

# Exodus 30:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Take thou also unto thee principal spices, of pure myrrh five hundred shekels, and of sweet cinnamon half so much, even two hundred and fifty shekels, and of sweet calamus two hundred and fifty shekels,

## Analysis

---

The sacred anointing oil—myrrh, cinnamon, calamus, cassia in olive oil—represents the Holy Spirit's multifaceted work. Each spice contributes unique fragrance, together creating complete anointing. The oil's holiness (never for common use) emphasizes that the Spirit is sacred, not to be counterfeited or treated casually. Christ was anointed with this spiritual reality, receiving the Spirit without measure (John 3:34). Believers receive the same Spirit, though in measure.

## Historical Context

---

The specific spice formula was divinely prescribed and forbidden for common use—counterfeit anointing oil incurred severe penalty. This protected the sacred symbolism and prevented profaning what represented God's Spirit.

## Related Passages

---

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

---

1. How does each spice's unique contribution illustrate the Holy Spirit's multifaceted work?
2. What does the oil's sacred exclusivity teach about treating the Holy Spirit with reverence?

## Interlinear Text

---

הַ	אַתָּה	וְ	לְבָ	בְּ שָׁם	רִאשׁ	מִrr
H859	Take	H0	shekels and of sweet	thou also unto thee principal		myrrh
	H3947		H1314		H7218	H4753
מִתְּצִית	וְ	בְּ שָׁם				
דָּרוֹר	שָׁמֶן	וּמְאַתִּים	קְרֵנָן	שְׁקֵלָה	שְׁקֵלָה	half
of pure	five	even two hundred	cinnamon	shekels and of sweet		
H1865	H2568	H3967	H7076	H1314		H4276
סְמֵשׁ	יְמִ	וּמְאַתִּים	וְקִנְהָ	בְּ שָׁם	סְמֵשׁ	يְמִ
and fifty	even two hundred	calamus	shekels and of sweet			and fifty
H2572	H3967	H7070	H1314			H2572
וּמְאַתִּים						
even two hundred						
	H3967					

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Ezekiel 27:19** (Parallel theme): Dan also and Javan going to and fro occupied in thy fairs: bright iron, cassia, and calamus, were in thy market.

**Song of Solomon 4:14:** Spikenard and saffron; calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense; myrrh and aloes, with all the chief spices:

**Jeremiah 6:20** (Parallel theme): To what purpose cometh there to me incense from Sheba, and the sweet cane from a far country? your burnt offerings are not acceptable, nor your sacrifices sweet unto me.

**Ezekiel 27:22** (Parallel theme): The merchants of Sheba and Raamah, they were thy merchants: they occupied in thy fairs with chief of all spices, and with all precious stones, and gold.

---

From KJV Study • [kjvstudy.org](http://kjvstudy.org)