



**Portion:**

**Title:**

**SCRIPTURES**

- Exodus 27:20-30:10
- Romans 12:1-21
- Matthew 25:1-13

**RIVER ROCKS**

- Pure Oil
- Perpetual Incense
- Sight and Aroma

*What is it about river rocks? You've all held one in your hand. They are shiny and smooth, no ragged edges, nothing sharp or offensive to soft skin. But, not every rock in a river is a river rock. They all can be, but there is one thing that separates river rocks from rocks in a river. That's time! You see, for a rough and jagged stone to be transformed into a smooth and shiny rock, it needs to sit in the river continuously, for a very long time.*

*It's like the life of a faithful disciple. You can't just dip your toe in the water and pray the rushing river will transform your whole life, or even your small appendage. All you get when you test the water is a wet toe. But jump in, submerge your whole body, and most importantly, stay there, and your whole being will transform! You'll go from rough and ragged, and not so nice to touch, to smooth and shiny and gentle on the skin.*

*That is why God emphasizes the idea of a continuous fire. Light the lamp, and keep supplying it with pure oil. Ignite the incense and keep feeding the flames—forever! Don't ever let the light go out; don't ever stop the fragrance of incense from going up. It's a perpetual burn, not a toe in the water.*

### **THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE**

“And you shall command the children of Israel that they bring you **pure oil** of pressed olives for the light, **to cause the lamp to burn continually.**” Exodus 27:20 NKJV

“Aaron shall burn on it sweet incense every morning; when he tends the lamps, he shall burn incense on it. And when Aaron lights the lamps at twilight, **he shall burn incense on it, a perpetual incense before the Lord throughout your generations.**” Exodus 30:7-8 NKJV

### **OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE**

“Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. **Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.**” Matthew 25:1-4 NKJV

“Lord, I cry out to You; Make haste to me! Give ear to my voice when I cry out to You. **Let my prayer be set before You as incense**, The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.” Psalms 141:1-2 NKJV

## Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. This portion of Exodus continues with the instructions for the construction of the Tabernacle, now turning its attention to the priesthood that would serve in that sanctuary. Yahweh gives Moses detailed instructions to make special garments for Aaron and his sons to wear while ministering as priests. After describing the priestly garments, the portion concludes with details for the ritual inauguration of Aaron and his sons into the priesthood. (Note: you can learn why every detail that Yahweh gave on the mountain is so important in these teachings: [The Volume of the Scroll](#) and [Torn Curtains](#))

### **Exodus 27**

2. We begin where we left off last week as we saw every detail for the construction of the Tabernacle and its contents and now we need oil to light the menorah. Yahweh commands pure olive oil be used to keep the light burning continually. This light is to

burn in the tabernacle outside the veil which separates the holy place from the most holy place (where the Ark resides).

3. We learn that it is Aaron and his sons who will be responsible to keep the fire burning continually forever.

## **Exodus 28**

4. Now we turn our attention to the priesthood. Aaron and his four sons are the seed of the Levitical Priesthood (remember Moses and Aaron are from the tribe of Levi). Aaron's sons are Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. (Keep your eyes on the first two, as they will make a critical error in the near future, and Eleazar will have to step up into the leadership role!)
5. Moses is instructed to make holy garments for his brother Aaron who is about to be consecrated as the first high priest.
6. **Yahweh Provides where He Guides:** I love that Yahweh provides where He guides. In other words, have no fear, if He tells you to do something, He makes it possible for you to do it!
  - (a) *“So you shall speak to all who are gifted artisans, **whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom**, that they may make Aaron's garments, to consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest.” Exodus 28:3 NKJV*
7. Yahweh has filled those who will take on this assignment with all the precise skills and knowledge they need to do it.

8. Then we see exquisite details for the garments: a breastplate, an ephod, a robe, a skillfully woven tunic, a turban, and a sash.
9. The descriptors are so detailed as painted in words pictures that you can literally see the designs in your mind. The adjectives used leave no doubts that you are witnessing a blueprint being described in words.
10. **The EPHOD:** I especially love the two memorial stones with the names of the 12 Tribes of Israel written on them in birth order (six on each), giving us the mental picture of the two tablets with The Ten Commandments on them! God says He does this so the names of the sons of Israel are ever before Him!
  - (a) *“Then you shall take two onyx stones and engrave on them the names of the sons of Israel: six of their names on one stone and six names on the other stone, in order of their birth.”* Exodus 28:9-10 NKJV
11. **The BREASTPLATE:** The breastplate with it's 12 different stones also will be engraved with the names of sons of Israel on them, one per stone. And as the stones are laid out in four rows with each type of stone in a particular position, you can use the birth order of Israel's sons to align which stone represents which tribe! (See Exodus 28:17-21)
12. This is the birth order with their mothers:

<b>LEAH</b> Son#s1-4 Son#s 9-10	<b>ZIPAH</b> (Leah's servant) Son#s 7-8	<b>BILHAH</b> (Rachel's servant) Son#s 5-6	<b>RACHEL</b> Son#s 11-12
Reuben (1)	Gad (7)	Dan (5)	Joseph (11)
Simeon (2)	Asher (8)	Naphtali (6)	Benjamin (12)
Levi (3)			
Judah (4)			
Issachar (9)			
Zebulun (10)			

