

# Numbers 4:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And to the office of Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest pertaineth the oil for the light, and the sweet incense, and the daily meat offering, and the anointing oil, and the oversight of all the tabernacle, and of all that therein is, in the sanctuary, and in the vessels thereof.

## Analysis

Eleazar's oversight of the oil, incense, meal offering, and anointing oil placed him in charge of the most essential elements of worship—light, prayer, grain offering, and consecration. These four elements together represent the fullness of Israel's approach to God. The oil for light sustained the golden lampstand's continual flame, symbolizing God's presence and the illumination of His word. This verse demonstrates the principle that worship leadership requires both divine appointment and faithful stewardship of sacred things.

## Historical Context

Eleazar, Aaron's third son, would eventually succeed his father as high priest. His specific responsibility for these particular elements prepared him for this role. The items under his care were used daily in the tabernacle service and were essential for maintaining proper worship.

## Related Passages

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How does Eleazar's faithful stewardship of worship elements challenge modern church leaders?
2. What do the four elements—oil, incense, grain, and anointing oil—teach us about comprehensive worship?
3. In what ways does the anointing oil prefigure the Holy Spirit's work in consecrating believers?

## Interlinear Text

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הַמֹּאֲרֵן	וְשָׁמַן	הַכְּהָבָד	וְשָׁמַן	הַמְּשִׁיחָה	וְשָׁמַן	בְּמִשְׁמָךְ	וְשָׁמַן	בְּמִשְׁמָךְ
And to the office	of Eleazar	the son	of Aaron	the priest	oil	for the light		
H6486	H499	H1121	H175	H3548	H8081	H3974		
וְקַרְבָּן	וְמִנְחָה	וְבָשָׂר יְמִינָה	וְמִנְחָה	וְבְּתַמִּים יָדָה	וְמִנְחָה	וְבְּתַמִּים יָדָה	וְמִנְחָה	וְבְּתַמִּים יָדָה
incense	and the sweet	meat offering	and the daily	oil	and the anointing			
H7004	H5561	H4503	H8548	H8081	H4888			
בְּכָל	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	בְּכָל
And to the office	of all the tabernacle							
H6486	H3605	H4908	H3605	H834	H0			
בְּכָל	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	בְּכָל
דְּשֵׁנָה	וְבְּכָל	וְבְּכָל	וְבְּכָל	וְבְּכָל	וְבְּכָל	וְבְּכָל	וְבְּכָל	וְבְּכָל
and of all that therein is in the sanctuary	and in the vessels							
H6944	H3627							

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 25:6** (Light): Oil for the light, spices for anointing oil, and for sweet incense,

**Leviticus 24:2** (Light): Command the children of Israel, that they bring unto thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamps to burn continually.

**1 Peter 2:25** (Parallel theme): For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

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