , Chr.-Pal. Samaritan *turn* (=he considered, understood), Arabic *tara* (= he went around), *tarah* (=once, sometimes, at times), Akkadian *taru* (=to turn about, turn back), *taiaru* (= turning back, also `merciful'). Accordingly the original meaning of this base was `to turn about'. From this meaning developed that of `to spy out, explore'.

—Qalin: he went about; he spied out, explored; he sought out, found out how to do something.

— Hiphal: he spied out, he made a reconnaissance.

— Pial: he showed the way; he made a tour.

— Pual: was visited by tourists.

Related to Aramaic = cord, brim.

Related Akkadian forms are:

turru (= string)

tūra - 1) again , once more , a second time
2) anyway , nevertheless , yet

turru (tuāru) - to send back

tāru - to return (v.i.), to return (v.t.), give back

turrūtu - a turn, a turning, a reversion

Traditional Etymologies

The Dictionaries will invariably state that this word comes from an IE word for *turning*, as in a lathe.

Middle English, a *turn*, from Old English *turnian*, *tyrnan* and Old French *torner* "a turn, a shift on duty," *tour*, *tourn* "a turn, trick, round, circuit, circumference," from *torner*, *tourner* "to turn," from L. *tornare* "to polish, round off, fashion, turn on a lathe," and *turnen*, *to turn in a lathe*, from *tornus*, *lathe*, from Greek *tornos*, **torneuô**: *to work with a lathe-chisel, to turn round, as an auger*.

This word has nothing to do with a "turning around in a lathe." The word expresses visual or physical movement around geography.

List of References

BDB: *Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*, F. Brown, S. R. Driver, and C. A. Briggs, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1951. Now available electronically from Logos Bible Software, as *Enhanced Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*, electronic edition, Logos Research Systems, Oak Harbor, WA, 2000.

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WA 98198.

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TWOT: *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* by R. Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer, and Bruce K. Waltke, Moody Press, 1980. Now available on line from multiple sources, such as BIBLESOFT, 22014 7th Ave. South, Seattle, WA 98198.

Klein: Ernest Klein, *A Comprehensive Etymological Dictionary of the Hebrew Language for Readers of English*, The University of Haifa, Jerusalem, 1987.

The Word: Isaac Mozeson, SPI Books, New York, 1989

I offer no references for words that come from various other languages, and that can be traced by browsing the World Wide Web.