

~JERBOA (70)

[Hebrew, *`akh-bar'*]

- The Hebrew word *`akh-bar'*, variously rendered, **mouse**, **rat**, **jerboa**, and **jumping rodent**, is understood by many scholars as possibly embracing **all varieties of rats, mice, and related animals such as the jerboa.**
- However, a **Hebrew and Aramaic lexicon** by Koehler and Baumgartner, gives the meaning of the Hebrew term as, **jerboa.**
- The jerboa is a jumping rodent that somewhat resembles a miniature kangaroo and is still encountered in the arid parts of the Middle East. The desert **jerboa**, *Jaculus jaculus*, has a body length of from 10 to 15 centimeters (4-6 inches) and weighs 50 to 70 grams (1.8-2.5 ounces).
- Their ears and eyes are large. The front limbs are short, but the two hind limbs measure about two thirds of the total head and body length.
- The tail is the longest part of the animal and terminates in a small brush. This nocturnal animal prefers desert lands, spending the hot day in its underground burrow but venturing forth during the cooler night to procure food.
- Although the Arabs inhabiting the Syrian desert use the jerboa for food, it was legally unclean to the Israelites.
- And this is what is unclean to you among the swarming creatures that swarm upon the earth, the mole rat and the **jerboa** and the lizard according to its kind. (**Leviticus 11:29**)
- But it seems that apostate Israelites ignored this prohibition of the Law.
- Those sanctifying themselves and cleansing themselves for the gardens behind one in the center, eating the flesh of the pig and the loathsome thing, even the jumping rodent, they will all together reach their end, is the utterance of Yehowah. (**Isaiah 66:17**) **Footnote**

- **Jerboas** are destructive to grain and other crops. During the time the sacred Ark was in the territory of the Philistines, the divinely sent plague of **jerboas** brought the land to ruin.
- At this they said; What is the guilt offering that we ought to return to him? Then they said; According to the number of the axis lords of the Philistines, five golden piles and five golden **jerboas**, for every one of you and your axis lords have the same scourge. (**1 Samuel 6:4**)
- And you must make images of your piles and images of your **jerboas** that are bringing the land to ruin, and you must give glory to the God of Israel. Perhaps he will lighten his hand from off you and your god and your land. (**1 Samuel 6:5**)
- Then they put the ark of Yehowah upon the wagon, and also the box and the golden **jerboas** and the images of their piles. (**1 Samuel 6:11**)
- And the golden **jerboas** were to the number of all the cities of the Philistines belonging to the five axis lords, from the fortified city to the village of the open country. And the great stone upon which they rested the ark of Yehowah is a witness down to this day in the field of Joshua the Beth-shemite. (**1 Samuel 6:18**)