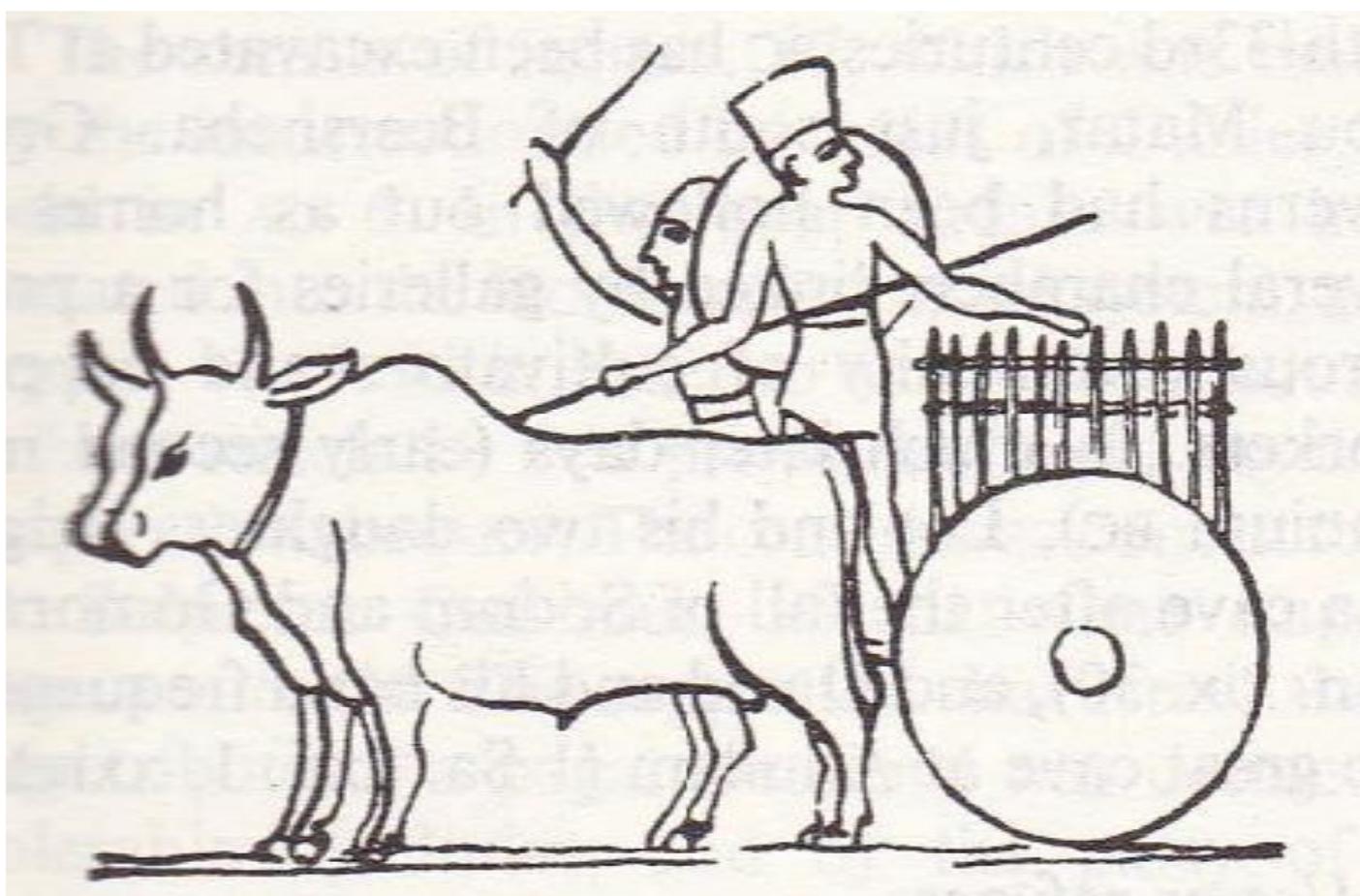


Chariots and Carts in the time of Nehemiah

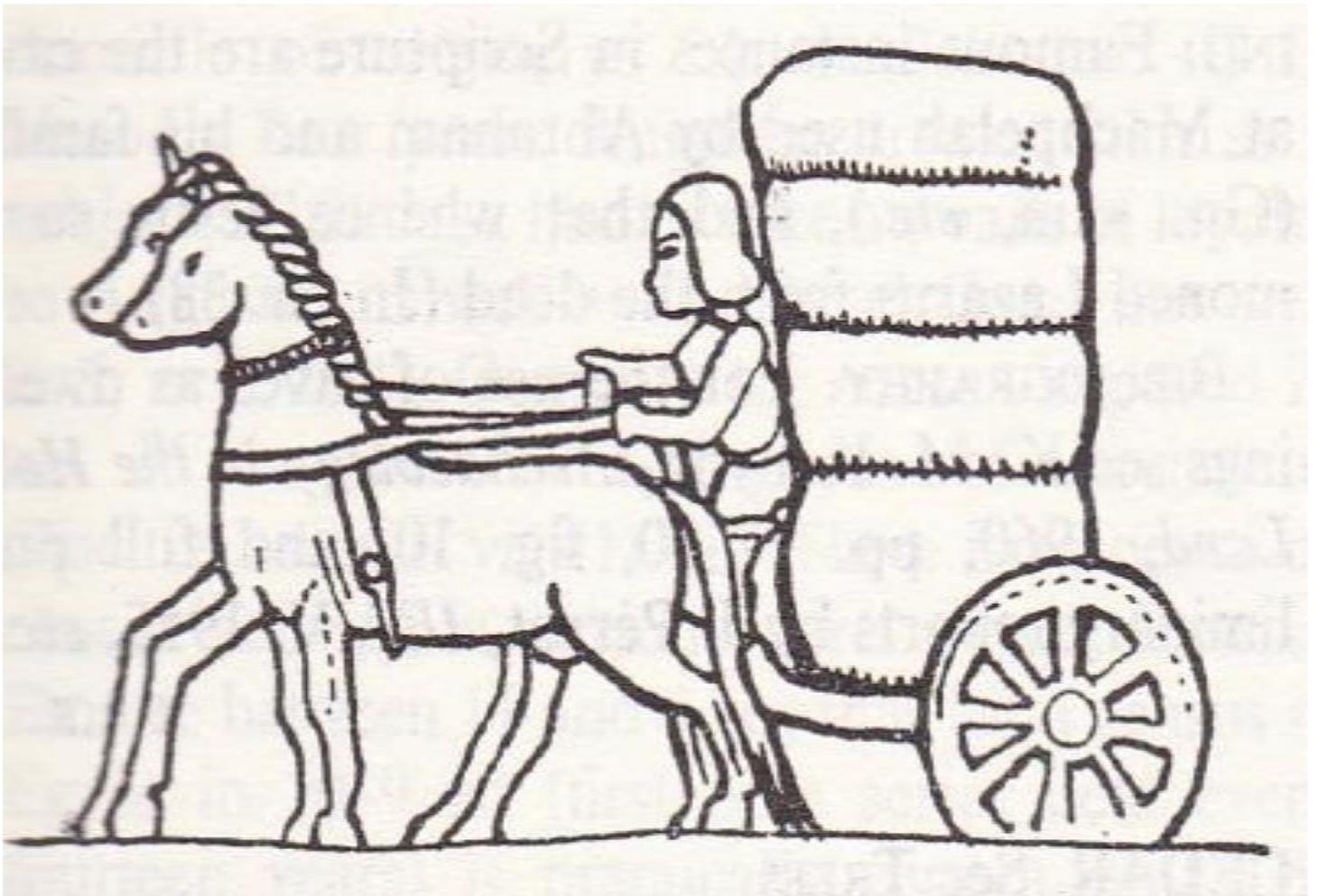
These days, fashions change very fast, for clothes, cars, gadgets of all kinds – lots of people want to get a new car or a new phone every year, or each time a new model comes out.

In the days of Nehemiah, this was not true. A design that worked would be used for many years – although obviously new ones would be built. A cart would not last for ever – it would need new wheels, or a new body, and certainly new (younger) animals to pull it. A man who had grown up using his dad's cart would want one of his own when he had a house of his own, especially if there were several sons sharing the dad's cart.

Although none of these pictures date from the time of Nehemiah, it is very likely that they are similar to the sort of cart that Nehemiah would have had to use when travelling from Susa to Jerusalem. Bearing in mind the number of people and the materials that they took with them, there were probably a number of carts, not just one!