13. These are the stones with their respective tribes (Read from left to right as that is the direction you read in the Hebrew language):

The first row:

#3 Levi–emerald	#2 Simeon–topaz	#1 Reuben–sardius
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The second row:

#6 Naphtali–diamond	#5 Dan–sapphire	#4 Judah–turquoise
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The third row:

#9 Issachar–amethyst	#8 Asher–agate	#7 Gad–jacinth
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The fourth row:

#12 Benjamin–jasper	#11 Joseph–*onyx	#10 Zebulun–beryl
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14. \*Note: Onyx for Joseph is the same stone as the two stones used for the Ephod with all 12 names on them! *“Then you shall take two onyx stones and engrave on them the names of the sons of Israel:”* (Exodus 28:9) As there are no idle words in the Scriptures, consider that Joseph has a “special role” that relates back to all the tribes! And isn’t this so true when we examine the life of Joseph and his special calling to preserve the life of Israel (his father Jacob, his 11 brothers and their families, and the nation!)

15. Side Note: The New Jerusalem has 12 Gates and 12 Foundation Stones!

16. Twelve Gates

(a) *“Also she had a great and high wall with **twelve gates**, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the **names of the twelve tribes** of the children of Israel: three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.”* Revelation 21:12-13 NKJV

(b) **Ezekiel clarifies which tribe is connected to which gate—**  
*““These are the exits of the city. On the north side, measuring four thousand five hundred cubits (the gates of the city shall be named after the tribes of Israel), the **three gates northward**: one gate for **Reuben**, one gate for **Judah**, and one*

gate for **Levi; on the east side**, four thousand five hundred cubits, three gates: one gate for **Joseph**, one gate for **Benjamin**, and one gate for **Dan; on the south side**, measuring four thousand five hundred cubits, three gates: one gate for **Simeon**, one gate for **Issachar**, and one gate for **Zebulun; on the west side**, four thousand five hundred cubits with their three gates: one gate for **Gad**, one gate for **Asher**, and one gate for **Naphtali**. All the way around shall be eighteen thousand cubits; and the name of the city from that day shall be: THE LORD IS THERE.”” Ezekiel 48:30-35 NKJV

#### 17. Twelve Foundation Stones

- (a) “Now the wall of the city had **twelve foundations**, and on them were the **names of the twelve apostles** of the Lamb...The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with **all kinds of precious stones**: the first foundation was **jasper**, the second **sapphire**, the third **chalcedony**, the fourth **emerald**, the fifth **sardonyx**, the sixth **sardius**, the seventh **chrysolite**, the eighth **beryl**, the ninth **topaz**, the tenth **chrysoprase**, the eleventh **jacinth**, and the twelfth **amethyst**.” Revelation 21:14, 18-20 NKJV

#### 18. Pillars in the Temple (of the New Jerusalem) with God’s name on them!



(a) *“Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. He who overcomes, **I will make him a pillar in the temple** of My God, and he shall go out no more. **I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem**, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.”* Revelation 3:11-12 NKJV

19. Why are the names of the sons of Israel also on the breastplate?

(a) *“So Aaron shall bear the names of the sons of Israel on the breastplate of judgment **over his heart**, when he goes into the holy place, **as a memorial before the LORD continually.**”*

Exodus 28:29 NKJV

20. The Urim and Thummim are also in the breastplate so they are positioned over Aaron’s heart!

(a) *“And you shall put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim, and they shall be **over Aaron’s heart** when he goes in before the LORD. So Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel **over his heart before the LORD continually.**”* Exodus 28:30 NKJV

21. Then other priestly garments and their details are described—even that there are bells attached so it can be heard when Aaron goes before Yahweh. Presumably this is so they can

determine if he is still alive when he disappears behind the veil, a place in which no one else can go.

22. **The Head Covering:** The turban Aaron wears will have a gold plate on it that has inscribed "HOLINESS TO THE LORD". This is so Aaron can present gifts of the people to Yahweh as holy, **as if he is bearing their iniquity on his own head** (sound familiar?).

(a) *"You shall also make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it, like **the engraving of a signet [the engravings of a seal]:***

**HOLINESS TO THE LORD.**" Exodus 28:36 NKJV

(b) And this sign over Aaron's head certainly conjures up thoughts of the cross and of Y'shua's priestly garments in Revelation, and our NEW NAME, and our call to be HOLY!

1. *"And they put up over His head the **accusation [reason for execution] written against Him: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.**"* Matthew 27:37 NKJV

2. *"Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. **He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.** He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, **and His name is called The Word of God.** And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed*

*Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and **on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.**"*

Revelation 19:11-16 NKJV

3. **Our New Name written on a stone!** *"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, **and on the stone a new name written** which no one knows except him who receives it."* Revelation 2:17 NKJV

4. We, now as His priests, must also "wear a sign"—  
**HOLINESS TO THE LORD:** "but as He who called you is holy, **you also be holy** in all your conduct, because it is written, "**Be holy, for I am holy [from Leviticus 11:44].**""

I Peter 1:15-16 NKJV

23. How do you hang the signet: **HOLINESS TO THE LORD?**

- (a) *"And you shall put it on a blue cord, that it may be on the turban; it shall be on the front of the turban."* Exodus 28:37

NKJV

24. **The Priestly Image:** He wears this sign **as to bear the iniquity on himself!** What a beautiful shadow of Y'shua as the true High Priest through whom we become acceptable to Yahweh!

