

Exodus 35:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And onyx stones, and stones to be set for the ephod, and for the breastplate.

Analysis

Oil for the light (שֶׁמֶן לַמָּאֹר, shemen la-ma'or) kept the golden lampstand burning continually, symbolizing God's perpetual presence and the Spirit's illumination. Spices for anointing oil (שֶׁמֶן הַמִּשְׁחָה, shemen ha-mishchah) set apart priests and furnishings as holy unto the LORD—the same root as 'Messiah' (מָשִׁיחַ, mashiach, 'anointed one'). Sweet incense (קֶטֶרֶת הַסַּמִּים, ketoret ha-sammim) symbolized prayers ascending to God (Psalm 141:2, Revelation 5:8).

Historical Context

Pure olive oil was beaten (crushed), not pressed, producing the clearest burning oil. The specific spices for anointing oil included myrrh, cinnamon, calamus, and cassia (30:23-24)—costly imports demonstrating the value placed on consecration. Incense ingredients included stacte, onycha, galbanum, and frankincense (30:34).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do the oil, anointing spices, and incense each symbolize different aspects of spiritual life and worship?
2. In what ways does the anointing oil foreshadow Christ as the ultimate Anointed One?

Interlinear Text

וְאֲבָנֵי י	שֵׁהֶם	וְאֲבָנֵי י	מִלֵּא יִם	לְאֵפֹד וְ	וּלְחֹשֶׁן:
and stones	And onyx	and stones	to be set	for the ephod	and for the breastplate
H68	H7718	H68	H4394	H646	H2833

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