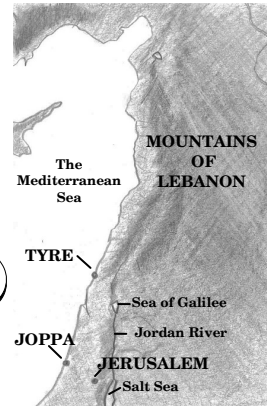


2. In its day, the port city of Tyre was, without a doubt, the “marketplace of the nations” (*Isaiah 23:3b*, NIV). Many countries wanted the goods and services that Tyre had to offer. Read *Ezekiel 27:12-24* and list **some** of Tyre’s business partners. What types of products did these nations bring to the bartering table?

³On the great waters came the grain of the Shihor; the harvest of the Nile was the revenue of Tyre, and she became the marketplace of the nations.

Isaiah 23:3 (NIV)

The **cedar logs** that Hiram king of Tyre sent to David were from **Lebanon**. In Bible times, **Lebanon** referred to the majestic white limestone mountain range of Syria and its surrounding areas. The mountain range itself is approximately one hundred miles in length. Its western edge stretches down to the Mediterranean Sea, where, in some places, it leaves only narrow strips of coastal plain. It is here, along the sea, that the city of Tyre was (and continues to be) located. In David’s day, the Lebanese region had dense forest cover and was extremely fertile. Its most celebrated resource was the mighty **cedar trees** that grew abundantly on the tall mountains.⁶¹

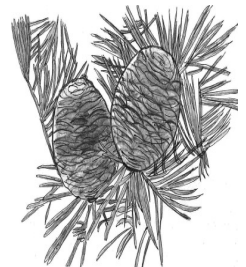


Horticulture Help: Cedar of Lebanon

The Hebrew word translated as “cedar” in the Bible has Arabic roots, which indicate a robust and deeply rooted tree. Native to Eurasia, the famed cedars of Lebanon are attractive evergreen trees that bear cones straight up on their branches. These branches have short prickly needles grouped together in clusters. Though cedars of Lebanon are slow growing, they can ultimately reach heights of over one hundred feet tall and grow thick trunks six to eight feet in diameter. These grand trees once grew prolifically in the mountains of Lebanon; but today, due to excessive deforestation and the storms of war, they are rare. A few shrinking cedar forests in what is now modern-day Turkey, and a spattering of cedars of Lebanon planted in other parts of the world, are all that remain of these magnificent trees.

The wood of the cedar is fragrant, fine-grained, and red in color. It is prized for use in construction because the wood is very durable and has a natural tendency to resist water, bugs, and decay. In Bible times, cedars from Lebanon were especially useful for large building projects since long timbers could be cut from the tall trunks.⁶²

3. Based on what you have learned about the cedar of Lebanon so far, do you think cedar was a suitable building material for King David’s palace? Why or why not?



Once David’s **cedar** palace was complete, he set his heart towards building another house, this time a **cedar** and stone temple for the Living God. David’s good intentions, however, were met with opposition from God. Why? Turn the page to find out.

What’s Your Story?

◇David received an incredible gift from Hiram—cedar logs to build a palace fit for a king. Besides salvation, what is the most amazing gift that you have ever received? Who gave it to you?