

~BDELLIUM GUM (43)

[Hebrew, *bedho'lach*]

- A **fragrant resinous gum resembling myrrh** in appearance and sometimes used to adulterate it. It is obtained from a tree, *Commiphora africana*, found in Northwest Africa and Arabia and also from a related type in Northwest India.

- This is a genus of small trees or bushes with a scrubby, spiny appearance and little foliage, growing in hot sunny places. When the bark is cut, a fragrant, **resinous juice, or gum, oozes out**. After the gum is removed from the tree it soon hardens, **becomes wax-like and transparent**, and is similar to a pearl in appearance.

See Also MYRRH

- In describing the land of Havilah encircled by the river Pishon, one of the four rivers branching off from the river issuing out of Eden, mention is made of its valuable things, gold, **bdellium gum**, and onyx stone.

- The first one's name is Pishon. It is the one encircling the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. (**Genesis 2:11**)

- And the gold of that land is good. There also are the **bdellium gum** and the onyx stone. (**Genesis 2:12**)

- Incidentally, the manna was like coriander seed, and its look was like the look of **bdellium gum**. (**Numbers 11:7**)

- The manna that the Israelites gathered during the wilderness trek is said to have had the look of **bdellium gum**. Manna had previously been likened to hoarfrost upon the earth.

- In time the layer of dew evaporated and here upon the surface of the wilderness there was a fine flaky thing, fine like hoarfrost upon the earth. (**Exodus 16:14**)

- This corresponds with the near-white color of **bdellium gum**. Josephus, in discussing the provision of the manna, refers to **bdellium** as a **spicy herb**. [*Jewish Antiquities*, III, 28, i, 6]

