

Leviticus 24:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Command the children of Israel, that they bring unto thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamps to burn continually.

Analysis

Command the children of Israel, that they bring unto thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamps to burn continually.

This verse falls within the section on **Oil, Bread, and Blasphemy**. Instructions for tabernacle maintenance and the account of a blasphemer's punishment, showing reverence for God's name.

Ritual purity laws taught Israel to distinguish between clean and unclean, holy and common, training them in discernment and reverence for God's presence.

The holiness demanded in Leviticus becomes possible through Christ, who both satisfies God's righteous requirements and transforms believers by His Spirit.

Historical Context

Instructions for tabernacle maintenance and the account of a blasphemer's punishment, showing reverence for God's name. Chapters 17-27, often called the 'Holiness Code,' expand covenant obligations beyond ritual to encompass all of life—sexuality, economics, justice, and relationships. The repeated refrain 'I am the LORD' grounds these laws in God's character and covenant relationship with Israel. Israel received these laws while encamped at Sinai, before entering Canaan. The laws prepared them for life in the promised land, distinguishing them from Canaanite practices and establishing their identity as God's holy nation. The

portable tabernacle, central to Levitical worship, accompanied them through wilderness wanderings and eventually found permanent form in Solomon's temple. Ancient texts like the Code of Hammurabi show that law codes were common in the ancient Near East, but biblical law uniquely grounded ethics in God's character rather than merely social convention.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How can you develop greater spiritual discernment in distinguishing what honors God from what defiles?
2. How does understanding the purpose behind God's laws help you obey Him from the heart rather than mere duty?
3. What does this verse teach about the seriousness of sin, the cost of redemption, or the beauty of holiness?

Interlinear Text

וְצִוְּ	אֶת	בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל	וְיָבִיאוּ	אֵלַי	שֶׁן	יֵת
Command	H853	the children	of Israel	that they bring	H413	oil
H6680		H1121	H3478	H3947		H2132
וְיָבִיאוּ	אֶת	לְמַא וְרָ	לְהַעֲלֹת	נֵר	תָּמִיד:	
unto thee pure	beaten	for the light	to burn	to cause the lamps	continually	
H2134	H3795	H3974	H5927	H5216	H8548	

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 4:6 (Light): For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Acts 26:18 (Light): To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

John 8:12 (Light): Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Isaiah 11:2 (Parallel theme): And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

Isaiah 8:20 (Light): To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

Psalms 119:130 (Light): The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

Psalms 119:105 (Light): Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Proverbs 6:23 (Light): For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:

Matthew 4:16 (Light): The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.

Matthew 5:16 (Light): Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.