

~ACACIA (182)

[Hebrew, *shit-tah*]

- A tree that grew well in the wilderness, where the Israelites sojourned. It was capable of providing rather large boards, nearly 4.5 meters, or nearly 15 feet long, according to;
- Then he made the panel frames for the tabernacle out of **acacia** wood, standing on end. (**Exodus 36:20**)
- Ten cubits was the length of a panel frame, and one cubit and a half the width of each panel frame. (**Exodus 36:21**)
- Which the Israelites used in constructing the portable tabernacle. Since this tree practically disappears from the Bible record after the entry into the Promised Land, this may also indicate a tree not commonly found throughout Palestine. Such description fits the **acacia** types known as *Acacia seyal* and *Acacia tortilis* far better than any other plant life in the area. These acacia trees are still common in the Negeb and the Sinai area and some are found along the Jordan Valley South of the Sea of Galilee, but not in northern Palestine.
- It is interesting to note that the word *seyal* is Arabic for torrent, and the habitat of the **acacia** is in the torrent valleys, or wadis, down which water rushes during the rainy season and which are found in the otherwise arid, desert regions around the Dead Sea area and southward into the Arabian Desert and the Sinai Peninsula. Thus Joel's prophecy
- And it must occur in that day that the mountains will drip with sweet wine, and the very hills will flow with milk, and the very streambeds of Judah will all flow with water. And out of the house of Yehowah there will go forth a spring, and it must irrigate the torrent valley of the **Acacia** Trees. (**Joel 3:18**)
- Says; Out of the house of Yehowah there will go forth a spring, and it must irrigate the torrent valley of the **Acacia** Trees, which is clearly a place that would otherwise usually be dry.
- In the wilderness I shall set the cedar tree, the **acacia** and the myrtle and the oil tree. In the desert plain I shall place the juniper tree, the ash and the cypress at the same time. (**Isaiah**

41:19)

- Yehowah says; In the wilderness I shall set the cedar tree, the **acacia** and the myrtle and the oil tree. Here three trees that normally grow in rich and fertile soils are prophesied to become the companions of the desert-loving **acacia**, as a result of divine provision for irrigation.
- The afflicted one's and the poor one's are seeking for water, but there is none. Because of thirst their very tongue has become dry. I myself, Yehowah, shall answer them. I, the God of Israel, shall not leave them. (**Isaiah 41:17**)
- Upon bare hills I shall open up rivers, and in the midst of the valley plains, springs. I shall make the wilderness into a reedy pool of water, and the waterless land into sources of water. (**Isaiah 41:18**)

See Also SHITTIM

- The **acacia** has many long thorns extending out from the widely spreading branches. These branches usually interlace with those of the neighboring acacias to form tangled thickets, this fact doubtless explains why the plural form *shit-tim'* is almost always used in the Bible record.
- The **acacia** may grow to heights of 6 to 8 meters (20 to 26 feet), but often is bush-like in appearance. It has soft, feathery leaves and is covered with pleasingly fragrant yellow blossoms, producing curved tapering pods as its fruit. The rough, black bark covers a very hard, fine-grained, heavy wood that is immune to insect attack. These characteristics and its availability in the desert made the acacia especially well suited as a building material for the tabernacle and its furnishings. It was employed to construct the ark of the covenant
- And they must make an Ark of **acacia** wood, two and a half cubits its length and a cubit and a half its width and a cubit and a half its height. (**Exodus 25:10**)
- Bezalel now made the Ark of **acacia** wood. Two cubits and a half was its length, and a cubit and a half its width, and a cubit and a half its height. (**Exodus 37:1**)
- The table of showbread

- And you must make a table of **acacia** wood, two cubits its length and a cubit its width and a cubit and a half its height. (**Exodus 25:23**)
- And he proceeded to make the table of **acacia** wood. Two cubits was its length, and a cubit its width, and a cubit and a half its height. (**Exodus 37:10**)
- **Altars**
- And you must make the altar of **acacia** wood, five cubits its length and five cubits its width. The altar should be foursquare, and its height three cubits. (**Exodus 27:1**)
- He now made the altar of incense out of **acacia** wood. A cubit was its length and a cubit its width, it being foursquare, and two cubits was its height. Its horns proceeded out of it. (**Exodus 37:25**)
- And he went on to make the altar of burnt offering out of **acacia** wood. Five cubits was its length, and five cubits its width, it being foursquare, and three cubits was its height. (**Exodus 38:1**)
- **Poles for carrying these items**
- And you must make poles of **acacia** wood and overlay them with gold. (**Exodus 25:13**)
- And you must make the poles of **acacia** wood and overlay them with gold, and they must carry the table with them. (**Exodus 25:28**)
- And you must make poles for the altar, its poles being of **acacia** wood, and you must overlay them with copper. (**Exodus 27:6**)
- And you must make the poles of **acacia** wood and overlay them with gold. (**Exodus 30:5**)
- He next made poles of **acacia** wood and overlaid them with gold. (**Exodus 37:4**)
- Then he made the poles of **acacia** wood and overlaid them with gold for carrying the table. (**Exodus 37:15**)

- After that he made the poles of **acacia** wood and overlaid them with gold. (**Exodus 37:28**)
- After that he made the poles of **acacia** wood and overlaid them with copper. (**Exodus 38:6**)
- **Pillars for the curtain and screen**
- And you must put it upon four pillars of **acacia** overlaid with gold. Their pegs are of gold. They are upon four socket pedestals of silver. (**Exodus 26:32**)
- And you must make for the screen five pillars of **acacia** and overlay them with gold. Their pegs are of gold. And you must cast for them five socket pedestals of copper. (**Exodus 26:37**)
- Then he made for it four **acacia** pillars and overlaid them with gold, their pegs being of gold, and cast four socket pedestals of silver for them. (**Exodus 36:36**)
- **And the panel frames**
- And you must make the panel frames for the tabernacle of **acacia** wood, standing on end. (**Exodus 26:15**)
- Then he made the panel frames for the tabernacle out of **acacia** wood, standing on end. (**Exodus 36:20**)
- **Also their connecting bars**
- And you must make bars of **acacia** wood, five for the panel frames of the one side of the tabernacle. (**Exodus 26:26**)
- And he went on to make bars of **acacia** wood, five for the panel frames of the one side of the tabernacle (**Exodus 36:31**)
- **Acacia** is still prized for cabinetwork because of its fine grain, rich orange-brown color, and durability. The ancient Egyptians clamped their mummy coffins shut with acacia and used it in the construction of their boats. Certain types of the tree also produce the gum arabic of commerce.
- **Acacia** trees, common in the Sinai area, provided wood for the tabernacle

