

BOOK REVIEW

LYTTON JOHN MUSSELMAN. 2022. **Solomon Described Plants: A Botanical Guide to Plant Life in the Bible.** (ISBN 978-1-7252-5576-0, pbk; 978-1-7252-5577-7, hbk; 978-1-7252-5578-4, ebook PDF). Cascade Books, Wipf, and Stock Publishers, 199 W 8th Ave, Suite 3, Eugene, Oregon 97401, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.wipfandstock.com). \$47.00 US, 328 pp., includes bibliographical references and photographs, 6"×9".

From the publisher: This is a treatment of the plants mentioned in the Old and New Testaments, their uses, ecology, history, beauty, and symbolism. The book includes more than three hundred original photographs by the author from field and ethnobotanical studies over the past four decades. Special attention has been paid to plants that have been misunderstood in previous treatments. Recent advances in analytical techniques in archaeobotany, including sophisticated chemical and genomic methods, have helped elucidate the identity of problematic Bible plants. Also included is a review of recent literature on the plants. The volume will be an invaluable resource to students of the Bible, theologians, botanists, and translators.

I like this book for many reasons. Lytton J. Musselman is a botanist and is passionate about plants. Dr. Musselman has done fieldwork throughout the Levant and has written extensively on plants of the holy land. Firsthand knowledge and experience go a long way. The only thing disappointing about the book is the inferior printing and reproduction of the author's original photos. However, there are many positives the reader can focus on. The Front Matter (pp. xiii–xxii) is introductory material that is followed by 303 pages of the "flora" or plant life in the bible beginning with acacia wood (think tabernacle) and ending with wormwood (think bitters); 78 other plants are covered in between. The Introduction is an overview of the author's research and planning of the book. Sections here include: **1)** Botanists in the Bible—In their Footsteps; **2)** Ethnobotany of the Bible; **3)** Plan of the Book; **4)** Texts, Pretexts, and the Role of Ethnobotany; **5)** Translation of Plant Names—Towards a Science of Bible Botany; **6)** Lost in Translation; **7)** Plants Included and Excluded; and **8)** In Bible Lore but not in the Bible. Don't hesitate, get yourself a copy and explore the world of the many plants mentioned in the bible. Enjoy!

—Barney Lipscomb, Fort Worth Botanic Garden | Botanical Research Institute of Texas,
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BOOK NOTICE

JAMES VAN KLEY. ILLUSTRATED BY BRUCE LYNDON CUNNINGHAM. 2022. **Plants of the Pineywoods of East Texas & West Louisiana. Part 1: Herbaceous Eudicotyledons, Herbaceous Magnoliids & Nymphaeiids.** (ISBN 978-0-934115-18-6, pbk with flaps). Bruce Lyndon Cunningham, 180 County Road 8201, Nacogdoches, Texas 75964, U.S.A. (**Orders:** shopbritpress.org, orders@brit.org, 817.546.1847). \$92 US, 454 pp., many b/w illustrations throughout, index, 8.5"×11".

From the publisher: *Plants of the Pineywoods of East Texas & West Louisiana. Part 1* is a one volume reference work covering the herbaceous (non-woody vascular (not mosses or liverworts) Eudicotyledon (largest of flowering plant groups) along with the herbaceous Magnoliids & waterlilies (Nymphaeiids) of the Pineywoods of East Texas and west Louisiana. Filling a major gap in earlier treatments, it marks the first time there has been comprehensive coverage of the entire flora for this region in a local manual. The book also includes illustrated glossary with over 350 terms. The illustrator spent six years and over 30,000 hours on the illustrations.