

BETWEEN THE LINES

A Deeper Look...

#969- ANIMALS, VEGETABLES, AND YOU!- Lessons From Nature

The natural world is a medium that the Bible uses hundreds of times to teach lessons and inspire thought. Here's a listing of many Bible plants. Perhaps a study into these elements will enrich your understanding of God... (Space will not permit us to spend time with the ten specific types of fruit or twenty types of woods mentioned!)

Vegetables- Staples of everyday life...

- Beans: *powl*- generally a food of the poor. (II Samuel 17)
- Cucumbers: *kishshu 'ah*- a coveted food of Egypt. (Numbers 11)
- Gourds: *kikayon*- perhaps a castor oil plant... perhaps a pumpkin. (Jonah 4)
pakkuoth- a wild gourd. (I Kings 6, II Kings 4)
- Leeks: *chatzir*- a pungent grass that added flavor to bland food. (Numbers 11)
- Lentils: *adhashim*- for stew (Genesis 25), bread (Ezekiel 4), and pulse (Daniel 1).
- Mandrakes: *dudaim*- a fragrant yellow fruit to "enhance" fertility. (Genesis 30)
- Onions: *basal*- for the same purpose as leeks. (Numbers 11)

Herbs and Spices- Rich additives to common life...

Used for cosmetics, dye, disinfectants, food, flavorings, medicine, and perfumes.

- Aloes: *ahalim*- not our aloe, but a tree resin for embalming (John 19) and perfume.
- Anise: *anethon* (Greek)- dill for medicine, cooking, and temple tithe. (Matthew 23)
- Balm or Balsam: *tzari*- an expensive, resinous, fragrant material. (Genesis 37)
- Bay or Laurel: *ezrah*- fragrant leaves for many uses. (Psalm 37)
- Bdellium: *bedolah*- a gum resin that hardened like pearls. (Numbers 11)
- Bitter Herbs: *mororim*- the Mishnah says this was lettuce, endive, coriander seeds, horseradish, horehound, and tansy.
- Calamus: *keneh bosesem*- an oily reed used for enhancing anointing. (Exodus 30)
- Camphire: *kopher*- a powder paste to paint fingernails and beards.
- Cassia: *kiddah*- a cinnamon-like bark used to enhance the anointing oil. (Exodus 30)
- Cinnamon: *kinnamon*- a yellow oil for anointing (Exodus 30) and perfume (Proverbs 7).
- Coriander: *gad*- pink and white flowers with seeds to enrich foods.
- Cummin: *kammon*- a parsley-like herb for foods.
- Fitches: *qetsach*- probably poppy seeds used in seasoning.
- Frankincense: *lebonah*- aromatic incense used in offerings. (Exodus 30 and Matthew 2)
- Gall: *rosh*- probably opium or hemlock (Jeremiah 8).
- Garlic: *shum*- used for flavoring as we do today. (Numbers 11)
- Hyssop: *ezop*- Marjoram? A sweet smelling bush for ritual. (Leviticus 14, John 19)
- Mallow: *malluah*- a salt substitute for the very poor. (Job 30)
- Mint: *heduosman* (Greek): utilized for medicine, seasoning, and tithe.
- Mustard: *sinapi* (Greek) a flavoring for meat and vegetables. (Matthew 13 and 17)
- Myrrh: *mor*- an anointing oil (Exodus 30), perfume (Psalm 45), and embalmer (John 19).
- Myrtle: *hadas*- used for booths in *Sukkot* (Tabernacles). (Nehemiah 8/ Leviticus 23)
- Ruw: *peganon* (Greek)- Herb, medicine, disinfectant, and temple tithe. (Luke 11)
- Saffron: *karkom*- sweet smelling, bitter tasting herb for dyes. (Song of Solomon 4)
- Spikenard: *nerd*- very expensive compressed perfume. (Mark 14)
- Stacte: *nataph*- gum from the storax tree used in anointing oil compound. (Numbers 30)

Grains- Food and Elements of Sacrifice... Deuteronomy 25, Isaiah 5, Leviticus 2

- Barley: *seorah*- the food of poverty, 1/3 the value of wheat in ancient trade. (Ruth 1)
 - Corn: (13 words) not "maize" of North America, but a generic term for grains. (Mark 4)
 - Millet: *dohan*- perhaps sorghum, or one other grain. (Ezekiel 4)
 - Rye: *kussemeth*- perhaps a "spelt" and usually a filler for other grains. (Ezekiel 4)
 - Wheat: *hittah*- a common trade item from Genesis through Paul. (Genesis 41, Acts 27)
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Kosher Versus Treif: Thousands of pages have been written to delineate the differences between that which Leviticus 11 proclaims acceptable (*Kosher*) and those things which are polluting (*Treif*). To simplify the laws of *Kashrut* let us consider the following as a sample...

| Kosher | Treif |
|---|--|
| Fowl- chickens, turkeys, pigeons, tame ducks, tame geese, tame doves... | eagle, ostrich, vulture, stork, owl, pelican, lapwing, bat, kite, swan, cuckoo... |
| Fish- Water critters with both fins and scales... anchovies, halibut, tuna, shad, smelt, bluefish, mackerel, trout, sole, salmon, pike, whitefish, haddock, sardines, snapper, flounder, cod, carp | octopus, shrimp, snail, frog, crab, scallops, turtle, oyster, lobster, eel, catfish, porpoise, whale, dolphin, shark |
| Meat- Animals that have both a split hoof and chew their cud... cattle, sheep, goats, deer | pigs, horses, camels, donkeys |

In Conclusion: Did you know that in Judaism those who truly desire to live within *Kashrut* are also attentive as to *how the animal was killed*. The Colonel's chicken and Wendy's burgers just don't make it in that regard!

Predators and Prey: There are also many, many references to animals in the Scripture. Let's look, very briefly, at two categories of animals- those who hunt and those who are hunted...

- Bear: Probably the Syrian brown bear: (I Samuel 17, II Samuel 17, II Kings 2)
- Fox/Jackal: Perhaps intertwined in Bible language. (Judges 15)
- Leopard: The camouflaged coat allows for great stealth. (Isaiah 11, Jeremiah 13)
- Lion: A well-known creature of the day. (Daniel 6, Revelation 5)
- Wolf: A great threat to small animals. (Matthew 7, Luke 10)

- Deer /Gazelle: Swift and gentle. (Deuteronomy 12, Song of Solomon 2)
- Badger: Probably a rock hyrax or a coney, living in rocky colonies. (Proverbs 30)
- Donkey/Mule: Pack animals. (Numbers 22, I Samuel 9/10, Zechariah 9, Matthew 21)
- Camel: Invaluable to nomads like Abraham, Jacob, and Job. (Genesis 12&30, Job 1)
- Horse: We have a whole series on horses (BTL 5129). (Exodus 14, Joshua 11, Esther 6)
- Cattle: Milk, meat, leather, tractor power, sacrifice... wow! (Genesis 13, Leviticus 1)
- Sheep/Goats: Milk, cheese, clothes, skins, sacrifice. (Genesis 27, Exodus 26, John 10)

In Conclusion: Though this is not at all an exhaustive list I know you could gather a great deal by a simple word study of any of the above creatures.

Open the Word and enjoy!

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