

## ~BEE (170)

[Hebrew, *devoh-rah*]

- Biblical references in the main quite evidently relate to wild **honeybees**. The description of Canaan as a land flowing with milk and honey indicates that **bees** were very numerous in that land from early times.
- And I am proceeding to go down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a land good and spacious, to a land flowing with **milk and honey**, to the locality of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. (**Exodus 3:8**)
- The warm climate and the abundance of flowers continue to make it a land suitable for a large **bee** population, and **beekeeping** is very popular there in modern times. Of the more than **20,000 varieties of bees known**, the kind most common in Israel today is a **dark bee** called, *Apis mellifica syriaca*.
- The honey eaten by Jonathan during one military campaign was found in the woods, the **bees** nest likely being in a hollow tree.
- And all those of the land came into the woods, when **honey** happened to be over all the surface of the field. (**1 Samuel 14:25**)
- When the people came into the woods, why, look! There was a **dripping of honey**, but there was no one putting his hand to his mouth, because the people were afraid of the oath. (**1 Samuel 14:26**)
- As for Jonathan, he had not been listening when his father put the people under an oath, so he stretched out the tip of the rod that was in his hand and **dipped it into the honeycomb** and drew his hand back to his mouth, and **his eyes began to beam**. (**1 Samuel 14:27**)
- Wild **honeybees** of the Jordan Valley provided John the Baptizer with a large proportion of his food.
- But this very John had his clothing of camels hair and a leather girdle around his loins. His food too was insect locusts and **wild**

**honey.** (Matthew 3:4)

- **Bees** nest not only in trees but also in other hollow cavities, such as clefts of rocks and walls.
- He kept making him ride upon earth's high places, so that he ate the produce of the field. And he kept making him suck honey out of a crag, and oil out of a flinty rock. (Deuteronomy 32:13)
- And he will keep feeding him off the fat of the wheat, and out of the rock I shall satisfy you with **honey** itself. (Psalms 81:16)
- The account at;
- Accordingly Samson went on down with his father and his mother to Timnah. When he got as far as the vineyards of Timnah, why, look! A maned young lion roaring upon meeting him. (Judges 14:5)
- Then Yehowah's spirit became operative upon him, so that he tore it in two, just as someone tears a male kid in two, and there was nothing at all in his hand. And he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done. (Judges 14:6)
- And he continued on his way down and began to speak to the woman, and she was still right in Samson's eyes. (Judges 14:7)
- Now after a while he went on back to take her home. Meantime he turned aside to look at the carcass of the lion, and there, there was a swarm of **bees** in the lions corpse, and honey. (Judges 14:8)
- So he scraped it out into his palms and walked on, eating as he walked. When he rejoined his father and his mother, he at once gave them some, and they began to eat. And he did not tell them that it was out of the corpse of the lion that he had scraped the **honey**. (Judges 14:9)
- Has caused some question. Samson, having slain a lion, returned to find a **swarm of bees** in the lions corpse, and **honey**. The strong aversion of most **bees** to dead bodies and carrion is well known. It should be noted, however, that the account states that Samson returned after a while or, literally in the **Hebrew**, after days, a phrase that can refer to a period of even a year.

- And that man went up out of his city from year to year to prostrate himself and to sacrifice to Yehowah of armies in Shiloh. And there is where the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests to Yehowah. (**1 Samuel 1:3**)
- The expression from year to year in the Hebrew is literally from days to days.
- And during all this time I did not happen to be in Jerusalem, for in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes the king of Babylon I came to the king, and sometime later I asked leave of absence from the king. (**Nehemiah 13:6**)
- The time elapsed would allow for the scavenger birds or animals and also insects to have consumed much of the flesh and for the burning rays of the sun to desiccate the remainder. That a fair amount of time had passed is also evident from the fact that the **swarm of bees** not only had formed their nest within the lions corpse but also had produced a quantity of honey.
- The ferocity of attack by a disturbed **hive of bees** is used to describe the way in which the Amorites chased the Israelite forces out of their mountainous domain.
- Then the Amorites who were dwelling in that mountain came out to meet you and went chasing you, **just as bees do**, and scattering you in Seir as far as Hormah. (**Deuteronomy 1:44**)
- Comparing enemy nations to a swarm of **attacking bees**, the psalmist says they were held off only by faith in Yehowah's name.
- All the nations themselves surrounded me. It was in the name of Yehowah that I kept holding them off. (**Psalms 118:10**)
- They surrounded me, yes, they had me surrounded. It was in the name of Yehowah that I kept holding them off. (**Psalms 118:11**)
- They surrounded me **like bees**, they were extinguished like a fire of thornbushes. It was in the name of Yehowah that I kept holding them off. (**Psalms 118:12**)
- The prophet Isaiah graphically foretold the invasion of the Promised Land by the armies of Egypt and Assyria, likening their troops

to swarms of flies and **bees** for which Yehowah God figuratively whistles so that they come in and settle on the torrent valleys and the clefts of the crags.

- And it must occur in that day that Yehowah will whistle for the flies that are at the extremity of the Nile canals of Egypt and for the **bees** that are in the land of Assyria. (**Isaiah 7:18**)
- And they will certainly come in and settle down, all of them, upon the precipitous torrent valleys and upon the clefts of the crags and upon all the thorn thickets and upon all the watering places. (**Isaiah 7:19**)
- The **whistling** does not denote an actual practice among those keeping **bees** but simply indicates that Yehowah attracts the attention of the **aggressive nations to the land of his covenant people**.
- Two women in the Bible bore the name Deborah, meaning **Bee**, the nursing woman of Rebekah.
- Later **Deborah** the nursing woman of Rebekah died and was buried at the foot of Bethel under a massive tree. Hence he called its name Allonbacuth. (**Genesis 35:8**)
- And the prophetess who cooperated with Judge Barak in the defeat of Canaanite King Jabin.
- Now **Deborah**, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that particular time. (**Judges 4:4**)