

Exodus 30:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt beat some of it very small, and put of it before the testimony in the tabernacle of the congregation, where I will meet with thee: it shall be unto you most holy.

Analysis

The holy incense formula—stacte, onycha, galbanum, frankincense—represents acceptable prayer. Like the anointing oil, this formula was sacred, forbidden for common use. The specific ingredients create a fragrance pleasing to God, teaching that prayer must be according to God's will to be acceptable. Christ's intercession is the perfect incense; our prayers, offered through Him, become fragrant to God (2 Corinthians 2:15).

Historical Context

The incense burned twice daily on the golden altar, filling the Holy Place with fragrant smoke. Offering strange/unauthorized incense resulted in death (Leviticus 10:1-2), emphasizing that worship must follow God's prescription.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's intercession serve as 'perfect incense' making your prayers acceptable?
2. What does the forbidden counterfeiting teach about worshiping according to God's pattern?

Interlinear Text

וְשִׁמְפֹךְ	מִמְמָנוֹת	בְּזַדְקָה	מִתְּנַתְּנָה
And thou shalt beat	some of it very small	and put	
H7833	H4480	H1854	H4480
לִפְנֵי	בְּאֶתְלָה	מִזְבֵּחַ	אֲשֶׁר
of it before	the testimony	in the tabernacle	of the congregation
H6440	H5715	H168	H834
אֲוֹעֵד	קָדְשָׁם	קָדְשָׁם	לְכָם:
where I will meet	H0	H8033	H1961
H3259	H6944	H6944	H0

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 25:22 (Witness): And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.