

~FRANKINCENSE (273)

[Hebrew, *levoh-nah'*, Greek, *li'ba-nos*]

- A product of incense trees and bushes of certain species belonging to the genus *Boswellia*, which are related to the turpentine, or terebinth, tree and also to trees producing balsam and myrrh.
- They are native to parts of Africa and Asia. The Hebrew term for frankincense *levoh-nah'* or *levo-nah'* comes from a root meaning be white and is evidently drawn from its milky color. The Greek *li'ba-nos* is derived from the Hebrew.
- The Song of Solomon mentions the hill of frankincense, apparently in a figurative way, but may indicate the cultivation of incense trees in Solomon's royal parks.
- Until the day breathes and the shadows have fled, I shall go my way to the mountain of myrrh and to the hill of **frankincense**. (Song of Solomon 4:6)
- A garden barred in is my sister, my bride, a garden barred in, a spring sealed up. (Song of Solomon 4:12)
- Your skin is a paradise of pomegranates, with the choicest fruits, henna plants along with spikenard plants. (Song of Solomon 4:13)
- Spikenard and saffron, cane and cinnamon, along with all sorts of trees of **frankincense**, myrrh and aloes, along with all the finest perfumes. (Song of Solomon 4:14)
- And a spring of gardens, a well of fresh water, and trickling streams from Lebanon. (Song of Solomon 4:15)
- Awake, O north wind, and come in, O south wind. Breathe upon my garden. Let its perfumes trickle. Let my dear one come into his garden and eat its choicest fruits. (Song of Solomon 4:16)
- I made gardens and parks for myself, and I planted in them fruit trees of all sorts. (Ecclesiastes 2:5)

- **Frankincense** was a principal item carried by the caravans of Oriental traders who traveled the spice routes out of South Arabia up to Gaza near the Mediterranean and to Damascus. Scriptural references indicated it was imported in this way into Palestine from Sheba.
- The heaving mass of camels itself will cover you, the young male camels of Midian and of Ephah. All those from Sheba, they will come. Gold and **frankincense** they will carry. And the praises of Yehowah they will announce. (**Isaiah 60:6**)
- What does this matter to me that you bring in even **frankincense** from Sheba and the good cane from the land far away? The whole burnt offerings of you people serve for no pleasure, and your very sacrifices have not been gratifying to me. (**Jeremiah 6:20**)
- **Frankincense** is obtained by making successive incisions in the bark or by peeling off the bark at intervals, causing a white juice, after several incisions it is spotted with yellow or red, to flow and form into tears of about 2.5 centimeters (1 inches) in length.
- When gathered, the frankincense consists of a fragrant gum resin in small chunks, or beads, that have a bitter taste and produce an aromatic odor when burned.
- What is this thing that is coming up from the wilderness like columns of smoke, being perfumed with myrrh and **frankincense**, even with every sort of scent powder of a trader? (**Song of Solomon 3:6**)
- Aside from the references in The Song of Solomon, **frankincense** is regularly mentioned in the Hebrew Scriptures in connection with worship.
- But thanks be to God who always leads us in a triumphal procession in company with the Christ and makes the odor of the knowledge of him perceptible through us in every place! (**2 Corinthians 2:14**)
- For to God we are a sweet odor of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. (**2 Corinthians 2:15**)

- To the latter ones an odor issuing from death to death, to the former ones an odor issuing from life to life. And who is adequately qualified for these things? (**2 Corinthians 2:16**)
- It was an ingredient of the holy incense used at the sanctuary.
- And Yehowah went on to say to Moses; Take to yourself perfumes, stacte drops and onycha and perfumed galbanum and pure **frankincense**. There should be the same portion of each. (**Exodus 30:34**)
- And you must make it into an incense, a spice mixture, the work of an ointment maker, salted, pure, something holy. (**Exodus 30:35**)
- And you must pound some of it into fine powder and put some of it before the Testimony in the tent of meeting, where I shall present myself to you. It should be most holy to you people. (**Exodus 30:36**)
- And the incense that you will make with this composition, you must not make for yourselves. For you it is to continue as something holy to Yehowah. (**Exodus 30:37**)
- Whoever makes any like it to enjoy its smell must be cut off from his people. (**Exodus 30:38**)
- And was used on grain offerings,
- Now in case some soul would present as an offering a grain offering to Yehowah, his offering should prove to be fine flour, and he must pour oil over it and put **frankincense** upon it. (**Leviticus 2:1**)
- And he must bring it to the sons of Aaron, the priests, and the priest must grasp from it his handful of its fine flour and its oil along with all its **frankincense**, and he must make it smoke as a remembrancer of it upon the altar, as an offering made by fire of a restful odor to Yehowah. (**Leviticus 2:2**)
- And you must put oil upon it and place **frankincense** upon it. It is a grain offering. (**Leviticus 2:15**)
- And the priest must make the remembrancer of it smoke, that is,

