

## ~LOCUST (355)

[Hebrew, *ar-beh'*, Greek, *a-kris'*]

.. A Clean Food

.. Locust Plagues

.. Figurative Use

- Any of a variety of grasshoppers with short antennae or feelers, especially those that migrate in great swarms. Of the several Hebrew words rendered, locust, '*ar-beh'*' appears most frequently and is understood to refer to the migratory locust, the insect in its fully developed, winged stage.
- These are the ones of them you may eat of: the migratory **locust** according to its kind, and the edible **locust** after its kind, and the cricket according to its kind, and the grasshopper according to its kind. (**Leviticus 11:22**) Footnote
- The Hebrew word *ye'leq* refers to the **creeping, wingless locust**, that is, one that is at an immature stage of development.
- He said that the **locusts** should come in, and a species of locust, even without number. (**Psalms 105:34**) Footnote
- What was left by the caterpillar, the **locust** has eaten, and what was left by the **locust**, the **creeping, unwinged locust** has eaten, and what the **creeping, unwinged locust** has left, the cockroach has eaten. (**Joel 1:4**)
- The Hebrew term *sol-`am*, **edible locust**, possibly refers to a leaper and not a flier.
- These are the ones of them you may eat of, the migratory **locust** according to its kind, and the edible **locust** after its kind, and the cricket according to its kind, and the grasshopper according to its kind. (**Leviticus 11:22**) Footnote
- A **locust** swarm is denoted by the Hebrew term *goh-vai'*.
- This is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah caused me to see, and, look! He was forming a **locust** swarm at the start of the coming up of the later sowing. And, look! It was the later sowing after the mown grass of the king. (**Amos 7:1**)

- The Greek word *a-kris'* is rendered **insect locust** and **locust**.
- But this very John had his clothing of camels hair and a leather girdle around his loins, his food too was insect **locusts** and wild honey. (**Matthew 3:4**)
- And the likenesses of the **locusts** resembled horses prepared for battle, and upon their heads were what seemed to be crowns like gold, and their faces were as men's faces. (**Revelation 9:7**)
- The **locust** measures 5 centimeters (2 inches) or more in length. It is equipped with two pairs of wings, four walking legs, and two much longer leaper legs with broad thighs.
- The wide, transparent back wings, when not in use, lie folded under the thick membranous front wings. By means of its leaper legs, the insect is able to jump many times the length of its body.
- Can you cause it to leap like a **locust**? The dignity of its snorting is frightful. (**Job 39:20**)
- In Scripture the **locust** is at times used to represent innumerableness.
- For they and their livestock would come up with their tents. They would come as numerous as the **locusts**, and they and their camels were without number, and they would come into the land to ruin it. (**Judges 6:5**)
- Now Midian and Amalek and all the Easterners were plumped in the low plain as numerous as **locusts**, and their camels were without number, as numerous as the grains of sand that are on the seashore. (**Judges 7:12**)
- They will certainly cut down her forest, is the utterance of Yehowah, for it could not be penetrated. For they have become more numerous than the **locust**, and they are without number. (**Jeremiah 46:23**)
- Even there fire will devour you. A sword will cut you off. It will devour you like the **locust** species. Make yourself heavy in numbers like the locust species, make yourself heavy in numbers like the locust. (**Nahum 3:15**)

- Your guardsmen are like the **locust**, and your recruiting officers like the **locust** swarm. They are camping in the stone pens in a cold day. The sun itself has but to shine forth, and away they certainly flee, and their place is really unknown where they are. (**Nahum 3:17**)

## •• A Clean Food

- The Law designated **locusts** as clean for food.
- Only this is what you may eat of all the winged swarming creatures that go upon all fours, those that have leaper legs above their feet with which to leap upon the earth. (**Leviticus 11:21**)
- These are the ones of them you may eat of, the migratory **locust** according to its kind, and the edible **locust** after its kind, and the cricket according to its kind, and the grasshopper according to its kind. (**Leviticus 11:22**)
- John the Baptizer, in fact, subsisted on insect **locusts** and honey.
- But this very John had his clothing of camels hair and a leather girdle around his loins, his food too was **insect locusts** and wild honey. (**Matthew 3:4**)
- These insects are said to taste something like shrimp or crab and are rich in protein, desert **locusts**, according to an analysis made at Jerusalem, consist of 75 percent protein. When used for food today, the head, legs, wings, and abdomen are removed. The remaining portion, the thorax, is cooked or eaten raw.

