

~BRIER (52)

[Hebrew, *bar-qanim'*]

- The brier is a plant with a **woody stem that is itself thorny or prickly**, and the name may refer to numerous plants of this type. Some scholars identify the Hebrew term *bar-qanim'* or briers, with that designated by a cognate noun in **Arabic**, the *Centaurea scoparius*, a common thistle-like plant with thorny heads.
- Gideon used *bar-qanim'* in punishing the men of Succoth for their refusal to supply bread to his hungry soldiers during his fight against the Midianites.
- But the princes of Succoth said; Are the palms of Zebah and of Zalmunna already in your hand so that bread has to be given to your army? (**Judges 8:6**)
- At this Gideon said; That is why when Yehowah gives Zebah and Zalmunna into my hand, I shall certainly give your flesh a threshing with the thorns of the wilderness and the **briers**. (**Judges 8:7**)
- Then he took the older men of the city and thorns of the wilderness and **briers**, and with them he put the men of Succoth through an experience. (**Judges 8:16**)
- The **Hebrew** word *che'dheq*, **brier** has been identified with *Solanum coagulans*, the gray nightshade, a spiny shrub. [Thesaurus of the Language of the Bible, edited in part by M. Z. Kaddari, Jerusalem, 1968, Vol. 3, p. 88]. Using the term *che'dheq*.
- The way of the lazy one is like a **brier hedge**, but the path of the upright one's is a way cast up. (**Proverbs 15:19**)
- Likens the path of the lazy man to a **brier hedge**, apparently in the sense of his envisioning or imagining difficulties and thorny problems in every possible undertaking, and on that basis excusing himself from moving ahead.
- The moral decay of the nation of Israel caused the prophet Micah to say of the people that their best one is like a **brier Hebrew**, *keche'dheq*, their most upright one is worse than a **thorn hedge**,

evidently meaning that even the best among the Israelites was as hurtful to those having dealings with him as is a **prickly brier** or a **thorn hedge** to anyone approaching too close.

- **Their best one is like a brier**, their most upright one is **worse than a thorn hedge**. The day of your watchmen, of your being given attention, must come. Now will occur the confounding of them. (Micah 7:4)