(a) *“So it shall be on Aaron’s forehead, that Aaron may **bear the iniquity of the holy things which the children of Israel hallow in all their holy gifts**; and it shall always be on his forehead, **that they may be accepted** before the LORD.”*

Exodus 28:38 NKJV

(b) **IN OTHER WORDS!** “It will be on Aaron’s forehead, and he will **bear the guilt** involved in the sacred gifts the Israelites consecrate, **whatever their gifts may be**. It will be on Aaron’s forehead continually so **that they will be acceptable to the Lord**.” Exodus 28:38 NIV

(c) Now you can understand what Moses means when you read about carrying God commands as Frontlets between your eyes!

1. *“Now this is the commandment, and these are the statutes and judgments which the LORD your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe them in the land which you are crossing over to possess, that you may fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that*

*your days may be prolonged. Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you— ‘a land flowing with milk and honey.’ “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. **You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.** You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”*

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 NKJV

25. Now look at all the imagery of the Y’shua and priesthood from the Letter of Hebrews: In Him alone can we be holy and so too our gifts become acceptable! Without Him, we and our gifts are all just filthy rags! *“But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.”* Isaiah 64:6 NKJV

- (a) *“Seeing then that we have a great **High Priest** who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.”* Hebrews 4:14 NKJV
- (b) *“So also Christ did not glorify Himself **to become High Priest**, but it was He who said to Him: “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.” As He also says in another place: “You are a priest forever **According to the order of Melchizedek**”;* Hebrews 5:5-6 NKJV
- (c) *“This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, **having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.**”* Hebrews 6:19-20 NKJV
- (d) *“For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated “king of righteousness,” and then also king of Salem, meaning “king of peace,” without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, **but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually.**”* Hebrews 7:1-3 NKJV
- (e) *“Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what*

further need was there that **another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek**, and not be called according to the order of Aaron? For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law. For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood. And it is yet far more evident if, **in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment**, but according to the power of an endless life. For He testifies: **“You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.”**” Hebrews 7:11-17 NKJV

- (f) “(for they have become priests without an oath, but He with an oath by Him who said to Him: “The LORD has sworn And will not relent, ‘You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek’ ”), by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant. Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. **But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood.**” Hebrews 7:21-24 NKJV

- (g) *“Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. **For such a High Priest was fitting for us**, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people’s, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. **For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness**, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, **appoints the Son who has been perfected forever.**”* Hebrews 7:25-28 NKJV
- (h) *“Now **this is the main point** of the things we are saying: **We have such a High Priest**, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, **a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.**”* Hebrews 8:1-2 NKJV
- (i) *“For Christ **has not entered the holy places made with hands**, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;”* Hebrews 9:24 NKJV
- (j) *“But this Man, after **He had offered one sacrifice for sins [bore our iniquity]** forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.”* Hebrews 10:12-13 NKJV



26. Aarons sons will also wear tunics, sashes and hats. And they must wear linen trousers to cover their nakedness. We saw this before when God warned Moses not to make an alter with steps going up to it so the priest's nakedness would not be exposed! (See Exodus 20:25-26)

27. And all of them shall be anointed and sanctified before Yahweh so they can minister as priests before Him.

### **Exodus 29**

28. Chapter 29 then speaks to the consecration of the priesthood.

(a) *““And this is what you shall do to them to hallow them for ministering to Me as priests: ...”* Exodus 29:1 NKJV

29. What follows are all the details of what that consecration process looks like, of both Aaron as High priest and of his four sons. The holy garments of Aaron as the High Priest shall pass to his sons after him. The son who takes his place will wear the garment for seven days and the altar shall be cleansed for seven days as well.

30. From this process of consecrating the priesthood and the altar flows this premise: (you can see details about God dwelling among His people in: [The Volume of the Scroll](#))

(a) *“And **there I will meet with the children of Israel**, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by My glory.”* Exodus 29:43  
NKJV

- (b) *“So **I will consecrate the tabernacle** of meeting and the altar. **I will also consecrate both Aaron and his sons** to minister to Me as priests.” Exodus 29:44 NKJV*
- (c) *“**I will dwell among the children** of Israel and will be their God. And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them up out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them. I am the LORD their God.” Exodus 29:45-46 NKJV*

## **Exodus 30**

31. The portion ends with instructions for the altar of incense in the first ten verses of chapter 30.
32. You can see last year’s teaching on the portion here: [Implanted Sagacity](#)

## PURE OIL

### **1. Cause the Lamp to Burn Continually**

#### **A. Pure Oil**

(1) A Continual Burn:

- (a) Fill the lamps with pure unadulterated oil and keep the supply flowing 24/7/365, so the lamp never goes out. Think about that, a never-ending supply of pure oil and light! Do this exactly because it is a pattern for things to come. (Also See: [Torn Curtains](#))

1. “And you shall command the children of Israel that they bring you **pure oil** of pressed olives for **the light**, to **cause the lamp to burn continually**. In the tabernacle of meeting, outside the veil which is before the Testimony, Aaron and his sons shall **tend it from evening until morning before the Lord**. It shall be a statute forever to their generations on behalf of the children of Israel.” Exodus 27:20-21 NKJV
  2. **The lampstand from the last portion:** “You shall also make a **lampstand** of pure gold; the lampstand shall be of hammered work. Its shaft, its branches, its bowls, its ornamental knobs, and flowers shall be of one piece... **You shall make seven lamps for it, and they shall arrange its lamps so that they give light in front of it**. And its wick-trimmers and their trays shall be of pure gold. It shall be made of a talent of pure gold, with all these utensils. **And see to it that you make them according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.**” Exodus 25:31, 37-40 NKJV
- (b) The continuously burning lamp inside the tabernacle and the continuous attention required to do so is the pattern that represented the Spirit of God continuously

dwelling among His people and how we are intended to actively participate in that relationship.

