

# Flowers of the Bible™



By Helga Curtis

# Introduction

There has been a concentrated effort by many scholars, especially those who are expert in Semitic languages, to correctly identify biblical plants and flowers. Some, according to the experts, will be in limbo forever.

The Bible has been translated time and time again. The English and other European botanical translations are not good.

Early and later translations were unfortunately not versed in floral terms of original Hebrew scripture. The translators have hardly any scientific value, but are historically important.



It has been established that "flowers or lilies of the field" could embrace at least ten different species. Matthew 6:28–30 mentions the lilies of the field, but it is now believed the lily in this instance was the red crown anemone, which grows wild.

There are 110 plants mentioned in the Bible. Some are referred to a hundred times over and others less often and some only once. About 18 of the species are not named accurately because the narrator was more interested in their importance than in their correct name. Hence, we have a reoccurrence of the term "lilies of the field." For instance, there are 20 names for thorns in the Bible. Some plant names were given to more than one plant species.

Isaiah had the richest vocabulary of plant names, some of which may never be recognized. Listed among the field flowers is the common red poppy, which grows between the grain to be harvested, and the narcissus, also known as the sea daffodil. It is believed that the narcissus was the biblical lily, but is actually a member of the amaryllis family.

Poppies, chamomiles, tulips, narcissi, crowfoots, tulips and anemones provide spectacular displays throughout Israel during spring and summer, and in the Old Testament they symbolize the ephemeral nature of things in contrast to the ever-enduring word of God.

—Helga Curtis

*The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry?  
All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field:  
The grass withereth, the flower fadeth:  
because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass.  
The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.*

—Isaiah 40:6–8



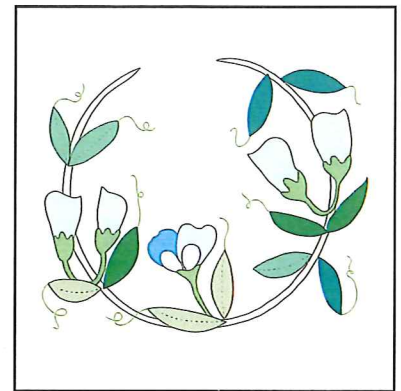
# Lentil

Then Jacob gave Esau bread and a pottage of lentils; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised his birthright.

—Genesis 25:34

The lentil is just as important as a crop today as it was during biblical times. It is still used as a bread ingredient as well as for pottage, a thick soup or stew.

Esau, the elder twin brother of very jealous Jacob, came home from a journey, faint with hunger. He begged his brother for some bread and lentil pottage. Jacob shared, but with a stipulation. Esau was to give up his birthright, which he did.



Lentil  
14 1/2" x 14 1/2" Block

**Project Specifications**  
Wall Quilt Size: 16 1/2" x 16 1/2"  
**Fabric & Bating**  
• Neutral background square 16" x 16"

**Supplies & Tools**

- 4 medium blue print border strips 1 1/2" x 17 1/2"
- Variety of green, aqua and blue scraps for applique
- 2 yards purchased or self-made medium blue binding
- Backing 20" x 20"
- Bating 20" x 20"
- Template material of choice
- Applique thread of choice to match fabrics
- All-purpose thread to blend with fabrics
- Medium green 6-strand embroidery floss
- Embroidery needle
- 1 spool natural quilting thread

## Instructions

1. Referring to photo for color

3. Trim background square to 15" x 15". Add border strips, mitering corners as in General Instructions. Trim to square.
4. Layer backing, bating and block, and baste. Quilt as desired.
5. Bind quilt to finish. \*

