

~LEEK (44)

[Hebrew, *cha-tsir*]

- One of the items of diet for which the mixed crowd and the Israelites longed while in the wilderness.
- And the mixed crowd that was in the midst of them expressed selfish longing, and the sons of Israel too began to weep again and say; Who will give us meat to eat? (**Numbers 11:4**)
- How we remember the fish that we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers and the watermelons and the **leeks** and the onions and the garlic! (**Numbers 11:5**)
- The **Hebrew** word *cha-tsir*, rendered, **leeks**, in this text, may possibly come from the same root as the identical Hebrew word translated, **green grass**.
- The **green grass** has dried up, the blossom has withered, because the very spirit of Yehowah has blown upon it. Surely the people are green grass. (**Isaiah 40:7**)
- The **green grass** has dried up, the blossom has withered, but as for the word of our God, it will last to time indefinite. (**Isaiah 40:8**)
- This item of diet is listed along with onions and garlic, specific plant foods very similar to **leeks**, indicating that a definite vegetable, rather than grass in general, is meant. Also, from ancient times **leeks** have enjoyed great popularity in Egypt and are still commonly eaten there as well as in Palestine.
- The **leek**, *Allium porrum*, is much like the onion but is distinguished from the latter by its milder flavor, slender cylindrical shape, and juicy, grasslike leaves measuring about 2.5 centimeters (1 inches) in width.
- The flower stem, terminating in a large compact ball of flowers, may attain a height of about 0.6 meters (2 feet). The bulbs and leaves of this biennial plant are cooked as a vegetable and used as a seasoning, they are also eaten raw.