(2) Oil in its many forms and types and what it was used for...

(a) The Anointing of Priests: God gives us the exclusive recipe for the anointing oil in Exodus 30:22-33 and instructs us to consecrate the priests as they come into service. We are not to copy that recipe for any other purpose. Clearly we can see the shadow here of the impartation or baptism of the Holy Spirit.

1. “And **you shall anoint Aaron and his sons**, and consecrate them, that they may minister to Me as priests. “And you shall speak to the children of Israel, saying: ‘**This shall be a holy anointing oil to Me throughout your generations**. It shall not be poured on man’s flesh; nor shall you make any other like it, according to its composition. It is holy, and it shall be holy to you. Whoever compounds any like it, or whoever puts any of it on an outsider, shall be cut off from his people.’ ”” Exodus 30:30-33 NKJV

(b) The Anointing of Kings—imparting the Holy Spirit to kings. When David was anointed with oil, the Holy Spirit empowered him. Oil represents the presence and power of the Spirit of God throughout the Bible.

1. “Then **Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him** in the midst of his brothers; **and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward.** So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.” I Samuel 16:13 NKJV
  2. “Then You spoke in a vision to Your holy one, And said: “I have given help to one who is mighty; I have exalted one chosen from the people. **I have found My servant David; With My holy oil I have anointed him,** With whom My hand shall be established; Also My arm shall strengthen him.” Psalms 89:19-21 NKJV
- (c) The Unity of the Spirit: Oil represents the unity of God’s people. We become members of one family when we are filled with the Holy Spirit. There is one God, one Spirit and one people!
1. “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in **unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head,** Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments.” Psalms 133:1-2 NKJV
  2. **The Unity of the Spirit!** “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one

another in love, endeavoring to **keep the unity of the Spirit** in the bond of peace. There is **one body** and **one Spirit**, just as you were called in **one hope** of your calling; **one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God** and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."Ephesians 4:1-6 NKJV

(d) The Anointing to Preach: we are filled with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit and only then can we impart such to others. You can not give away what you do not possess.

1. "“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because **He has anointed Me** To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;” Luke 4:18 NKJV (From Isaiah 61:1-2)
2. “The word which God sent to the children of Israel, **preaching peace through Jesus Christ**—He is Lord of all— that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: how **God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power**, who went about doing good and healing all

who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.” Acts 10:36-38 NKJV

(e) The anointing to heal the sick and cast out demons: the practice of actually using oil to anoint people was not limited to those who came before Christ. It is a practice that extends into the New Testament! Think...”see to it that you make them according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.”

1. “So they went out and preached that people should repent. And they cast out many demons, **and anointed with oil** many who were sick, and healed them.” Mark 6:12-13 NKJV

2. “Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, **anointing him with oil** in the name of the Lord.” James 5:14 NKJV

## **B. Concept**

(3) What...

(a) What is being burned? Pure Oil!

(b) What is being produced? Light

(4) How...

(a) Oil gets Burned!

(b) Light shines.

- (c) Light makes things visible!
- (d) The Fire and the Light reveal that Oil has power.
- (e) Do this continually!

### C. Practice

#### (1) What? Oil Fuels Light!

- (a) All these uses of oil are powerful, but if you want to reveal oil's hidden properties you have to burn it! The amount of oil it would take to anoint one king or priest could light a lamp that would shine light on many "kings and priests." If you want your light to shine, you have to burn!

#### (2) How?

- (a) Oil makes light! The kingdom of heaven is going to reveal who has continuously attended to their lamps with a never-ending supply of oil! Fire will test each one of you. You see, this light burning in the tabernacle was symbolic of the light that should burn in you, because you are the Temple of the Holy Spirit. In the end, what is truly burning inside of you will be exposed!

1. ""Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. **Those who were foolish took their**



**lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.”** Matthew 25:1-4 NKJV

2. “For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. **But let each one take heed how he builds on it.** For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. **Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work,** of what sort it is. If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. **Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?** If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.” I Corinthians 3:9-17 NKJV

(b) The Word is the light! Now we can start connecting the Holy Spirit with the lamp itself. The Spirit of God animates the Word of God!

1. “**Your word is a lamp** to my feet And a light to my path.”Psalms 119:105 NKJV

(c) And that Word of God became a man! In the person of Y’shua the Messiah, the Lamp unto all men, was expressed as the true light of life. Think about it like this. He was the embodiment of the Holy Spirit and when He was crucified, what was in Him, that Light or Spirit, was released and made available to all men!

