

~OIL (467)

- A Symbol Of Prosperity
- An Important Trade And Food Commodity
- Religious Use And Significance

• The **fatty liquid most familiar to the Hebrews was that obtained from olives**. Fully ripened black olives gave the most oil, but those yet green, though beginning to change in color, produced the oil of finest quality. After the fruit was carefully removed from the trees, and the twigs and leaves were cleaned from the olives, they were carried to the oil press.

• The pulp of the ripe olive berry is about half oil, which varies in grade according to the method of processing the pulp. The very best, called, **pure, beaten olive oil**, was produced by a simple process before the olives were put into the press.

• Command the sons of Israel that they get for you **pure, beaten olive oil** for the luminary, to light up the lamp constantly. (Leviticus 24:2)

• First, the olives were placed in a mortar and beaten until they were well bruised, or they were sometimes trodden by foot.

• You, for your part, will sow seed, but you will not reap. You, for your part, will tread olives, but you will not grease yourself with **oil**, also sweet wine, but you will not drink wine. (Micah 6:15)

• Next, the bruised fruit was transferred to strainer baskets in which it bled **oil** until the **virgin oil** was released. The pure, beaten **oil** was stored in earthenware jars, and the pulp was moved to the olive press.

• A common grade of **oil** was prepared by thoroughly crushing the olives in a mortar or hand mill. After the **oil** ran off from the pulp, it was allowed to clarify in clay jars or vats.

• The lowest grade of **oil** was that pressed from the pulp refuse in an olive press after the crushing process. The pulverized mass of pulp was packed into baskets and stacked between the two vertical pillars of the olive press.

- A weighted lever was applied to the stack of baskets to press out the **oil**, which was then channeled into large reservoirs for clearing. There, the **oil** would rise to the surface, separating from the bits of pulp and the water below before it was drawn off into large earthenware jars or special cisterns for storage.
- And Hezekiah came to have riches and glory to a very great amount, and storehouses he made for himself for silver and for gold and for precious stones and for balsam **oil** and for shields and for all the desirable articles. (2 Chronicles 32:27)
- And also storage places for the produce of grain and new wine and **oil**, and also stalls for all the different sorts of beasts and stalls for the droves. (2 Chronicles 32:28)

See Also PRESS

.. A Symbol Of Prosperity

- Great prosperity was signified when reference was made to the **press vats overflowing with oil**.
- And the threshing floors must be full of cleansed grain, and the press vats must **overflow with new wine and oil**. (Joel 2:24)
- Suffering Job longed for his previous days of plenty when the rock kept pouring out streams of **oil** for him.
- And Job proceeded again to lift up his proverbial utterance and went on to say; (Job 29:1)
- O that I were as in the lunar months of long ago, as in the days when God was guarding me. (Job 29:2)
- When I washed my steps in butter, and the rock kept pouring out streams of **oil** for me. (Job 29:6)
- Yehowah caused Jacob, or the Israelites, figuratively to suck **oil** out of a flinty rock, **apparently from olive trees growing in rocky terrain**.
- For Yehowah's share is his people. Jacob is the allotment that he inherits. (Deuteronomy 32:9)

- He kept making him ride upon earth's high places, so that he ate the produce of the field. And he kept making him suck honey out of a crag, and **oil out of a flinty rock**. (**Deuteronomy 32:13**)
- Moses declared that Asher would become, **one dipping his foot in oil**, indicating that this tribe would enjoy material blessings.
- And as to Asher he said; Blessed with sons is Asher. Let him become one approved by his brothers, and one dipping his foot in **oil**. (**Deuteronomy 33:24**)

