

~PLANE TREE (54)

[Hebrew, 'er-mohn']

- A tree of stately appearance, growing to a height of some 20 meters (70 feet), with wide spreading branches and broad dark-green, vinelike leaves affording splendid shade.
- The girth of the trunk is often 3 to 4 meters (10 to 13 feet). The **plane tree**, *Platanus orientalis*, annually peels off its outer bark in strips or sections, exposing smooth whitish inner bark beneath.
- The name of this tree in **Hebrew** possibly comes from the verb 'a-rah', meaning, **lay bare, uncover**.
- And in the midst of her, doves will certainly lie stretched out, all the wild animals of a nation. Both pelican and porcupine will spend the night right among her pillar capitals. A voice will keep singing in the window. There will be devastation at the threshold, for he will certainly lay bare the very wainscoting. (**Zephaniah 2:14**)
- And Elam itself has taken up the quiver, in the war chariot of earthling man, with steeds, and Kir itself has **uncovered** the shield. (**Isaiah 22:6**)
- Then Jacob took for his use staffs still moist of the storax tree and of the almond tree and of the **plane tree** and peeled in them white peeled spots by laying bare white places which were upon the staffs. (**Genesis 30:37**)
- Finally the staffs that he had peeled he placed in front of the flock, in the gutters, in the water drinking troughs, where the flocks would come to drink, that they might get into a heat before them when they came to drink. (**Genesis 30:38**)
- Jacob is described as placing staffs from this tree, along with those of other trees, before the flocks of Laban at Haran in Syria. The staffs were peeled, **laying bare**, or revealing, **white places**.
- The tree was one worthy of comparison with, but not actually being a match for, the majestic cedar of Lebanon, which Ezekiel used as a figure of Pharaoh and all his crowd.

- Other cedars were no match for it in the garden of God. As for juniper trees, they bore no resemblance as respects its boughs. And **plane trees** themselves did not prove to be like it in branches. No other tree in the garden of God resembled it in its prettiness. (**Ezekiel 31:8**)
- **Plane trees** are found along the rivers and streams throughout Syria and in the region of ancient Assyria, as well as to a lesser degree in Palestine and Lebanon.