

~NUT TREES (30)

[Hebrew, *'eghohz'*]

- The Shulammite maiden in;
- To the garden of **nut** trees I had gone down, to see the buds in the torrent valley, to see whether the vine had sprouted, whether the pomegranate trees had blossomed. (**Song of Solomon 6:11**)
- Speaks of going down to the garden of **nut** trees. The nut trees here referred to may well have been **walnut** trees, *Juglans regia*. This tree is native to southeastern Europe and western Asia and is presently cultivated in Galilee and on the slopes of Lebanon and Mount Hermon.
- The Jewish historian Josephus speaks of it as growing in abundance in the area of the Sea of Galilee in the **First Century C.E.** [*The Jewish War, III, 516,517, x, 8*]
- The **walnut** is a handsome tree, growing up to 9 meters (30 feet) high, with fragrant leaves that provide excellent shade. The wood is close-grained and prized for its beauty by cabinetmakers.
- The fruit of the tree is encased in a husk containing tannic acid and, when boiled, produces a rich-brown dye. The **nutmeats** are highly valued for their rich taste and are pressed to produce an oil nearly equal to olive oil in quality.