1. “In the beginning was the **Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.** He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. **In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.** And **the light shines in the darkness,** and the darkness did not comprehend it. ...And **the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,** and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:1-5, 14 NKJV

2. “Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “**I am the light of the world.** He who follows Me shall not walk

in darkness, but have the light of life.”” John 8:12  
NKJV

3. “Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; **for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.**” John 16:7 NKJV

(d) You are the light: the ultimate expression of these patterns is that this light of the world will be manifested in you! Your job is to take the Holy Spirit that is now animating you, and let that light shine to all men! This will then point back to God and of course, Y’shua’s work on the cross!

1. “**You are the light of the world.** A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. **Let your light so shine before men,** that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:14-16  
NKJV

**Summary: PURE OIL**

## **1. Cause the Lamp to Burn Continually**

### **A. Pure Oil**

(1) A Continual Burn:

- (a) Fill the lamps with pure unadulterated oil and keep the supply flowing 24/7/365, so the lamp never goes out. Think about that, a never-ending supply of pure oil and light! Do this exactly because it is a pattern for things to come.
- (b) The continuously burning lamp inside the tabernacle and the continuous attention required to do so is the pattern that represented the Spirit of God continuously dwelling among His people and how we are intended to actively participate in that relationship.

(2) Oil in its many forms and types and what it was used for...

- (a) The Anointing of Priests: God gives us the exclusive recipe for the anointing oil in Exodus 30:22-33 and instructs us to consecrate the priests as they come into service. We are not to copy that recipe for any other purpose. Clearly we can see the shadow here of the impartation or baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- (b) The Anointing of Kings—imparting the Holy Spirit to kings. When David was anointed with oil, the Holy Spirit empowered him. Oil represents the presence and power of the Spirit of God throughout the Bible.

- (c) The Unity of the Spirit: Oil represents the unity of God's people. We become members of one family when we are filled with the Holy Spirit. There is one God, one Spirit and one people!
- (d) The Anointing to Preach: we are filled with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit and only then can we impart such to others. You can not give away what you do not possess.
- (e) The anointing to heal the sick and cast out demons: the practice of actually using oil to anoint people was not limited to those who came before Christ. It is a practice that extends into the New Testament! Think..."see to it that you make them according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain."

**B. Concept**

(3) What...

- (a) What is being burned? Pure Oil!
- (b) What is being produced? Light

(4) How...

- (a) Oil gets Burned!
- (b) Light shines.
- (c) Light makes things visible!
- (d) The Fire and the Light reveal that Oil has power.

(e) Do this continually!

### **C. Practice**

(1) What? Oil Fuels Light!

(a) All these uses of oil are powerful, but if you want to reveal oil's hidden properties you have to burn it! The amount of oil it would take to anoint one king or priest could light a lamp that would shine light on many "kings and priests." If you want your light to shine, you have to burn!

(2) How?

(a) Oil makes light! The kingdom of heaven is going to reveal who has continuously attended to their lamps with a never-ending supply of oil! Fire will test each one of you. You see, this light burning in the tabernacle was symbolic of the light that should burn in you, because you are the Temple of the Holy Spirit. In the end, what is truly burning inside of you will be exposed!

(b) The Word is the light! Now we can start connecting the Holy Spirit with the lamp itself. The Spirit of God animates the Word of God!

(c) And that Word of God became a man! In the person of Y'shua the Messiah, the Lamp unto all men, was expressed as the true light of life. Think about it like this.

He was the embodiment of the Holy Spirit and when He was crucified, what was in Him, that Light or Spirit, was released and made available to all men!

- (d) You are the light: the ultimate expression of these patterns is that this light of the world will be manifested in you! Your job is to take the Holy Spirit that is now animating you, and let that light shine to all men! This will then point back to God and of course, Y'shua's work on the cross!

## PERPETUAL INCENSE

### 2. Cause the Incense to Burn Continually

#### A. Incense

(1) The Perpetual Burn:

- (a) Like the oil was to be supplied continuously, so too was the incense to be burned day and night. You will again recognize the importance of patterns when you discover what was casting the shadow. (Also See: [Torn Curtains](#))

1. "You shall make an **altar to burn incense on**; you shall make it of acacia wood." Exodus 30:1 NKJV
2. "Aaron shall burn on it sweet incense every morning; when he tends the lamps, **he shall burn incense on it**. And when Aaron lights the lamps at twilight, **he shall**

**burn incense on it, a perpetual incense** before the Lord throughout your generations." Exodus 30:7-8 NKJV

(2) When you think Incense, think Prayer!

(a) When the incense burns it creates smoke with an aroma that ascends to heaven! And like the anointing oil has a specific recipe, so too does the incense in Exodus 30:34-38.

1. "Lord, I cry out to You; Make haste to me! **Give ear to my voice when I cry out to You. Let my prayer be set before You as incense,** The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice." Psalms 141:1-2 NKJV

2. "Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden **bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.**" Revelation 5:8 NKJV

3. "When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it



with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. **And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.** Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake. So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound." Revelation 8:1-6 NKJV

## **B. Concept**

(3) What...

- (a) What is being burned? Incense!
- (b) What is being produced? Smoke!

(4) How...

- (a) Incense gets burned!
- (b) Visible Smoke is Produced.
- (c) Smoke Rises!
- (d) The Fire and Smoke reveal that Incense has an aroma.
- (e) Do this continually!

## **C. Practice**

(1) What? Pray without ceasing!

- (a) Like the incense was to be burned day and night, we are to pray without ceasing! The effective, fervent prayer

of a righteous man avails much. It even has the power to turn someone around who has wandered from the truth.