## •• Locust Plagues

- In Bible times a **locust** plague was a severe calamity and, on occasion, an expression of Yehowah's judgment, as was the eighth plague on ancient Egypt.
- For if you continue refusing to send my people away, here I am bringing **locusts** within your boundaries tomorrow. (**Exodus 10:4**)
- And they will actually cover the visible surface of the earth and it will not be possible to see the earth, and they will simply eat up

the rest of what has escaped, what has been left to you people by the hail, and they will certainly eat every sprouting tree of yours out of the field. (**Exodus 10:5**)

- And your houses and the houses of all your servants and the houses of all Egypt will be filled to an extent that your fathers and your father's fathers have not seen it from the day of their existing upon the ground until this day. With that he turned and went out from Pharaoh. (**Exodus 10:6**)
- Yehowah now said to Moses; Stretch your hand out over the land of Egypt for the **locusts**, that they may come up over the land of Egypt and eat up all the vegetation of the land, everything that the hail has let remain. (**Exodus 10:12**)
- At once Moses stretched his rod out over the land of Egypt, and Yehowah caused an east wind to blow upon the land all that day and all night. The morning came and the east wind carried the **locusts**. (**Exodus 10:13**)
- And the locusts began to come up over all the land of Egypt and to settle down upon all the territory of Egypt. They were very burdensome. Before them there had never turned up in this way **locusts** like them, and there will never turn up any in this way after them. (**Exodus 10:14**)
- And they went covering the visible surface of the entire land, and the land grew dark, and they went on eating up all the vegetation of the land and all the fruit of the trees that the hail had left, and there was left nothing green on the trees or on the vegetation of the field in all the land of Egypt. (**Exodus 10:15**)
- So Pharaoh hurriedly called Moses and Aaron and said; I have sinned against Yehowah your God and against you. (**Exodus 10:16**)
- And now pardon, please, my sin just this once and entreat Yehowah your God that he may turn away just this deadly plague from upon me. (**Exodus 10:17**)
- So he went out from Pharaoh and made entreaty to Yehowah. (**Exodus 10:18**)
- Then Yehowah made a shift to a very stiff west wind, and it

carried the **locusts** away and drove them into the Red Sea. Not a single locust was let remain in all the territory of Egypt. (**Exodus 10:19**)

- A lot of seed you will take out to the field, but little will you gather, because the **locust** will devour it. (**Deuteronomy 28:38**)
- In case a famine occurs in the land, in case a pestilence occurs, in case scorching, mildew, **locusts**, cockroaches occur, in case their enemy besieges them in the land of their gates, any sort of plague, any sort of malady. (**1 Kings 8:37**)
- In case a famine occurs in the land, in case a pestilence occurs, in case scorching and mildew, **locusts** and cockroaches occur, in case their enemies besiege them in the land of their gates, any sort of plague and any sort of malady. (**2 Chronicles 6:28**)
- And he began to give to the cockroaches their yield, and their toil to the **locusts**. (**Psalms 78:46**)
- He said that the **locusts** should come in, and a species of locust, even without number. (**Psalms 105:34**)
- **Locusts**, brought by the wind, arrive suddenly, but the sound of their coming, compared in Scripture to that of chariots and of a fire consuming stubble.
- What was left by the caterpillar, the **locust** has eaten, and what was left by the locust, the creeping, unwinged **locust** has eaten, and what the **creeping, unwinged locust** has left, the cockroach has eaten. (**Joel 1:4**)
- As with the sound of chariots on the tops of the mountains they keep skipping about, as with the sound of a flaming fire that is devouring stubble. It is like a mighty people, drawn up in battle order. (**Joel 2:5**)
- And I will make compensation to you for the years that the **locust**, the **creeping, unwinged locust**, and the cockroach and the caterpillar have eaten, my great military force that I have sent among you. (**Joel 2:25**)

