

נְעָלוֹת / נְעָלִים / נְעָלִים -- Sandals
and
נָאַל -- Sandal

1. As clothing [*Exodus 12:11*]

כֹּכֶה תֹאכְלוּ אֹתוֹ מִתְנִיכֶם חֲגָרִים נְעִלֵיכֶם בְּרַגְלֵיכֶם
וּמִקְלַכֶּם בְּיַדְכֶם וְאָכַלְתֶּם אֹתוֹ בְּחִפְזוֹן פֶּסַח הוּא לַיהוָה:

This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your **sandals** on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly: it is a passover offering to the Lord

2. As adornment [*Song of Songs 7:2*]

מִה־יָפוּ פְעָמֶיךָ בְּנְעָלִים בֶּת־נָדִיב חֲמוּקֵי יֶרֶכְיךָ כִּמוֹ חֲלָאִים
מַעֲשֵׂה יָדֵי אִמּוֹן:

How lovely are your feet in **sandals**, O daughter of nobles! Your rounded thighs are like jewels, The work of a master's hand.

3. Sign of respect, holiness [*Joshua 5:15; haftarah Pessach*]

וַיֹּאמֶר שָׂר־צָבָא יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי־הוֹשֶׁעַ שֶׁל־נְעִלָךְ מֵעַל רַגְלֶךָ כִּי
הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר אַתָּה עֹמֵד עָלָיו קֹדֶשׁ הוּא וַיַּעַשׂ יְהוֹשֻׁעַ כֵּן:

The captain of the Lord's host answered Joshua, "Remove your **sandals** from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so.

4. Sign of rejection [*Deuteronomy 25:9,10*]

וְנִגְשָׁה וּבִמְתּוֹ אֵלָיו לְעֵינֵי הַזְקֵנִים וְחָלְצָה נְעִלָּא מֵעַל רַגְלּוֹ
וַיִּרְקֶה בְּפָנָיו וַעֲנֶתָהּ וְאָמְרָה כֹּכֶה יַעֲשֶׂה לְאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יִבְנֶה
אֶת־בֵּית אַחִיו: וְנִקְרָא שְׁמוֹ בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל בֵּית חֵלּוּץ הַנְּעִלָּ:

[If he insists, saying, "I do not want to take her,"] his brother's widow shall go up to him in the presence of the elders, pull the **sandal** off his foot, spit in his face, and make this declaration: Thus shall be done to the man who will not build up his brother's house! And he shall go in Israel by the name of "the family of the **unsandaled** one".

5. To conclude a transaction/redemption. [Ruth 4:7,8]

וְזֹאת לְפָנִים בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל עַל־הַגְּאוּלָּה וְעַל־הַתְּמוּרָה לְקַיֵּם
כָּל־דְּבַר שְׁלֹף אִישׁ נַעְלוֹ וְנָתַן לְרֵעֵהוּ וְזֹאת הַתְּעוּדָה
בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל: וַיֹּאמֶר הַגָּאֹל לְבַעַז קְנֵה־לָךְ וַיִּשְׁלֹף נַעְלוֹ:

Now this was formerly done in Israel in cases of redemption or exchange: to validate any transaction, one man would take off his **sandal** and hand it to the other. Such was the practice in Israel. So when the redeemer said to Boaz, “Acquire for yourself,” he drew off his **sandal**.

6. Related to bribes? [Amos 2:6, 8:6 is similar]

כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה עַל־שִׁלְשָׁה פְּשָׁעַי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְעַל־אַרְבַּעָה לֹא
אֲשִׁיבֵנּוּ עַל־מִכְרָם בְּכֶסֶף צְדִיק וְאַבְיוֹן בַּעֲבוּר נַעֲלִים:

Thus said the Lord: For three transgressions of Israel, For four, I will not revoke it [i.e. the decree of punishment]. Because they have sold for silver those whose cause was just, *And the needy for a pair of sandals*.

7. Probably “sandals”. [I Samuel 12:3; haftarah Korach]

הִנְנִי עֲנִי בִּי נֶגֶד יְהוָה וְנֶגֶד מְשִׁיחוֹ אֶת־שׁוֹר מִי לְקַחְתִּי
וְחִמּוֹר מִי לְקַחְתִּי וְאֶת־מִי עָשִׂקְתִּי אֶת־מִי רָצוֹתִי וּמִיד־מִי
לְקַחְתִּי כֹפֶר וְאֲעֲלִים עֵינַי בּוֹ * וְאֲשִׁיב לָכֶם:

Here I am! Testify against me, in the presence of the LORD and in the presence of His anointed one: Whose ox have I taken, or whose ass have I taken? Whom have I defrauded or whom have I robbed? From whom have I taken a bribe **“to look the other way?”** ★ I will return it to you.”

★JPS note: The Septuagint (Greek) reads *or a pair of sandals?*, testify against me.

The Hebrew corresponding to the Greek would be: וְנַעֲלִים עָנִי בִּי