1. {16} “Rejoice always, {17} **pray without ceasing**, {18} in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” I Thessalonians 5:16-18 NKJV
2. “Is anyone among you suffering? **Let him pray**. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. {16} Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. **The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much**. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and **he prayed earnestly** that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And **he prayed again**, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.” James 5:13-18 NKJV
3. “Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, **and someone turns him back [using prayer]**, let

him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins." James 5:19-20 NKJV

(2) How? In His will!

(a) There is ultimately only one prayer and that is for God's will to be done. Of course we get to participate in the details, but in the end, everything we pray for is going to be sifted through the will of God, so we might as well place this exclamation point at the end of every prayer! "Nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." And for you married men out there...if you do not honor the greater sensitivity to Spirit of your wives, the smoke of your incense will be blown sideways! (Note: women have only female DNA, so they are hypersensitive to the Holy Spirit, as opposed to men who have 50% female and 50% male DNA.)

1. "And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; **nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.**" Luke 22:41-42 NKJV
2. "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything **according to His will**, He

hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him." I John 5:14-15 NKJV

3. "Husbands, likewise, **dwelt with them with understanding**, giving honor to the wife, as to the **weaker** vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, **that your prayers may not be hindered.**"  
I Peter 3:7 NKJV

(3) Anything else is witchcraft...

(a) Any prayer beyond the will of God is considered rebellion, which is a form of witchcraft.

1. "**For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft**, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king." I Samuel 15:23 NKJV

(b) You Know the story...Saul is told through Samuel the prophet, to utterly destroy the Amalekites, but instead he spares what he feels is important, other than adhering to the will of God. He then defends his rebellion by insisting he obeyed God! It ends badly for Saul, as he is removed as king, and ultimately pays the price of rebellion with his life!

1. {3}“Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and **do not spare them**. But **kill** both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.”
2. {9}...**But Saul and the people spared Agag and** the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed. Now the word of the Lord came to Samuel, saying, “I greatly regret that I have set up **Saul** as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and **has not performed My commandments**.” And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the Lord all night. So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told Samuel, saying, “Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, **he set up a monument for himself**; and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone down to Gilgal.” Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, “**Blessed are you of the Lord! I have performed the commandment of the Lord**.” But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?” And Saul said, “They have

brought them from the Amalekites; for **the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the Lord your God;** and the rest we have **utterly destroyed.**" Then Samuel said to Saul, "**Be quiet!** And I will tell you what the Lord said to me last night." And he said to him, "Speak on."

3. {18}...Now the Lord sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.' **Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord?** Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the Lord?" And Saul said to Samuel, "**But I have obeyed the voice of the Lord, and gone on the mission** on which the Lord sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites." I Samuel 15:3, 9-16, 18-20 NKJV

**Summary:** PERPETUAL INCENSE

## **2. Cause the Incense to Burn Continually**

### **A. Incense**

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Saul, as he is removed as king, and ultimately pays the price of rebellion with his life!

## SIGHT AND AROMA

### 3. The Appearance and Fragrance of a Disciple

#### A. Strange Fire

(1) A hijacking...

(a) Yes, we are called to burn for God, but it's not open season to do anything you wish. Don't mix what is not meant for Yahweh into your offerings. He will not receive it kindly.

1. **"You shall not offer strange incense on it**, or a burnt offering, or a grain offering; nor shall you pour a drink offering on it." Exodus 30:9 NKJV

2. "Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and **offered profane fire before the Lord**, which He had not commanded them." Leviticus 10:1 NKJV

(2) The consequences...

(a) Nadab and Abihu, Aaron's first two sons, and heirs to the priesthood, tried to do their own thing, and it cost them their lives.

1. “So **fire went out from the Lord and devoured them**, and they died before the Lord. And Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the Lord spoke, saying: ‘By **those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy**; And before all the people I must be glorified.’ ” So Aaron held his peace.” Leviticus 10:2-3 NKJV

## **B. A lesson for the ages...**

### (1) Preparation

- (a) Y’shua brought us the Parable of the Ten Virgins to demonstrate the importance of having oil for our lamps at all times. Wise disciples do; foolish disciples have no oil for for their lamps, which translates to not being able to produce LIGHT...I guess it turns out they were never disciples after all.

1. “Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now **five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.** But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.” Matthew 25:1-5 NKJV

### (2) The tale of two outcomes...

- (a) If you want to participate in the marriage to Christ, you better have oil in your lamps. Otherwise when you attempt to appear at the ceremony, you will hear, “Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.”
1. “And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’ Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise answered, saying, ‘No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’ **And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.** “Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ But he answered and said, ‘**Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.**’ “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.” Matthew 25:6-13 NKJV

### **C. Appearance**

- (3) Keeping the fire burning...
  - (a) You are called to keep the fire burning at all times.

1. "Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Command Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the law of the burnt offering: **The burnt offering shall be on the hearth upon the altar all night until morning, and the fire of the altar shall be kept burning on it.**"

Leviticus 6:8 NKJV

2. "**And the fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it shall not be put out.** And the priest shall burn wood on it every morning, and lay the burnt offering in order on it; and he shall burn on it the fat of the peace offerings. **A fire shall always be burning on the altar; it shall never go out.**" Leviticus 6:12-13 NKJV

(4) What does it look like to keep the fire burning?

