

## ~ALMOND (101)

[Hebrew, *luz, sha-qedh*]

- Then Jacob took for his use staffs still moist of the storax tree and of the **almond** tree and of the plane tree and peeled in them white peeled spots by laying bare white places which were upon the staffs. (**Genesis 30:37**)
- So Israel their father said to them; If, then, that is the case, do this; Take the finest products of the land in your receptacles and carry them down to the man as a gift. A little balsam, and a little honey, labdanum and resinous bark, pistachio nuts and **almonds**. (**Genesis 43:11**)
- The **almond**, *Amygdalus communis*, is a tree native to Palestine, Lebanon, and some areas of Mesopotamia. A member of the peach family, it grew both wild and as a cultivated fruit tree.
- The Hebrew name *sha-qedh'* means, literally, awakening one, and this is quite fitting since the **almond** is one of the earliest trees to bloom following the winter rest, blossoming as early as late January or early February. Note the play on words at;
- And the word of Yehowah continued to occur to me, saying, What are you seeing, Jeremiah? So I said; An offshoot of an **almond** tree is what I am seeing. (**Jeremiah 1:11**)
- And Yehowah went on to say to me; You have seen well, for I am keeping awake concerning my word in order to carry it out. (**Jeremiah 1:12**)
- Where the Hebrew word for **almond** tree *sha-qedh'* is followed by the expression keeping awake *sho-qedh'*. The tree may grow up to 5 meters (16 feet) in height and, when blossoming, is covered with lovely pink and sometimes white flowers arranged in pairs.
- Also, they have become afraid merely at what is high, and there are terrors in the way. And the **almond** tree carries blossoms, and the grasshopper drags itself along, and the caper berry bursts, because man is walking to his long-lasting house and the wailers have marched around in the street. (**Ecclesiastes 12:5**)

- The blossoming **almond** tree is used to picture the white-headedness of old age. The leaves are oval shaped and serrated on the edges. The **almond** fruit has an oblong shape, rounded on one end and pointed on the other. It has always been considered a delicacy and was used by Jacob as part of a gift sent to Egypt with his returning sons.
- So Israel their father said to them; If, then, that is the case, do this. Take the finest products of the land in your receptacles and carry them down to the man as a gift. A little balsam, and a little honey, labdanum and resinous bark, pistachio nuts and **almonds**. (**Genesis 43:11**)
- The kernel is a source of desirable oil, 45 kilograms (100 pounds) of the fruit producing some 20 kilograms (44 pounds) of oil.
- Doubtless due to their delicate beauty, the flowers of the **almond** were used as a pattern for the cups on the branches of the tabernacle lampstand.
- Three cups shaped like flowers of **almond** are on the one set of branches, with knobs and blossoms alternating, and three cups shaped like flowers of **almond** on the other set of branches, with knobs and blossoms alternating. This is the way it is with the six branches running out from the lampstand. (**Exodus 25:33**)
- And on the lampstand are four cups shaped like flowers of **almond**, with its knobs and its blossoms alternating. (**Exodus 25:34**)
- Three cups shaped like flowers of **almond** were on the one set of branches, with knobs and blossoms alternating, and three cups shaped like flowers of **almond** were on the other set of branches, with knobs and blossoms alternating. That is the way it was for the six branches running out from the lampstand. (**Exodus 37:19**)
- And on the lampstand there were four cups shaped like flowers of **almond**, with its knobs and its blossoms alternating. (**Exodus 37:20**)
- Aaron's rod was also an **almond** branch and miraculously budded overnight, producing ripe **almonds** as proof of God's approval on him as anointed High Priest.

- And it came about the next day that when Moses went into the tent of the Testimony, look! Aaron's rod for the house of Levi had budded, and it was bringing forth buds and blossoming flowers and was bearing ripe **almonds**. (**Numbers 17:8**)
- **Almond** blossoms. The **almond** is among the first trees to bloom as winter ends. Thus its Hebrew name means awakening one.