•• An Important Trade And Food Commodity

- Olive **oil** became an important trade commodity in Palestine because of its abundance there. Yearly, Solomon gave King Hiram of Tyre twenty cor measures 4,400 liters (1,160 gallons] of beaten-out oil as part of a payment for temple construction materials.
- So Hiram became a giver of timbers of cedar trees and timbers of juniper trees to Solomon according to all his delight. (**1 Kings 5:10**)
- And Solomon, for his part, gave Hiram twenty thousand cor measures of wheat as food supplies for his household and twenty cor measures of beaten-out **oil**. That was what Solomon kept giving Hiram year by year. (**1 Kings 5:11**)
- Judah and Israel were once Tyres **traders** for **oil**.
- And as for you, O son of man, raise up concerning Tyre a dirge. (**Ezekiel 27:2**)
- Judah and the land of Israel themselves were your traders. For the wheat of Minnith and special foodstuff and honey and **oil** and balsam, your articles of exchange were given. (**Ezekiel 27:17**)
- Perfumed **oil** and olive **oil** are also among the items purchased by mystic Babylon the Great from the traveling merchants of the earth.
- Also, the traveling merchants of the earth are weeping and mourning over her, because there is no one to buy their full stock anymore. (**Revelation 18:11**)
- A full stock of gold and silver and precious stone and pearls and

- fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet, and everything in scented wood and every sort of ivory object and every sort of object out of most precious wood and of copper and of iron and of marble. (Revelation 18:12)**
- **Also cinnamon and Indian spice and incense and perfumed oil and frankincense and wine and olive oil and fine flour and wheat and cattle and sheep, and horses and coaches and slaves and human souls. (Revelation 18:13)**
 - **Olive oil, a high-energy food and one of the most digestible fats, was a principal food in the Israelite diet, probably in many cases taking the place of butter for table use and for cooking purposes.**
 - **And you kept decking yourself with gold and silver, and your attire was fine linen and costly material and an embroidered garment. Fine flour and honey and oil were what you ate, and you grew to be very, very pretty, and gradually you became fit for royal position. (Ezekiel 16:13)**
 - **And he will certainly love you and bless you and multiply you and bless the fruit of your belly and the fruit of your soil, your grain and your new wine and your oil, the young of your cows and the progeny of your flock, on the soil that he swore to your forefathers to give to you. (Deuteronomy 7:13)**
 - **But there were ten men that were found among them who immediately said to Ishmael; Do not put us to death, for there exist in our possession hidden treasures in the field, wheat and barley and oil and honey. So he refrained, and he did not put them to death in the midst of their brothers. (Jeremiah 41:8)**
 - **It was a common lamp fuel**
 - **Then the kingdom of the heavens will become like ten virgins that took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. (Matthew 25:1)**
 - **Five of them were foolish, and five were discreet. (Matthew 25:2)**
 - **For the foolish took their lamps but took no oil with them. (Matthew 25:3)**
 - **Whereas the discreet took oil in their receptacles with their**

lamps. (**Matthew 25:4**)

- While the bridegroom was delaying, they all nodded and went to sleep. (**Matthew 25:5**)
- Right in the middle of the night there arose a cry, Here is the bridegroom! Be on your way out to meet him. (**Matthew 25:6**)
- Then all those virgins rose and put their lamps in order. (**Matthew 25:7**)
- The foolish said to the discreet, Give us some of your **oil**, because our lamps are about to go out. (**Matthew 25:8**)
- The discreet answered with the words, Perhaps there may not be quite enough for us and you. Be on your way, instead, to those who sell it and buy for yourselves. (**Matthew 25:9**)
- And **pure, beaten olive oil** was burned in the lamps of the golden lampstand in the tent of meeting.
- As for you, you are to command the sons of Israel that they get for you pure, beaten olive **oil** for the luminary, in order to light up the lamps constantly. (**Exodus 27:20**)
- In the tent of meeting, outside the curtain that is by the Testimony, Aaron and his sons will set it in order from evening till morning before Yehowah. It is a statute to time indefinite for their generations, to be performed by the sons of Israel. (**Exodus 27:21**)
- And you must make a lampstand of pure gold. Of hammered work the lampstand is to be made. Its base, its branches, its cups, its knobs and its blossoms are to proceed out from it. (**Exodus 25:31**)
- And you must make seven lamps for it, and the lamps must be lit up, and they must shine upon the area in front of it. (**Exodus 25:37**)
- **Oil** was used in connection with grain offerings presented to Yehowah.
- Now in case some soul would present as an offering a grain

offering to Yehowah, his offering should prove to be fine flour, and he must pour **oil** over it and put frankincense upon it. (Leviticus 2:1)

