

Exodus 30:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whosoever shall make like unto that, to smell thereto, shall even be cut off from his people.

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 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

בְּ הַ לְּבָרֶ יְמִינָה אֲשֶׁר כְּמָה וְכֵן יִעַשׂ הַ
H376 Whosoever shall make H3644 like unto that to smell H0
H834 H6213 H7306

מִעַטִּים: תִּנְכַּב הַ
thereto shall even be cut off from his people
H3772 H5971

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 30:33 (Parallel theme): Whosoever compoundeth any like it, or whosoever putteth any of it upon a stranger, shall even be cut off from his people.

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