

Laudanum (introduced by [Paracelsus](#) in Switzerland) and Ladanum (perfume) in Hebrew

The mix-up between the two is entirely historical. When Paracelsus invented his opium-based "laudanum," medical scholars note that the name may have also been a deliberate, corrupted wordplay on the ancient *ladanum* resin, as raw opium was also traded in sticky, resinous lumps. However, beyond that linguistic crossover, **there is absolutely no botanical or chemical connection** between the addictive Victorian painkiller and the ancient Mediterranean perfume ingredient

Hebrew myrrh מֹר also written as לֹט

In the Hebrew Bible, the English word "myrrh" translates two distinct Hebrew words: *mor* (מֹר) and *lot* (לֹט). While older translations like the King James Version (KJV) use "myrrh" for both, modern scholars and botanical linguists distinguish between them because they refer to different plant resins.

Here is the breakdown of the two terms:

1. *Mor* (מֹר / מוֹר) – True Myrrh

- **Strong's Concordance:** [#4753](#)
- **Meaning:** The word comes from a Semitic root meaning "**bitter**".
- **Botanical Source:** It refers to the true myrrh we know today, a fragrant gum resin exuded from the tree *Commiphora myrrha* (formerly *Balsamodendron myrrha*), native to the Arabian peninsula and parts of Africa.
- **Biblical Context:** It appears 12 times in the Old Testament, frequently associated with luxury perfumes, holy anointing oil, and romantic poetry (e.g., [Exodus 30:23](#), Psalm 45:8, and throughout the [Song of Solomon](#)).

2. *Lot* (לֹט) – Ladanum / Rockrose Resin

- **Strong's Concordance:** [#3910](#)
- [Click here](#) to see other passages, including "Enchantments"
- **Meaning:** Derived from a root meaning "**wrapped**", "hidden", or "secret".
- **Botanical Source:** Scholars widely agree that *lot* is not true myrrh, but rather **ladanum** (or labdanum). This is a dark, sticky, aromatic resin harvested from the leaves and shrubs of the rockrose (*Cistus ladanifer* or *Cistus creticus*) native to the Mediterranean region.
- **Biblical Context:** It only appears twice in the Bible, both times in Genesis as a luxury export item transported by trading caravans (Genesis 37:25 and Genesis 43:11). Because rockroses

grew natively in Gilead and Canaan, it made sense as a local product to export to Egypt, whereas true myrrh (*mor*) had to be imported from Arabia or Africa.

Summary of Differences

Hebrew Word	Transliteration	Plant Source	Key Biblical Verse Example	Modern Translation
מֹר	<i>Mor</i>	True Myrrh (<i>Commiphora myrrha</i>)	Psalms 45:8	Myrrh
לֹט	<i>Lot</i>	Rockrose / Ladanum (<i>Cistus</i>)	Genesis 37:25	Ladanum / Aromatic Resin

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