- And he must bring it to the sons of Aaron, the priests, and the priest must grasp from it his handful of its fine flour and its **oil** along with all its frankincense, and he must make it smoke as a remembrancer of it upon the altar, as an offering made by fire of a restful odor to Yehowah. (Leviticus 2:2)
- And what is left of the grain offering belongs to Aaron and his sons, as something most holy from Yehowah's offerings made by fire. (Leviticus 2:3)
- And in case you would present as an offering a grain offering in the way of something baked in the oven, it should be of fine flour, unfermented ring-shaped cakes moistened with **oil** or unfermented wafers smeared with **oil**. (Leviticus 2:4)
- And if your offering is a grain offering from off the griddle, it should prove to be of fine flour moistened with **oil**, unfermented. (Leviticus 2:5)
- There should be a breaking of it up into pieces, and you must pour **oil** upon it. It is a grain offering. (Leviticus 2:6)
- And if your offering is a grain offering out of the **deep-fat kettle**, it should be made of fine flour with **oil**. (Leviticus 2:7)
- As a cosmetic it was applied to the body after bathing.
- And you must wash and rub yourself with **oil** and put your mantles upon you and go down to the threshing floor. Do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. (Ruth 3:3)
- Then David got up from the earth and washed and rubbed himself with **oil** and changed his mantles and came to the house of Yehowah and prostrated himself, after which he came into his own house and asked, and they promptly set bread before him and he began to eat. (2 Samuel 12:20)
- It was considered an act of hospitality to grease the head of a guest with **oil**.

- With that he turned to the woman and said to Simon; Do you behold this woman? I entered into your house. You gave me no water for my feet. But this woman wet my feet with her tears and wiped them off with her hair. (Luke 7:44)
- You gave me no kiss, but this woman, from the hour that I came in, did not leave off tenderly kissing my feet. (Luke 7:45)
- You did not grease my head with oil, but this woman greased my feet with perfumed oil. (Luke 7:46)
- Oil was also employed to soften and to soothe bruises and wounds.
- From the sole of the foot even to the head there is no sound spot in it. Wounds and bruises and fresh stripes, they have not been squeezed out or bound up, nor has there been a softening with oil. (Isaiah 1:6)
- Sometimes along with wine.
- But a certain Samaritan traveling the road came upon him and, at seeing him, he was moved with pity. (Luke 10:33)
- So he approached him and bound up his wounds, pouring oil and wine upon them. Then he mounted him upon his own beast and brought him to an inn and took care of him. (Luke 10:34)

• Religious Use And Significance

- Yehowah commanded Moses to prepare a holy anointing oil that contained olive oil and other ingredients. With it, Moses anointed the tabernacle, the ark of the testimony, the various sanctuary utensils, and its furniture. Moses also used it in anointing Aaron and his sons, to sanctify them as priests to Yehowah.
- And Yehowah continued to speak to Moses, saying; (Exodus 30:22)
- As for you, take to yourself the choicest perfumes, myrrh in congealed drops five hundred units, and sweet cinnamon in half that amount, two hundred and fifty units, and sweet calamus two hundred and fifty units. (Exodus 30:23)

- And cassia five hundred units by the shekel of the holy place, and olive **oil** a hin. (**Exodus 30:24**)
- Then you must make out of it a holy anointing **oil**, an ointment, a mixture that is the work of an ointment maker. It is to be a **holy anointing oil**. (**Exodus 30:25**)
- And you must anoint with it the tent of meeting and the ark of the testimony. (**Exodus 30:26**)
- And the table and all its utensils and the lampstand and its utensils and the altar of incense. (**Exodus 30:27**)
- And the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils and the basin and its stand. (**Exodus 30:28**)
- And you must sanctify them that they may indeed become most holy. Anyone touching them is to be holy. (**Exodus 30:29**)
- And you will anoint Aaron and his sons, and you must sanctify them for acting as priests to me. (**Exodus 30:30**)
- And you will speak to the sons of Israel, saying; This is to continue as a **holy anointing oil** to me during your generations. (**Exodus 30:31**)
- It is not to be rubbed in the flesh of mankind, and with its composition you must not make any like it. It is something holy. It is to continue as something holy for you. (**Exodus 30:32**)
- Anyone who makes an ointment like it and who puts some of it upon a stranger must be cut off from his people. (**Exodus 30:33**)
- Moses now took the **anointing oil** and anointed the tabernacle and all that was in it and sanctified them. (**Leviticus 8:10**)
- After that he spattered some of it seven times upon the altar and anointed the altar and all its utensils and the basin and its stand so as to sanctify them. (**Leviticus 8:11**)
- Finally he poured some of the **anointing oil** upon Aaron's head and anointed him so as to sanctify him. (**Leviticus 8:12**)

