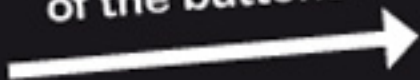


Plants, animals and professions in the Bible



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Plants in the Bible

Although some progress has been made in identifying plants which were found in or were indigenous to the Bible lands, it remains difficult to match plant names with specific plants which appear in the original texts. Some of the plant names appearing in the CEV are listed below.

Trees and Shrubs

Cypress/myrtle	<i>Is 55:13</i>
Oak/cedar	<i>Is 44:14</i>
Almond	<i>Ecc 12:5</i>
Thorns and thistles	<i>Gen 3:18</i>

Grass Plants

Reeds and tall grass	<i>Job 40:15,21-22</i>
Seaweed	<i>Jon 2:5</i>

Fruit Trees

Apple tree	<i>Song 2:3</i>
Mulberry tree	<i>Lk 17:6</i>
Olive tree	<i>Ex 23:11; Rom 11:24</i>
Fig tree	<i>Hab 3:17</i>

Spices

Aloes	<i>Ps 45:8</i>
Henna	<i>Song 4:13</i>
Cinnamon	<i>Song 4:14</i>
Mint/dill/cumin	<i>Mt 23:23</i>
Saffron	<i>Song 4:14</i>
Mustard seed	<i>Mt 13:31</i>

Grain and Pulses

Beans/lentils	<i>2 Sam 17:28</i>
Barley/wheat	<i>Ex 9:31-32</i>

Flowering Plants

Rose	<i>Song 2:1</i>
Lily	<i>Song 2:2</i>
Wild flowers	<i>Is 40:6</i>



Animals in the Bible

Most of the references to animals in the Bible involve comparison and metaphor. Their appearance and traits are used to highlight certain traits or actions of people, or to describe their circumstances.

Please note that it is not always possible to translate the names of animals from the original Hebrew and Greek texts. The names of animals that are not indigenous to this country are sometimes substituted with the name of an animal which is similar and whose behaviour and appearance correspond to the ones we are familiar with.

Predators

Bear	2 Sam 17:8; Lam 3:10
Jackal	Jer 10:22; Mt 8:20
Leopard	Jer 13:23; Hab 1:8
Lion	Prov 30:30; Is 31:4
Wolf	Ezek 22:27; Hab 1:8

Game

Buffalo	Num 23:22; Deut 33:17
Gazelle/deer	1 Chr 12:8; Is 13:14

Fish and Reptiles

Crocodile	Ezek 29:3
Fish	Mk 1:17; Jn 21:9
Snake	Gen 49:17; Mic 7:17

Insects

Ants	Prov 6:7
Grasshopper	Judg 6:5; Is 33:4
Moth	Job 4:19; Mt 6:20
Worm	Job 25:6; Ps 22:6
Scorpion	Deut 8:15

Birds

Dove	Is 59:11; Jer 48:28
Eagle	Job 9:26; Ps 103:5
Ostrich	Lam 4:3; Mic 1:8
Owl/sparrow	Ps 102:6-7
Stork	Ps 104:17
Vulture	Mic 1:16; Mt 24:28

Domestic Animals

Camel	Jer 2:23; Mt 23:24
Dog	Job 31:1; Prov 26:11
Donkey	Mt 21:5
Horse	Judg 5:22; Jas 3:3



Professions in the Bible

There are a number of professions mentioned in the Bible which are still practised today.

Medical

Midwife *Gen 35:17; Ex 1:15-21*
Doctor *Gen 50:2; Mk 5:26*
Apothecary/perfume maker *Neh 3:8b*

Government and Law

Officials *Dan 6:3-8*
Judge *Mt 5:25*
Jailer *Lk 12:58*
Secretary *2 Kgs 12:10; 2 Chr 24:11*

Agriculture

Sheep farmer/shepherd *Gen 4:2; 47:3*
Farmer *Gen 4:2; Ruth 2:1-3*
Overseer *Ruth 2:5; 2 Kgs 12:14*
Wine farmer *2 Chr 26:10*

Business

Trader *Gen 37:25-28; Lk 19:45*
Money changers *Mt 21:12*

Textile Industry

Weaver *Ex 38:23; Is 19:9-10*

Building Industry

Builder *1 Kgs 5:18; Ps 118:22*
Carpenters *1 Chr 14:1; Mt 13:55*
Stone workers *2 Sam 5:11*
Woodcarvers *Is 41:7; 44:13*

Metalwork

Goldsmith *Neh 3:32*
Silversmith *Prov 25:4; Acts 19:24*
Metalworker *Is 44:12*

Armed forces

Soldier *Judg 11:1; Jn 19:23*
Bodyguard *Gen 37:36*
Officer *Ex 15:4; Acts 27:1*

Arts

Artist *Jer 18:3-4*
Musician *1 Chr 6:31-32; Neh 12:27-29*

