

MOUNTAINS OF LEBANON



Lebanon is not just one mountain. It is a whole range of mountains about 100 miles long, close to the Mediterranean Sea at the northern end of Israel. These mountains are almost always covered with snow, so men called it "Lebanon: which means "white mountain". These mountains are not really inside of Israel. They are on the northern edge. God gave Israel all the land from Lebanon in the north to the desert in the south. (Deuteronomy 11:24)

In the time of the Old Testament, this mountain range was covered with beautiful tall cedar trees. These trees were larger than any other trees in Palestine. Sometimes the trunks of these cedar trees were 8 feet across. The wood of this cedar was a reddish color. It did not decay easily. Insects could not damage it. The trees are fragrant. They seemed as if they were the "king" of all trees. When the Psalm writer thought about the cedars of Lebanon, he sang of how great God was for it was a great God who created these beautiful trees. (Psalm 104:16,33)

Long ago the people who lived near these mountains along the Mediterranean (the Phoenicians) had used these trees to make great masts for their ships. (Ezekiel 27:4-5)

We know the pharaohs of Egypt knew about these trees. One of them wrote on a clay tablet, "We brought 40 ships filled with cedar trunks. We made the doors of the king's palace of cedar wood."

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KING SOLOMON, EZRA