

~MINT (35)

[Greek, *he-dy'o-smon*]

- A strongly scented herb, sole mention of which is made in Scripture with reference to the scrupulous care exercised by the scribes and Pharisees in giving the tenth of the **mint**, while disregarding the weightier matters of the Law.
- Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you give the tenth of the **mint** and the dill and the cumin, but you have disregarded the weightier matters of the Law, namely, justice and mercy and faithfulness. These things it was binding to do, yet not to disregard the other things. (**Matthew 23:23**)
- But woe to you Pharisees, because you give the tenth of the **mint** and the rue and of every other vegetable, but you pass by the justice and the love of God! These things you were under obligation to do, but those other things not to omit. (**Luke 11:42**)
- Several varieties of **mint** are found in Palestine and Syria, the **horsemint**, *Mentha longifolia*, being the more common. Likely the **Greek** word *he-dy'o-smon*, literally, sweet-smelling, was not restricted to a particular variety but embraced the various known kinds of **mint**.
- The stems of **mint** plants are square, with the leaves growing in twos, one on each side of the stem. The small, bluish or pinkish-white flowers are arranged in clusters, forming either separate whorls or terminal spikes. From ancient times mint has been used in medicine and for flavoring food, this is because of the fragrant oil contained in the plants leaves and stems.