

~APPLE (118)

[Hebrew, *tap-pu'ach*]

- There is much conjecture as to the identification of the tree and fruit denoted by the Hebrew word *tap-pu'ach*. The word itself indicates that which is distinguished by its **fragrance**, or **scent**. It comes from the root *na-phach'*, meaning blow, pant, struggle for breath.
- And Yehowah God proceeded to form the man out of dust from the ground and to **blow into his nostrils** the breath of life, and the man came to be a living soul. (**Genesis 2:7**)
- If its fruitage I have eaten without money, and the soul of its owners I have **caused to pant**. (**Job 31:39**)
- The woman giving birth to seven has faded away, her soul has **struggled for breath**. Her sun has set while it is yet day, it has become ashamed and felt abashed. And to the sword I shall give the mere remnant of them before their enemies, is the utterance of Yehowah. (**Jeremiah 15:9**)
- Regarding this, **M. C. Fisher** wrote; **The relationship to *na-phach'* seems at first semantically strained, but the ideas of breathe and exhale an odor are related. The by-form *puah* means both blow (of wind) and exhale a pleasant odor, be fragrant. [Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament, edited by R. L. Harris, 1980, Vol. 2, p. 586]**
- Several fruits have been suggested in place of the **apple**, including the orange, the citron, the quince, and the apricot. The main objection raised to the **apple** is that the hot, dry climate of most of Palestine is unfavorable to **apple** culture. However, the related Arabic word *tuffah* primarily means **apple**, and it is notable that the Hebrew place-names **Tappuah** and Beth-**tappuah**, probably so named because of the prevalence of this fruit in their vicinity, have been preserved in their Arabic equivalents by the use of this word.
- The king of **Tappuah**, one, the king of Hephher, one. (**Joshua 12:17**)
- And Zanoah and En-gannim, **Tappuah** and Enam. (**Joshua 15:34**)
- And Janim and Beth-**tappuah** and Aphekah. (**Joshua 15:53**)

- From **Tappuah** the boundary moved on westward to the torrent valley of Kanah, and its termination proved to be at the sea. This is the inheritance of the tribe of the sons of Ephraim by their families. (**Joshua 16:8**)
- The land of **Tappuah** became Manasseh's, but **Tappuah** at the boundary of Manasseh belonged to the sons of Ephraim. (**Joshua 17:8**)
- These places were not in the lowlands but in the hill country, where the climate is generally somewhat moderated. Additionally, the possibility of some climatic variations in the past cannot be completely ruled out. **Apple** trees do grow in Israel today and thus seem to fit the Bible description satisfactorily. William Thomson, who spent many years in Syria and Palestine in the past century, even reported finding apple orchards in the area of Ashkelon on the Plains of Philistia. [*The Land and the Book*, revised by J. Grande, 1910, pp. 545,546]
- The **apple** tree, *Pyrus malus*, is mentioned mainly in The Song of Solomon, where the expressions of love by the Shulammites shepherd companion are likened to the pleasant shade of the **apple** tree and the sweetness of its fruit.
- Like an **apple** tree among the trees of the forest, so is my dear one among the sons. His shade I have passionately desired, and there I have sat down, and his fruit has been sweet to my palate. (**Song of Solomon 2:3**)
- Do you people refresh me with cakes of raisins, sustain me with **apples**, for I am lovesick. (**Song of Solomon 2:5**)
- In turn, he compares her breath to the fragrance of **apples**.
- I have said; I shall go up on the palm tree, that I may take hold of its fruit stalks of dates. And, please, may your breasts become like clusters of the vine, and the fragrance of your nose like **apples**. (**Song of Solomon 7:8**)
- Who is this woman coming up from the wilderness, leaning upon her dear one? Under the **apple** tree I aroused you. There your mother was in birth pangs with you. There she that was giving birth to you experienced birth pangs. (**Song of Solomon 8:5**)

- As **apples** of gold in silver carvings is a word spoken at the right time for it. (**Proverbs 25:11**)
- Appropriate, opportune speech is likened to **apples** of gold in silver carvings. The only other reference to the apple is at,
- The vine itself has shown dryness, and even the fig tree has faded away. As for the pomegranate tree, also the palm tree and the **apple** tree, all the trees of the field, they have dried up, for exultation has gone ashamed away from the sons of mankind. (**Joel 1:12**)
- The common tradition as to the **apples** being the forbidden fruit of Eden is without any Scriptural basis whatsoever. Similarly, the expression **apple of the eye** is found in the **King James Version**.
- Keep me as the **pupil of the eyeball**, in the shadow of your wings may you conceal me. (**Psalms 17:8**)
- Keep my commandments and continue living, and my Law like the **pupil of your eyes**. (**Proverbs 7:2**)
- And others, but is not a Hebrew expression, the literal translation being **the pupil of one's eyeball**.