

Ezekiel 23:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And satest upon a stately bed, and a table prepared before it, whereupon thou hast set mine incense and mine oil.

Analysis

And satest upon a stately bed pictures a royal reception couch, throne-like furniture for entertaining honored guests. And a table prepared before it indicates banquet setting. And hast set mine incense and mine oil upon it reveals shocking detail: items belonging to God (temple incense and sacred oil) were used to honor foreign guests and their gods. What was consecrated to Yahweh was profaned by using it in diplomatic/idolatrous contexts. This is sacrilege—taking holy things and applying them to common or profane use. Treating sacred things casually or using them for personal advantage desecrates them. Many do this with Scripture, prayer, and worship—using sacred elements for selfish purposes rather than God's glory.

Historical Context

Temple incense and anointing oil were specially formulated and consecrated exclusively for worship (Exodus 30:22-38). Using them for diplomatic purposes or personal pleasure was explicitly forbidden under pain of death. Yet Judah's leaders appropriated sacred items for political theater, demonstrating complete disregard for holiness and God's explicit commands.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How do we profane sacred things by using them for personal benefit?
2. What does it mean to treat holy things casually?
3. How should proper reverence affect our use of Scripture, prayer, and worship?

Interlinear Text

וְיִשְׁבֹּתָ	עַל	מֵטָה	כְּבוֹדָהּ	וְשֻׁלְחָן	עָרְיוֹן	לִפְנֵי יְהוָה
And satest	H5921	bed	upon a stately	and a table	prepared	before
H3427		H4296	H3520	H7979	H6186	H6440
וּקְטֹרֶתִי	וְשֶׁמֶןִּי	שָׁמָּה	עָלֶיהָ:			
mine incense	and mine oil	it whereupon thou hast set	H5921			
H7004	H8081	H7760				

Additional Cross-References

Esther 1:6 (Parallel theme): Where were white, green, and blue, hangings, fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings and pillars of marble: the beds were of gold and silver, upon a pavement of red, and blue, and white, and black, marble.

Isaiah 65:11 (Parallel theme): But ye are they that forsake the LORD, that forget my holy mountain, that prepare a table for that troop, and that furnish the drink offering unto that number.

Jeremiah 44:17 (Parallel theme): But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth, to burn incense unto the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, as we have done, we, and our fathers, our kings, and our princes, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: for then had we plenty of victuals, and were well, and saw no evil.

Amos 6:4 (Parallel theme): That lie upon beds of ivory, and stretch themselves upon their couches, and eat the lambs out of the flock, and the calves out of the midst of the stall;

Ezekiel 44:16 (Parallel theme): They shall enter into my sanctuary, and they shall come near to my table, to minister unto me, and they shall keep my charge.

Isaiah 57:7 (Parallel theme): Upon a lofty and high mountain hast thou set thy bed: even thither wentest thou up to offer sacrifice.

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