

Exodus 40:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

The anointing oil (שֶׁמֶן הַמִּשְׁחָה, shemen haMishchah) consecrating the tabernacle and all its vessels teaches that implements, not just people, require consecration. The Hebrew מָשַׁח (mashach, to anoint) means to smear/spread, indicating complete covering. This anointing 'sanctifies' (וַקִּדְּשָׁה, vekidashta, makes holy) by separating common items for sacred use. The oil symbolizes the Holy Spirit consecrating believers (2 Corinthians 1:21-22; 1 John 2:20, 27). Christ, the Anointed One (Messiah/Christos), received the Spirit without measure (John 3:34), qualifying Him as Prophet, Priest, and King.

Historical Context

The unique anointing oil recipe (Exodus 30:23-33), using myrrh, cinnamon, cane, cassia, and olive oil, was restricted to tabernacle use only. Duplicating it for common purposes carried the death penalty, emphasizing sacred distinctiveness. The oil's fragrance filled the tabernacle, symbolizing holiness permeating everything.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does anointing inanimate objects teach that all aspects of worship, not just 'spiritual' ones, require consecration?
2. What does Christ's anointing with the Spirit qualifying Him for ministry teach about believers' need for Spirit-empowerment?

Interlinear Text

וְלָקַחְתָּ	אֶת	שֶׁן	הַמִּשְׁחָה	וּמָשַׁחְתָּ	אֶת	הַמִּשְׁכָּן
And thou shalt take	H853	oil	the anointing	and anoint	H853	the tabernacle
H3947		H8081	H4888	H4886		H4908
וְאֶת	כָּל	אֲשֶׁר	בּוֹ	וְקִדַּשְׁתָּ	אֶת	וְאֶת
H853	H3605	H834	H0	and all that is therein and shalt hallow	H853	H853
				H6942		
כָּל	כָּל	יָהּ	קִדְּשׁ:			
H3605	it and all the vessels	H1961	thereof and it shall be holy			
	H3627		H6944			

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 8:10 (Holy): And Moses took the anointing oil, and anointed the tabernacle and all that was therein, and sanctified them.

Numbers 7:1 (Holy): And it came to pass on the day that Moses had fully set up the tabernacle, and had anointed it, and sanctified it, and all the instruments thereof, both the altar and all the vessels thereof, and had anointed them, and sanctified them;