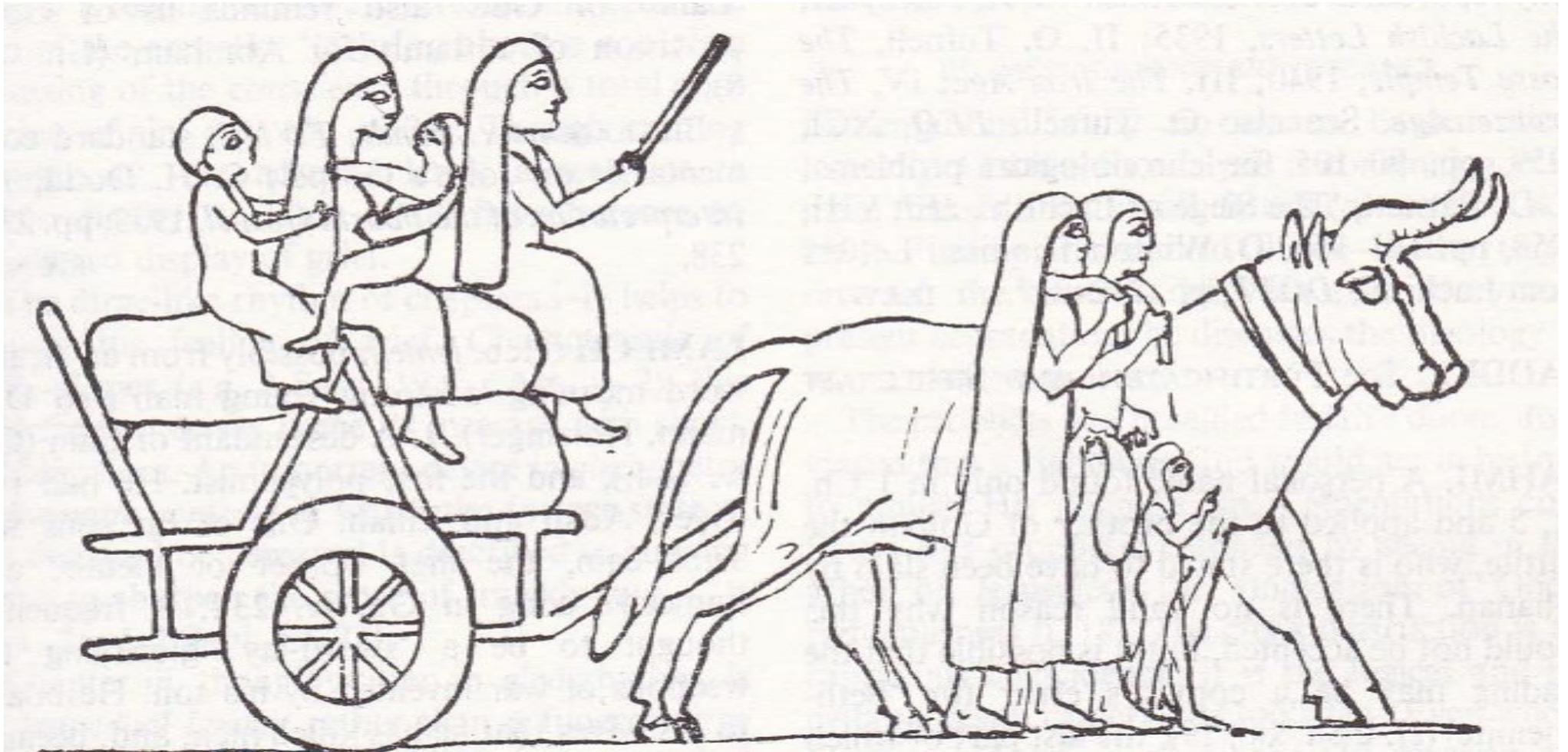


This picture was found on an engraving in Egypt. It is the sort of cart that was used by the people of Palestine, the Philistines (who were enemies of the Jews, before and during the time of Nehemiah) to move their families and their possessions. It looks as if the cart itself was made of woven stakes, rather than a solid box, and it may have had a back, as well.



This picture is from an engraving found in Nineveh, which is in modern day Iraq. If you look on the map, and follow the road and the river north from Baghdad to Salah ad Din, the ruins of Nineveh are twice as far again north of Salah ad Din, on the river Tigris, just outside the modern city of Mosul.

This picture is older than the one from Egypt, so even earlier than Nehemiah, but look at the difference in the wheels, and it uses horses, not oxen.



This picture was also found at Nineveh, but dates from about 400 years later than the other one. It shows Judean prisoners being taken from Lachish to Nineveh in about 700 BC. The Assyrian emperor who captured Lachish, which was about 15 miles from Jerusalem, also attacked Jerusalem, but didn't win. Jerusalem was captured by the Babylonians about 120 years later, and Nehemiah came back to Jerusalem about another 130 years after that.

This cart has the same sort of spoked wheels as the Assyrian cart above, but this one is pulled by oxen. Whether that means that oxen were more available in Palestine than horses, or whether the horse-cart was for someone more important, we don't know.