

~MYRTLE (82)

[Hebrew, *hadhas*]

- The **myrtle**, *Myrtus communis*, grows as either a shrub or a tree and is common in Israel and Lebanon, growing well in stony soil. It is capable of reaching a height of 9 meters (30 feet) but is usually found as a shrub 2 to 3 meters (7 to 10 feet) high.
- An evergreen, it is quite bushy in branch structure and has thick, shiny, dark-green leaves, it blossoms with clusters of fragrant white flowers that mature into blue-black berries.
- Almost the entire plant has a fragrant spicy oil used in perfumes. The berries, though aromatic, are edible. The **myrtle** is found today particularly in Upper Galilee and the valley of the Jordan, but it also grows in the Jerusalem area, as it evidently did at the time of Zechariah's vision recorded at;
- I saw in the night, and, look! A man riding on a red horse, and he was standing still among the **myrtle** trees that were in the deep place, and behind him there were horses red, bright red, and white. (**Zechariah 1:8**)
- And so I said; Who are these, my lord? At that the angel who was speaking with me said to me; I myself shall show you who these very ones are. (**Zechariah 1:9**)
- Then the man who was standing still among the myrtle trees answered and said; These are the ones whom Yehowah has sent forth to walk about in the earth. (**Zechariah 1:10**)
- And they proceeded to answer the angel of Yehowah who was standing among the **myrtle** trees and to say; We have walked about in the earth, and, look! The whole earth is sitting still and having no disturbance. (**Zechariah 1:11**)
- Therefore this is what Yehowah has said; I shall certainly return to Jerusalem with mercies. My own house will be built in her, is the utterance of Yehowah of armies, and a measuring line itself will be stretched out over Jerusalem. (**Zechariah 1:16**)

- Fragrant branches of **myrtle** were used along with the branches of other trees to cover the temporary outdoor huts or booths used by the Hebrews during the Festival of Booths.
- Then they found written in the Law that Yehowah had commanded by means of Moses that the sons of Israel should dwell in booths during the festival in the seventh month. (**Nehemiah 8:14**)
- And that they should make proclamation and cause a call to pass throughout all their cities and throughout Jerusalem, saying; Go out to the mountainous region and bring in olive leaves and the leaves of oil trees and **myrtle leaves** and palm leaves and the leaves of branchy trees to make booths, according to what is written. (**Nehemiah 8:15**)
- In the restoration prophecies the **myrtle tree** with its fragrance and beauty is foretold to grow in place of the stinging nettle and to spring up even in the wilderness.
- In the wilderness I shall set the cedar tree, the acacia and the **myrtle** and the oil tree. In the desert plain I shall place the juniper tree, the ash and the cypress at the same time. (**Isaiah 41:19**)
- Instead of the thicket of thorns the juniper tree will come up. Instead of the stinging nettle the **myrtle tree** will come up. And it must become for Yehowah something famous, a sign to time indefinite that will not be cut off. (**Isaiah 55:13**)
- The **Hebrew** name of **Esther**, wife of Persian King Ahasuerus, was Hadassah, which **means**, **Myrtle**.
- And he came to be the caretaker of Hadassah, that is, Esther, the daughter of his father's brother, for she had neither father nor mother, and the young woman was pretty in form and beautiful in appearance, and at the death of her father and her mother Mordecai took her as his daughter. (**Esther 2:7**)