

# Ezekiel 16:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And tookest thy broidered garments, and coveredst them: and thou hast set mine oil and mine incense before them.

## Analysis

---

**Thou hast set mine oil and mine incense before them**—The Hebrew shemen (שֶׁמֶן, oil) and qetoreth (קְטוּרֶת, incense) were sacred items reserved exclusively for YHWH's worship (Exodus 30:22-33). Jerusalem's spiritual adultery reached its nadir by taking covenant gifts—**broidered garments** (תְּמִימָנָה, elaborate embroidered vestments)—and using them to adorn idols. This wasn't mere apostasy but covenant betrayal using the very symbols of God's provision.

The prophetic imagery intensifies: Jerusalem dressed her idol-lovers with garments God provided, burned incense meant for His altar, and offered His oil to false gods. Paul's warning against using 'liberty for an occasion to the flesh' (Galatians 5:13) echoes this principle—perverting divine gifts into instruments of rebellion.

## Historical Context

---

During Manasseh's reign (697-642 BC) and the decades before Babylon's invasion, Jerusalem's temple precincts hosted Asherah poles, astral cult altars, and syncretistic worship. Archaeological evidence from Tel Arad and Lachish confirms oil and incense were central to both legitimate and illicit worship.

## Related Passages

---

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

---

1. What gifts from God might you be using for purposes contrary to His glory and worship?
2. How does the misuse of sacred things (time, talents, resources meant for God) constitute spiritual adultery in the New Covenant?

## Interlinear Text

---

וְשָׂמְנִי וְתַכְסֵס יִם רְקָמָת בְּגִזְעִים אַת תְּלַקֵּחַ  
And tookest H3947 garments H853 thy broidered H899 and coveredst H7553 mine oil  
H3680 H8081

לְפָנֵיכֶם: בָּרְאָתָת יְתַת תִּי  
and mine incense H7004 them and thou hast set H5414 before H6440

---

From KJV Study • [kjvstudy.org](http://kjvstudy.org)