

~PISTACHIO NUT (39)

[Hebrew, *bot-nah*]

- The fruit of the *Pistacia vera* tree. This deciduous tree thrives in dry areas and seldom reaches a height in excess of 9 meters (30 feet). The nuts measure 1.5 to 2 centimeters (0.6 to 0.8 inches) in length and grow in large clusters.
- The thin, but hard, light-colored shell of ripe **pistachio** nuts is covered with a somewhat wrinkly husk. Each nut contains one yellow-green kernel surrounded by thin reddish skin.
- The kernel has a mild, sweet flavor and is commonly eaten raw or fried. Sometimes kernels are pressed for oil, and ground kernels are used for confectionery items.
- **Pistachio nuts** were among the finest products of the land of Canaan that were brought as a gift by Jacob's sons to one who was a ruler in Egypt.
- So Israel their father said to them; If, then, that is the case, do this; Take the finest products of the land in your receptacles and carry them down to the man as a gift, a little balsam, and a little honey, labdanum and resinous bark, **pistachio nuts** and almonds. (**Genesis 43:11**)
- Even in modern times large quantities of **pistachio nuts** have been exported from parts of the Middle East.
- The city of Betonim, situated East of the Jordan in the territory of Gad, appears to have been named after **pistachio nuts**.
- Furthermore, Moses made a gift to the tribe of Gad, the sons of Gad by their families. (**Joshua 13:24**)
- And from Heshbon to Ramath-mizpeh and Betonim and from Mahanaim to the border of Debir. (**Joshua 13:26**)