- some of its grits and oil, along with all its **frankincense**, as an offering made by fire to Yehowah. (**Leviticus 2:16**)
- And one of them must lift up by his handful some of the fine flour of the grain offering and some of its oil and all the **frankincense** that is upon the grain offering, and he must make it smoke upon the altar as a restful odor for a **remembrancer** of it to Yehowah. (**Leviticus 6:15**)
 - And people will actually come from the cities of Judah and from round about Jerusalem and from the land of Benjamin and from the lowland and from the mountainous region and from the Negeb, bringing whole burnt offering and sacrifice and grain offering and **frankincense** and bringing thanksgiving sacrifice into the house of Yehowah. (**Jeremiah 17:26**)
 - And it came about on the second day of the putting of Gedaliah to death, when there was no one at all that knew it. (**Jeremiah 41:4**)
 - Then there came men from Shechem, from Shiloh and from Samaria, eighty men with their beards shaved off and with their garments ripped apart and with cuts made upon themselves, and there were grain offering and **frankincense** in their hand to bring to the house of Yehowah. (**Jeremiah 41:5**)
 - And on each row of the showbread of the sanctuary
 - And you must put pure **frankincense** upon each layer set, and it must serve as the bread for a **remembrancer**, an offering made by fire to Yehowah. (**Leviticus 24:7**)
 - But it was not to be included on sin offerings,
 - Now if he does not have the means for two turtledoves or two young pigeons, then he must bring as his offering for the sin he has committed the tenth of an ephah of fine flour for a sin offering. He must not put oil upon it and he must not place **frankincense** upon it, for it is a sin offering. (**Leviticus 5:11**)
 - Or on the **grain offering of jealousy**.
 - Then the man must bring his wife to the priest and bring her offering along with her, a tenth of an ephah of barley flour. He

must not pour oil upon it nor put **frankincense** upon it, because it is a **grain offering of jealousy**, a memorial grain offering **bringing error to remembrance**. (**Numbers 5:15**)

- This was doubtless because the latter offerings had to do with sin, or error, and were not offered up as a sacrifice of praise or thanksgiving to Yehowah.
- **Frankincense** is mentioned as being stored in the rebuilt temple buildings, following the return from Babylonian exile.
- And some of them were men appointed over the utensils and over all the holy utensils and over the fine flour and the wine and the oil and the **frankincense** and the balsam oil. (**1 Chronicles 9:29**)
- And he proceeded to make for him a large dining hall, where previously they were regularly putting the grain offering, the **frankincense** and the utensils and the tenth of the grain, the new wine and the oil, to which the Levites and the singers and the gatekeepers are entitled, and the contribution for the priests. (**Nehemiah 13:5**)
- After that I said the word and they cleansed the dining halls, and I proceeded to put back there the utensils of the house of the true God, with the grain offering and the **frankincense**. (**Nehemiah 13:9**)
- The Oriental astrologers who visited the child Jesus brought **frankincense** with them.
- And when they went into the house they saw the young child with Mary its mother, and, falling down, they did obeisance to it. They also opened their treasures and presented it with gifts, gold and **frankincense** and myrrh. (**Matthew 2:11**)
- And it is mentioned as one of the items of commerce sold to Babylon the Great before her destruction.
- That is why in one day her plagues will come, death and mourning and famine, and she will be completely burned with fire, because Yehowah God, who judged her, is strong. (**Revelation 18:8**)

- And the kings of the earth who committed fornication with her and lived in shameless luxury will weep and beat themselves in grief over her, when they look at the smoke from the burning of her. (**Revelation 18:9**)
- While they stand at a distance because of their fear of her torment and say; Too bad, too bad, you great city, Babylon you strong city, because in one hour your judgment has arrived! (**Revelation 18:10**)
- Also, the traveling merchants of the earth are weeping and mourning over her, because there is no one to buy their full stock anymore. (**Revelation 18:11**)
- A full stock of gold and silver and precious stone and pearls and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet, and everything in scented wood and every sort of ivory object and every sort of object out of most precious wood and of copper and of iron and of marble. (**Revelation 18:12**)
- Also cinnamon and Indian spice and incense and perfumed oil and **frankincense** and wine and olive oil and fine flour and wheat and cattle and sheep, and horses and coaches and slaves and human souls. (**Revelation 18:13**)
- The **Greek** term for the heavenly incense vessel, at;
- And another angel arrived and stood at the altar, having a golden incense vessel, and a large quantity of incense was given him to offer it with the prayers of all the holy ones upon the golden altar that was before the throne. (**Revelation 8:3**)
- But right away the angel took the incense vessel, and he filled it with some of the fire of the altar and hurled it to the earth. And thunders occurred and voices and lightnings and an earthquake. (**Revelation 8:5**)
- Is *li-ba-no-tos'* and it is derived from the **Hebrew** word for **frankincense**.
- The prophet Isaiah records Yehowah's displeasure and disapproval of gifts and the use of **frankincense** when offered by those who reject his Word.

- **The one slaughtering the bull is as one striking down a man. The one sacrificing the sheep is as one breaking the neck of a dog. The one offering up a gift, the blood of a pig! The one presenting a memorial of **frankincense** is as one saying a blessing with uncanny words. They are also the ones that have chosen their own ways, and in their disgusting things their very soul has taken a delight. (**Isaiah 66:3**)**