The Sharon Valley.

The prophet Isaiah prophesied that the desert would bloom like the Rose of Sharon.

When he made this prophesy the Sharon Valley was probably just as swampy as it was for the last 3000 years until the beginning of the 20th  Century when it was purchased by the Jewish National Fund for Jewish settlement and the Jewish People began to drain the swamp and cultivate the land making it the beautiful garden it is today.

Other swamplands were purchased at the same time, such as the Huleh and the Jezrieel Valleys. These lands have also been turned from swampy Malaria infested areas into lush fertile farmland.

To appreciate what has been done all you need to do is to take a drive from Tel Aviv along the Coastal highway towards Haifa.  You’ll be riding on a sand dune on the edge of the beautiful Sharon Valley.

To see the Jezrieel Valley go to the highest point of Mt. Carmel, the Muhraka,  looking down into the valley, you will gasp at the greenness of the farmland and you’ll say: “G-d has truly brought Israel to the Promised Land”.

The Huleh Valley is located North of the Sea of Galilee, between the Golan Heights in the East and the mountains of Naftali in the West. The swamp draining operation here was the biggest ever undertaken.

Today some 20 farming settlements, Kibbutsim and Moshsvim  dot the valley making it lush and green as far as the eye can see.

There’s no doubt that Jewish Settlement in the swamps has been a success but the pioneers who originally came to live here in the early 1900’s didn’t think in terms of  settling and rejuvenating the swamp lands, their ideal was to settle in the desert and make it bloom to realize the prophesy of Isaiah and other promises in the Bible relating to the desert.

Today the desert blooms as once the swamp land was full of flowers, like the lily, which needs lots of water, because Israel brings water to the parched desert by a canal, more than 350 kms long which carries the water from the Sharon Valley, abundant in water, as noted by the prophet Isaiah. Thereby the prophecy of Isaiah has come true, the desert blooms like the rose of Sharron.