

~BACA (96)

(ba'ca) [Hebrew, *ba-kha ´*]

- The plant that played an important role in David's encounter with the Philistines in the low plain of Rephaim.
- Later the Philistines came up once again and tramped about in the low plain of Rephaim. (**2 Samuel 5:22**)
- At that David inquired of Yehowah, but he said; You must not go up. Go around to the rear of them, and you must come against them in front of the **baca** bushes. (**2 Samuel 5:23**)
- And let it occur that, when you hear the sound of a marching in the tops of the **baca** bushes, at that time you act with decision, because at that time Yehowah will have gone out ahead of you to strike down the camp of the Philistines. (**2 Samuel 5:24**)
- Accordingly David did that way, just as Yehowah had commanded him, and he went striking down the Philistines from Geba to as far as Gezer. (**2 Samuel 5:25**)
- Later the Philistines once again made a raid in the low plain. (**1 Chronicles 14:13**)
- At that David inquired again of God, and the true God now said to him, You must not go up after them. Go around from directly against them, and you must come at them in front of the **baca** bushes. (**1 Chronicles 14:14**)
- And let it occur that, when you hear the sound of the marching in the tops of the **baca** bushes, then you go out into the fight, because the true God will have gone out before you to strike the camp of the Philistines down. (**1 Chronicles 14:15**)
- So David did just as the true God had commanded him, and they went striking down the camp of the Philistines from Gibeon to Gezer. (**1 Chronicles 14:16**)
- The only other reference to the plant is at;
- Passing along through the low plain of the **baca** bushes, they

turn it into a spring itself, even with blessings the instructor enwraps himself. (**Psalms 84:6**)

- Passing along through the low plain of the **Baca** bushes, they turn it into a spring itself. This may refer to the same low plain of Rephaim where David's fight took place and which plain is believed to be Southwest of Jerusalem.
- The **Hebrew** word used comes from a root meaning weep.
- Then she went on and sat down by herself, about the distance of a bowshot away, because she said; Let me not see it when the child dies. So she sat down at a distance and began to raise her voice and weep. (**Genesis 21:16**)
- It therefore seems to indicate a plant, shrub, or tree that exudes tears of gum or perhaps a milky sap. Its identification is uncertain, the name **Baca** is simply a transliteration of the **Hebrew** word. There is no apparent foundation for the rabbinic view that relates it to the mulberry tree, as also translated in **KJ** .
- Since balsam trees, of which there are several in the different tree families, exude gum or resin, these have been suggested by many scholars. A balsam tree of the poplar family, *Populus euphratica*, is recommended by some botanists, primarily because of the ease with which its leaves are stirred by any breeze, producing a rustling sound.
- However, the Bible does not specify how the sound of a marching was produced, whether by means of the leaves, the branches, or some other part of the plant, and simply indicates that it occurred in the tops of the plants.
- It could have been a mere rustling sound that served as a signal, or as suggested by some, it may have been a noise of some volume produced by a rushing wind that served to cover up or even to simulate the sound of a marching army.
- And let it occur that, when you hear the sound of a marching in the tops of the **Baca** bushes, at that time you act with decision, because at that time Yehowah will have gone out ahead of you to strike down the camp of the Philistines. (**2 Samuel 5:24**)
- And let it occur that, when you hear the sound of the marching in the tops of the **Baca** bushes, then you go out into the fight,

because the true God will have gone out before you to strike the camp of the Philistines down. (**1 Chronicles 14:15**)