

The Cedar Wood and the Archaeological Monuments

❖ Before Christianity (BC)

- Excavators found bridges made of cedar trunks and pieces of cedar wood in graves and different constructions.
- Moses used to demand from Jewish clerics to use wood veneer and cedar oil to heal toothache, skin diseases and particularly leprosy.
- Solomon built the Temple of Jerusalem from cedar wood and this has become a well-used topic by the poets, writers of Psalms and the books of the Torah since then, being a symbol of resilience and beauty.
- It was later proven that the manuscripts found in the tomb of King Nimrod 500 years after his death, were dipped in cedar oil to what goes back 2700 years BC.
- A huge cedar wood bridge was found in the Greek temple of Diana in Ephesus.
- Phoenicians used cedar wood in multiple fields and moved it with them wherever their boats went. They used it to build worship houses, ships and bridges ...
- Romans used cedar wood in manufacturing home furniture and altars. It was a source of pride for them.
- A cedar trunk was found buried at the bottom of Mount Sannine and it still maintains its shape and stiffness despite its age.

❖ After Christianity (AC)

- The cedar wood was still used in the construction of worship houses, in setting up altars, in manufacturing carved statues of saints and holy utensils and crosses.

Including:

- The Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem and the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.
- Church in Tyr built in the year 75 AC and in which Saint Paul prayed.
- Saint Mary Church in Jerusalem and Saint Paul Church in Rome.
- Pieces of cedar wood that were still intact were found in Saint Sergius Church in the city of Rusafa
- A lot of cedar wood was found in the Primate Cathedral of Saint Mary of Toledo.
- In 1674, Patriarch Estephan Douaihy offered a cedar tree trunk that was uprooted by the storm to King Louis XIV so he can get a statue of him carved.
- Most of the gifts that Patriarch Elias Howayek offered were made of cedar wood.
- The wood benches in the choir of the Church of the Sacred Heart in Montmartre in France are made of cedar wood.
- The altar of the Church of the Holy Saviour in the city of Vienna is made of cedar wood.

- The small church inside the Miramar castle in Italy is built of cedar wood and on one of its walls, it is written that this wood is a gift from the cedars of Lebanon.
- The statues and the decorative wood work of the Basilica of Saint Mark in Venice are made of cedar wood.
- The Church of the Transfiguration in the forest of the cedars of God was originally built in the sixteenth century from the trunks and branches of cedar trees and was later turned into a stone structure.
- The cedar wood was the base material from which fleets, military vessels and commercial ships were built.