

Matt the Moose and the Oaks of Mamre  
by Marilyn Alexander

(Chomp, chomp, chomp.) Oh, hi, kids. You caught me eating. (Chomp.) Sure is tasty—this tree I'm eating.

Did you hear that Abram settled down near some trees called the **Oaks** of Mamre? No **joke**; they were **oaks**. Every morning when he **awoke**, Abram saw an **oak**. (Heh, heh, heh.)

You are going to think I'm pretty smart 'cause I know the Hebrew word for **oak**; it's *alon*. (Heh, heh, heh.) *Alon!* Here's a photograph for you of what that kind of tree looks like. Doesn't look like our **oak** trees, does it? Of course, there are about 600 species of **oak** trees in the world. I guess we can't expect **oak** trees in Israel to look like **oaks** in Colorado.

I hear that dogs can be poisoned by eating **oak** trees. I looked it up online, but I couldn't find out if **oak** trees would make me **croak**. They sure aren't my cup of **Coke**, though.

Those **oaks** in Mamre are hardy **blokes**. They can resist drought. Trouble is they grow very slowly; so they wouldn't do us much good for a **cloak** from the sun unless we waited about ten years.

Today *alon* trees in Israel are more like bushes than trees due to overgrazing of sheep and **goaks**, uh, I mean goats. That reminds me a lot of Lot and Abram, huh? [Show photo of trees and sheep in hills.]

While we're looking at this photo, notice the lay of the land where Abram lived. Did you think Abram lived on flat land like we do? Well, look at those hills.

Lots of **folks** came to these **oaks** of Mamre near the town of Hebron. You'll hear about them as you study the Bible.

Well, I'd better be getting along. Need to **poke** my head around an **oak**. Don't think I'll eat it, though, so that I don't go up in **smoke**. (Heh, heh, heh. Chomp, chomp, chomp.)



Alon Tree (translated *oak* in many Bible references)

<https://blog.israelbiblicalstudies.com/holy-land-studies/two-biblical-trees/>





Country around Hebron near the Oaks of Mamre

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