

~LENTIL (53)

[Hebrew, *`adha-shah*]

- An annual plant of the legume family that has long been cultivated by man and is still extensively grown in Egypt and Israel, as well as in other lands.
- And it came about that, as soon as David came to Mahanaim, Shobi the son of Nahash from Rabbah of the sons of Ammon, and Machir the son of Ammiel from Lo-debar, and Barzillai the Gileadite from Rogelim ([2 Samuel 17:27](#))
- Brought beds and basins and potters vessels, and wheat and barley and flour and roasted grain and broad beans and **lentils** and parched grain. ([2 Samuel 17:28](#))
- And next to him was Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. And the Philistines proceeded to gather themselves to Lehi, where there then happened to be a tract of the field full of **lentils**, and the people themselves fled because of the Philistines. ([2 Samuel 23:11](#))
- This small plant, *Lens esculenta*, measuring from 15 to 46 centimeters (6 to 18 inches) in height, thrives in light, dry soil. Its compound leaves, generally consisting of six pairs of oblong leaflets, terminate in tendrils. Slender branchlets bear two to four small pea-like flowers each.
- The short pods that develop from the flowers resemble those of the pea, and usually they contain two small lens-shaped seeds. The color of the seeds and that of the flowers differs with the variety of **lentil** plant.
- The seeds may be reddish brown, gray, or black, and the flowers, white or pale blue. Rich in protein and carbohydrates, the seeds are, as in the past, commonly used for soups.
- And Jacob gave Esau bread and **lentil** stew, and he went to eating and drinking. Then he got up and went his way. So Esau despised the birthright. ([Genesis 25:34](#))

- In combination with barley, **lentils** have been used for making bread.
- And as for you, take for yourself wheat and barley and broad beans and **lentils** and millet and spelt, and you must put them in one utensil and make them into bread for you, for the number of the days that you are lying upon your side, three hundred and ninety days you will eat it. (**Ezekiel 4:9**)
- The plant itself serves well as a fodder for livestock.