- (a) Light, Sight and the Holy Spirit—It looks like someone ever-ready to give up everything for God, including his life.

1. "Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and **take up his cross daily, and follow Me.** For **whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life** for My sake **will save it.**" Luke 9:23-24 NKJV
2. ""If anyone comes to Me and does not **hate** his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters,

yes, and **his own life also**, he cannot be My disciple.  
...So likewise, **whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.**" Luke 14:26, 33  
NKJV

(b) It's a salty total sacrifice. You compare you own life to a sacrificed animal whose throat is slit, blood drained, body chopped into pieces, and then completely burned until only ash remains! And then you choose the way of the animal. That's the life of a disciple. And God considers that total sacrifice reasonable, nothing extraordinary. And you make that choice every day of your life!

1. "Salt is good; but **if the salt has lost its flavor**, how shall it be seasoned? It is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill, but men throw it out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" Luke 14:34-35 NKJV
2. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God**, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Romans 12:1-2 NKJV

3. "I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, **I die daily.**" I Corinthians 15:31 NKJV

4. "**I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live,** but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." Galatians 2:20 NKJV

(c) And what character traits will you see in this disciple? They live without hypocrisy, hate evil, chase good, are affectionate, and care more about others and their needs than for themselves. They are diligent and fervent in their service to God. They are patient and hopeful when times are tough and they persist in prayer. They are hospitable to both friends and enemies and they are sensitive to both the joy and the pain of others. They are humble and satisfied with the simple things in life as they truly appreciate what God calls good. They don't think they are so smart that they cannot learn something new, and they let God fight their battles, instead of fighting evil with evil. This allows them to live at peace with almost anyone. They would feed their enemies

before watching them starve, as a perfect example of overcoming evil with good.

1. “Let **love** be **without hypocrisy**. **Abhor** what is **evil**. **Cling** to what is **good**. Be **kindly affectionate to one another** with brotherly love, in honor **giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent** in spirit, **servicing the Lord**; rejoicing in **hope**, **patient** in tribulation, **continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints**, given to **hospitality**. **Bless those who persecute you**; bless and do not curse. **Rejoice** with those who rejoice, and **weep** with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. **Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. Repay no one evil for evil.** Have **regard for good things** in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, **live peaceably with all men**. Beloved, **do not avenge yourselves**, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. Therefore “**If your enemy is hungry, feed him**; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.” Do not be overcome

by evil, but **overcome evil with good.**" Romans  
12:9-21 NKJV

(5) How do you keep the fire burning?

(a) Look straight ahead and don't stray from God's plan, and even when you are old you will realize He carried you all along the way. Have confidence that God always provides where He guides. Keep pressing forward and don't ever look back. Don't waver and you will have all He promised. Look Straight ahead and do not get tangled up with the sins that enticed you in your old life. Don't let difficulties throw you off the narrow road, no matter how long they last; persevere because the harvest is coming and you will lack nothing!

1. "**Let your eyes look straight ahead,** And your eyelids look right before you. **Ponder the path of your feet,** And let all your ways be established. **Do not turn to the right or the left;** Remove your foot from evil."

Proverbs 4:25-27 NKJV

2. "**Even to your old age,** I am He, And even to gray hairs **I will carry you!** I have made, and I will bear; Even I will carry, and will deliver you." Isaiah 46:4

NKJV



3. “**being confident** of this very thing, that **He who has begun a good work in you will complete it** until the day of Jesus Christ;” Philippians 1:6 NKJV
4. “Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but **I press on**, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.  
Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; **but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward** to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:12-14 NKJV
5. “Let us **hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering**, for He who promised is faithful.” Hebrews 10:23 NKJV
6. “**For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:** “For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.”” Hebrews 10:36-38 NKJV
7. “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every**

**weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance** the race that is set before us, **looking unto Jesus**, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Hebrews 12:1-2 NKJV

8. “My brethren, **count it all joy when you fall into various trials**, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But **let patience have its perfect work**, that you may be **perfect and complete, lacking nothing.**” James 1:2-4 NKJV
9. “But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, **add to your faith** virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control **perseverance**, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.” II Peter 1:5-7 NKJV
10. “**Blessed is the man who endures temptation**; for when he has been approved, **he will receive the crown of life** which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.” James 1:12 NKJV

11. “And **let us not grow weary while doing good**, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”

Galatians 6:9 NKJV

12. “But as for you, brethren, **do not grow weary in doing good.**” II Thessalonians 3:13 NKJV

#### **D. Fragrance**

(1) Smoke, Aroma and Prayer

(a) Live like Paul just described and your life will be a sweet smelling aroma!

1. “Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, **an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.**” Ephesians 5:1-2 NKJV

2. “Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, **a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice,** well pleasing to God.” Philippians 4:18 NKJV

#### **E. Keeping the fire burning...**

(1) How long should you do these things?

(a) Forever; don't become a useless seasoning!

1. “Aaron shall burn on it sweet incense every morning; when he tends the lamps, he shall burn incense on it. And when Aaron lights the lamps at twilight, **he shall**

**burn incense on it, a perpetual incense before the Lord throughout your generations.” Exodus 30:7-8 NKJV**

2. **““You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.” Matthew 5:13 NKJV**

**Summary:** SIGHT AND AROMA

### **3. The Appearance and Fragrance of a Disciple**

#### **A. Strange Fire**

- (1) A hijacking...
  - (a) Yes, we are called to burn for God, but it's not open season to do anything you wish. Don't mix what is not meant for Yahweh into your offerings. He will not receive it kindly.
- (2) The consequences...
  - (a) Nadab and Abihu, Aaron's first two sons, and heirs to the priesthood, tried to do their own thing, and it cost them their lives.

