

Exodus 30:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt make it an oil of holy ointment, an ointment compound after the art of the apothecary: it shall be an holy anointing oil.

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

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

וְעַשْ יְתָ	וְעַשْ יְתָ	אֶת	וְעַשْ יְתָ	מִשְׁכָּנָה	וְעַשْ יְתָ	רְכָחָה
And thou shalt make		H853	it an oil	anointing	it shall be an holy	an ointment
		H6213		H4888		H7545
compound	after the art	H4842	of the apothecary	Rקְרָב	anointing	it shall be an holy
	H4639		H7543		H4888	H6944
וְהִיְהָ		H1961				

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 37:29 (Holy): And he made the holy anointing oil, and the pure incense of sweet spices, according to the work of the apothecary.

1 Chronicles 9:30 (Parallel theme): And some of the sons of the priests made the ointment of the spices.

Psalms 133:2 (Parallel theme): It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;

Exodus 40:9 (Holy): And thou shalt take the anointing oil, and anoint the tabernacle, and all that is therein, and shalt hallow it, and all the vessels thereof: and it shall be holy.

Hebrews 1:9 (Parallel theme): Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

Psalms 89:20 (Holy): I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him:

Numbers 35:25 (Holy): And the congregation shall deliver the slayer out of the hand of the revenger of blood, and the congregation shall restore him to the city of his refuge, whither he was fled: and he shall abide in it unto the death of the high priest, which was anointed with the holy oil.

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