

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

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

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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Additional Cross-References

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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