

Exodus 27:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt command the children of Israel, that they bring thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamp to burn always.

Analysis

Pure beaten olive oil for the lampstand's light—the oil must be the finest quality, extracted by beating/crushing (not pressing), and olive oil (symbol of the Spirit). The command for perpetual light ('burn always') means the priesthood must never let it extinguish. Christ, anointed by the Spirit without measure (John 3:34), is the perpetual light. His light never dims, never needs rekindling. Our lives, as lamps, require continuous supply of the Spirit's oil.

Historical Context

Beaten oil (קַתִּית, katit) was produced by crushing olives in a mortar, yielding the purest oil. This premium oil burned cleanest and brightest, appropriate for the sacred lampstand. Ordinary pressed oil sufficed for common use, but God's light required the best.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does 'beaten' oil represent the Spirit's work through suffering and crushing?
2. What enables Christ's light to burn perpetually while ours requires daily refilling?

Interlinear Text

וְאַתָּה	תִּצְוָה	אֶת	בְּנֵי	יִשְׁבְּאָלָה	וְיִלְקֹחַ
H859	And thou shalt command	H853	the children	of Israel	that they bring
	H6680		H1121	H3478	H3947
לְבָנָלָת	לְמַאֲוֶר	כַּתִּיתְ	לְבָנָלָת	לְמַאֲוֶר	כַּתִּיתְ
H413	oil	H2132	olive	H2134	thee pure
H8081					
בְּתִימִיד			בְּתִימִיד		
to cause the lamp	always				
H5216		H8548			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 23:5 (Parallel theme): Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Exodus 39:37 (Light): The pure candlestick, with the lamps thereof, even with the lamps to be set in order, and all the vessels thereof, and the oil for light,

Judges 9:9 (Parallel theme): But the olive tree said unto them, Should I leave my fatness, wherewith by me they honour God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees?

Revelation 11:4 (Parallel theme): These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.