- Can, it is said, be heard at a distance of about 10 kilometers (6 miles). Their flight is largely dependent on the wind, which, when favorable, enables them to cover many kilometers.
- **Locust** swarms have even been seen by persons at sea more than 1,600 kilometers (1,000 miles) from land. Unfavorable winds, though, can drive them into the water to their death.
- At once Moses stretched his rod out over the land of Egypt, and Yehowah caused an east wind to blow upon the land all that day and all night. The morning came and the east wind carried the **locusts**. (**Exodus 10:13**)
- Then Yehowah made a shift to a very stiff west wind, and it carried the **locusts** away and drove them into the Red Sea. Not a single locust was let remain in all the territory of Egypt. (**Exodus 10:19**)
- The effect of a large swarm in flight, reaching over 1,500 meters (5,000 feet in height) is comparable to a cloud that intercepts the light of the sun.
- Before it the land has become agitated, the heavens have rocked. Sun and moon themselves have become dark, and the very stars have withdrawn their brightness. (**Joel 2:10**)
- An invasion of **locusts** can transform a land from a paradise-like state into a wilderness, for their appetite is voracious.
- Ahead of it a fire has devoured, and behind it a flame consumes. Like the garden of Eden the land is ahead of it, but behind it is a desolate wilderness, and there has also proved to be nothing thereof escaping. (**Joel 2:3**)
- A single migratory **locust** consumes its own body weight in food in a day, that is proportionately 60 to 100 times as much as a human consumes.
- They eat not only greenery but also linen, wool, silk, and leather, not even sparing the varnish on the furniture as they penetrate the houses. The daily food consumption of a large swarm has been estimated as equaling that of a million and a half men.

- A swarm of **locusts** progresses like a well-organized, disciplined fighting force, but without king or leader, this testifying to their instinctive wisdom.
- There are four things that are the smallest of the earth, but they are instinctively wise. (**Proverbs 30:24**)
- The **locusts** have no king, and yet they go forth all of them divided into groups. (**Proverbs 30:27**)
- Even though many perish, the onslaught continues. Fires built to check their advance are extinguished by the bodies of the dead **locusts**. Water-filled ditches are of no avail in impeding their progress, for these likewise become filled with their dead bodies.
- Like powerful men they run. Like men of war they go up a wall. And they go each one in his own ways, and they do not alter their paths. (**Joel 2:7**)
- And one another they do not shove. As an able-bodied man in his course, they keep going, and should some fall even among the missiles, the others do not break off course. (**Joel 2:8**)
- Into the city they rush. On the wall they run. On the houses they go up. Through the windows they go in like the thief. (**Joel 2:9**)
- There is no known natural enemy that can keep their devastating migrations in check, wrote a zoology professor. [**The New York Times Magazine, The Locust War, May 22,1960, p. 96**]
- Describing **locust** plagues in more recent times, [**Grzimek's Animal Life Encyclopedia [1975, Vol. 2, pp. 109,110]** reports: Several species of spur-throated grasshoppers cause locust plagues even today in Africa and other parts of the world.
- Their occasional increase to tremendous numbers and widespread migrations caused great damage to food crops in recent times. In **1873-1875 C.E.** in Europe and **1874-1877 C.E.** in the U.S.A. the outbreaks were extremely severe.
- In **1955 C.E.** a swarm of migratory locusts 250 kilometers long and 20 kilometers wide attacked southern Morocco. Again, in **1961/62 C.E.**, there was a plague there which could not be effectively combated

As a result, within five days the locusts had caused damage amounting to more than a billion francs in an area of over 5000 square kilometers.

- In the five days, the migratory locusts consumed 7000 tons of oranges, the equivalent of 60,000 kilograms per hour. This is more than the yearly consumption of the entire country of France.

## •• Figurative Use

- Research indicates that the life span of the **locust** is between four and six months. Appropriately, therefore, the symbolic **locusts** of;

- And it was granted the **locusts**, not to kill them, but that these should be tormented five months, and the torment upon them was as torment by a scorpion when it strikes a man. (**Revelation 9:5**)

- Are said to torment men for five months, or what would commonly be their full life span.

- When describing Assyria's military men.

- You have multiplied your tradesmen more than the stars of the heavens. As for the **locust** species, it actually strips off its skin, then it flies away. (**Nahum 3:16**)

- Mentions the **locusts** stripping off of its skin. The **locust** sheds its skin five times to reach adult size. At;

- Your guardsmen are like the **locust**, and your recruiting officers like the **locust** swarm. They are camping in the stone pens in a cold day. The sun itself has but to shine forth, and away they certainly flee, and their place is really unknown where they are. (**Nahum 3:17**)

- The Assyrian guardsmen and recruiting officers are compared to **locusts** that camp in stone pens during a cold day but flee when the sun shines forth.

- The allusion here may be to the fact that cold weather makes the insects numb, causing them to hide in the crevices of walls until such time as they are warmed by the sun's rays, after which they fly away. It is reported that not until their bodies reach about 21° Centigrade (70° Fahrenheit) can locusts fly.



