

Exodus 30:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And as for the perfume which thou shalt make, ye shall not make to yourselves according to the composition thereof: it shall be unto thee holy for the LORD.

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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

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

וְהִקֵּט רֶתֶם	אֲשֶׁר	תַּעֲשֶׂה וְ		
And as for the perfume	H834	which thou shalt make		
H7004		H6213		
בְּמִתְכַנֶּתֶּה	לֹא	תַּעֲשֶׂה וְ	לְךָ	
to yourselves according to the composition	H3808	which thou shalt make	H0	
H4971		H6213		
קִדְּשׁ	תְּהִי הִ	לְךָ	לַיהוָה:	
thereof it shall be unto thee holy	H1961	H0	for the LORD	
H6944			H3068	