- Kings were anointed with **oil**, as when Samuel, anointing Saul; took the flask of **oil** and poured it out upon his head.
- Samuel then took the flask of **oil** and poured it out upon his head and kissed him and said; Is it not because Yehowah has anointed you as a leader over his inheritance? (**1 Samuel 10:1**)
- A horn of **oil** was used when Solomon was anointed.
- Zadok the priest now took the horn of **oil** out of the tent and anointed Solomon, and they began to blow the horn, and all the people broke out saying; Let King Solomon live! (**1 Kings 1:39**)
- Foretelling the joy-producing effects of Jesus Christ's earthly ministry, it was said that he would give those mourning over Zion, the **oil of exultation** instead of mourning.
- The spirit of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah is upon me, for the reason that Yehowah has anointed me to tell Good News to the meek ones. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to those taken captive and the wide opening of the eyes even to the prisoners. (**Isaiah 61:1**)
- To proclaim the year of goodwill on the part of Yehowah and the day of vengeance on the part of our God, to comfort all the mourning ones. (**Isaiah 61:2**)
- To assign to those mourning over Zion, to give them a headdress instead of ashes, the **oil of exultation** instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of the downhearted spirit, and they must be called big trees of righteousness, the planting of Yehowah, for him to be beautified. (**Isaiah 61:3**)
- And he came to Nazareth, where he had been reared, and, according to his custom on the Sabbath day, he entered into the synagogue, and he stood up to read. (**Luke 4:16**)
- So the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed him, and he opened the scroll and found the place where it was written. (**Luke 4:17**)
- Yehowah's spirit is upon me, because he **anointed** me to declare Good News to the poor, he sent me forth to preach a release to the captives and a recovery of sight to the blind, to send the

crushed ones away with a release. (Luke 4:18)

- To preach Yehowah's acceptable year. (Luke 4:19)
- With that he rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue were intently fixed upon him. (Luke 4:20)
- Then he started to say to them; Today this scripture that you just heard is fulfilled. (Luke 4:21)
- It was also prophesied that Jesus would be anointed personally by Yehowah with the oil of exultation more than his partners, indicating that he would experience greater joy than his predecessors of the Davidic dynasty.
- You have loved righteousness and you hate wickedness. That is why God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of exultation more than your partners. (Psalms 45:7)
- But with reference to the Son; God is your throne forever and ever, and the scepter of your kingdom is the scepter of uprightness. (Hebrews 1:8)
- You loved righteousness, and you hated lawlessness. That is why God, your God, anointed you with the oil of exultation more than your partners. (Hebrews 1:9)

See Also ANOINTED, ANOINTING

- As the applying of literal oil to one's head is soothing and refreshing, so also is the application of God's Word to a spiritually sick person to soothe, correct, comfort, and heal him.
- Thus, the older men of the Christian congregation are admonished to pray over such a man, figuratively, greasing him with oil in the name of Yehowah, an essential measure in effecting his spiritual recovery.
- Is there anyone suffering evil among you? Let him carry on prayer. Is there anyone in good spirits? Let him sing psalms. (James 5:13)
- Is there anyone sick among you? Let him call the older men of

the congregation to him, and let them pray over him, greasing him with **oil** in the name of Yehowah. (**James 5:14**)

- And the prayer of faith will make the indisposed one well, and Yehowah will raise him up. Also, if he has committed sins, it will be forgiven him. (**James 5:15**)
- Should the righteous one strike me, it would be a loving-kindness, and should he reprove me, it would be **oil** upon the head, which my head would not want to refuse. For still there would be even my prayer during their calamities. (**Psalms 141:5**)