

~LIZARD (56)

[Hebrew, *tsav*]

- **Lizards** are four-legged reptiles, generally small, with long tails and scaly skin. The **lizard's** legs are attached far enough out at the sides to enable it to rest its belly on the ground without folding its feet under it. More than 40 kinds are found in Palestine.
- They are to be found in trees, in warm crevices of rocks, and on walls and ceilings in homes. The **lizard** is included among the unclean swarming creatures at;
- 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)
- It is suggested that the Hebrew name for it is derived from a root meaning **cleave to ground**. The **Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament** by Brown, Driver, and Briggs [1980, p. 839] suggests **lizard** as the translation.
- Evidently the **Hebrew** term *tsav* at least includes the Agamidae family of lizards, for the equivalent **Arabic** term *dabb* refers to the Egyptian **spiny-tailed lizard**, *Uromastix aegyptius*, the largest of the species of *Agamidae* found in Israel.

See Also CHAMELEON

See Also GECKO

See Also SAND LIZARD

- Lexicons generally suggest that the **Hebrew** word *ko'ach* also refers to a kind of **lizard**. Since the root meaning of the name is **power** or **strength**, it may refer to the **desert monitor lizard**, *Varanus griseus*, a powerful, large lizard.
- It inhabits dry, sandy desert areas. In Palestine this lizard reaches a length of about 1.2 meters (4 feet). It is an eater of carrion and is on the list of **unclean** foods.
- 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)

- And the gecko fanfoot and the large **lizard** and the newt and the sand **lizard** and the chameleon. (**Leviticus 11:30**)
- Another creature listed as unclean for Israelite use as food is referred to by the **Hebrew** word *cho'met*, at;
- And the gecko fanfoot and the large **lizard** and the newt and the sand lizard and the chameleon. (**Leviticus 11:30**)
- Some recent translations, **RS**, **NW**, render this, **sand lizard**. The **sand lizard** is possibly a **skink**.