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- (a) Y'shua brought us the Parable of the Ten Virgins to demonstrate the importance of having oil for our lamps at all times. Wise disciples do; foolish disciples have no oil for for their lamps, which translates to not being able to produce LIGHT...I guess it turns out they were never disciples after all.
- (2) The tale of two outcomes...
  - (a) If you want to participate in the marriage to Christ, you better have oil in your lamps. Otherwise when you attempt to appear at the ceremony, you will hear, "Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you."

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  - (b) It's a salty total sacrifice. You compare you own life to a sacrificed animal whose throat is slit, blood drained, body chopped into pieces, and then completely burned until only ash remains! And then you choose the way of the animal. That's the life of a disciple. And God

considers that total sacrifice reasonable, nothing extraordinary. And you make that choice every day of your life!

- (c) And what character traits will you see in this disciple? They live without hypocrisy, hate evil, chase good, are affectionate, and care more about others and their needs than for themselves. They are diligent and fervent in their service to God. They are patient and hopeful when times are tough and they persist in prayer. They are hospitable to both friends and enemies and they are sensitive to both the joy and the pain of others. They are humble and satisfied with the simple things in life as they truly appreciate what God calls good. They don't think they are so smart that they cannot learn something new, and they let God fight their battles, instead of fighting evil with evil. This allows them to live at peace with almost anyone. They would feed their enemies before watching them starve, as a perfect example of overcoming evil with good.
- (5) How do you keep the fire burning?
  - (a) Look straight ahead and don't stray from God's plan, and even when you are old you will realize He carried you all along the way. Have confidence that God always

provides where He guides. Keep pressing forward and don't ever look back. Don't waver and you will have all He promised. Look Straight ahead and do not get tangled up with the sins that enticed you in your old life. Don't let difficulties throw you off the narrow road, no matter how long they last; persevere because the harvest is coming and you will lack nothing!

**D. Fragrance**

(1) Smoke, Aroma and Prayer

(a) Live like Paul just described and your life will be a sweet smelling aroma!

**E. Keeping the fire burning...**

(1) How long should you do these things?

(a) Forever; don't become a useless seasoning!

**QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION**

**1. What do the commands to light the lamp and burn the incense have in common? (See Exodus 27:20-21, 30:7-8)**

A. Describe the many obvious uses for oil. (See: Exodus 30:30-33; I Samuel 16:13; Psalms 89:19-21, 133:1-2; Ephesians 4:1-6; Luke 4:18; Acts 10:36-38; Mark 6:12-13; James 5:14)

**2. What does oil represent? (Hint: I Samuel 16:13)**

- A. How is the presence of oil related to light? (See Matthew 25:1-4)
- B. How is the Word of God related to light? (See: Psalms 119:105; John 1:1-5, 14, 8:12)
- C. How is the Holy Spirit related to the light and that light related to you as a disciple? (See: John 16:7; Matthew 5:14-16)
- D. What will the fire of God ultimately reveal? (See I Corinthians 3:9-17)

**3. What does Incense represent? (Hint: Psalms 141:1-2)**

- A. Why does the smoke and aroma produced by burning incense go up? (See: Revelation 5:8, 8:1-6)

**4. As believers, what is your equivalent of burning incense? (See: I Thessalonians 5:16-18; James 5:13-20)**

- A. What is the most important factor when you offer up your “incense” before God? (Hint: Luke 22:41-42; I John 5:14-15)
- B. What is it called when you do not heed that warning? (See I Samuel 15:23)
- C. Describe in detail the approach King Saul took and the ultimate consequences. (See I Samuel 15:3-20)



5. **I Peter 3:7 describes wives as the “weaker vessel”, which translates to “more dependent or more sensitive” to the Holy Spirit.**
  - A. What then are Peter’s explicit instructions to husbands and why?
6. **What does it mean that you are to “not offer strange incense?” (See Exodus 30:9)**
  - A. Describe how Nadab and Abihu did just that and the outcome. (See Leviticus 10:1-3)
7. **Relate the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25:1-13 to Exodus 27:20-21 and Leviticus 6:8-13.**
  - A. What seems to be the consequence for not understanding the need for pure oil?
8. **As a Christian, what does it look like to keep the fire burning? (See: Luke 9:23-24, 14:26-35)**
  - A. Describe how personal sacrifice is equated to your dedication. (See: Romans 12:1-2; I Corinthians 15:31; Galatians 2:20)
  - B. Romans 12:9-21 gives us a detailed list of what the life of a completely dedicated disciple looks like. List at 20 character traits that Paul describes.
9. **Both Oil and Incense must be burned to release their hidden potential!**

A. How can you keep your fire burning brightly, so you can release your hidden potential? (See: Proverbs 4:25-27; Isaiah 46:4; Philippians 1:6, 3:12-14; Hebrews 10:23-38, 12:1-2; James 1:2-4, 12; Galatians 6:9; II Thessalonians 3:13; II Peter 1:5-7)