

## **~PLANTS, OF THE BIBLE (74)**

- **Olive, almond, caper berry, date palm these are just a few of the nearly one hundred plants and trees mentioned in the Scriptures. Our knowing something about the plants of the Bible provides helpful background, shedding light on the meaning of certain Biblical statements.**
- **Consider as an example the olive tree one of the most valuable plants in Bible times. This beautiful tree, often twisted, gnarled, and knotty, is quite hardy, frequently living for centuries.**
- **It receives early mention in the Scriptures. Following the Flood, a dove returned to Noah in the ark and, look! There was an olive leaf freshly plucked in its bill. This indicated to Noah that the floodwaters had receded.**
- **Later on the dove came to him about the time of evening and, look! There was an olive leaf freshly plucked in its bill, and so Noah got to know that the waters had abated from the earth. (Genesis 8:11)**
- **The Bible psalmist alluded to some characteristics of the olive tree when he promised those fearing Yehowah; Your sons will be like slips of olive trees all around your table.**
- **Happy is everyone fearing Yehowah, who is walking in his ways. (Psalms 128:1)**
- **For you will eat the toil of your own hands. Happy you will be and it will be well with you. (Psalms 128:2)**
- **Your wife will be like a fruit-bearing vine in the innermost parts of your house. Your sons will be like slips of olive trees all around your table. (Psalms 128:3)**
- **Cuttings, or slips, cut from a grown olive tree are often used for starting new trees. In addition, aged olive trees may send up shoots from their roots, thereby perpetuating themselves. Like such shoots, sons would surround a father, contributing their part to the happiness of the family.**

- **The evergreen olive tree was especially appreciated for its oil. Olive oil was a basic food in the Israelite diet and was widely used as a cosmetic and as a fuel, and it was an important trade commodity. It was applied to bruises and wounds to soften and soothe them.**
- **But a certain Samaritan traveling the road came upon him and, at seeing him, he was moved with pity. (Luke 10:33)**
- **So he approached him and bound up his wounds, pouring oil and wine upon them. Then he mounted him upon his own beast and brought him to an inn and took care of him. (Luke 10:34)**
- **Applied to the head, olive oil is likewise soothing and refreshing. Thus, older men of the Christian congregation are admonished to pray over a spiritually sick person, figuratively greasing him with oil in the name of Yehowah, applying God's Word to soothe, correct, and comfort him.**
- **Is there anyone suffering evil among you? Let him carry on prayer. Is there anyone in good spirits? Let him sing psalms. (James 5:13)**
- **Is there anyone sick among you? Let him call the older men of the congregation to him, and let them pray over him, greasing him with oil in the name of Yehowah. (James 5:14)**
- **And the prayer of faith will make the indisposed one well, and Yehowah will raise him up. Also, if he has committed sins, it will be forgiven him. (James 5:15)**