

~OINTMENT AND PERFUMES (440)

• Holy Anointing Oil And Incense

• Economic Value Of Ointments And Perfumes

- The **Hebrew** terms relating to ointments may apply not only to salvelike preparations that liquefy when rubbed on the skin but also to compounded oil preparations that remain liquid at normal temperatures.
- 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**)
- It is like the **good oil** upon the head, that is running down upon the beard, Aaron's beard, that is running down to the collar of his garments. (**Psalms 133:2**)
- In the past as now, **ointments** were used chiefly as cosmetic and medicinal preparations, their advantage being mainly due to their oil content. The property that fats and oils possess, of absorbing and retaining odors, made it possible for the **ointment maker** to produce perfumed preparations that were highly prized for their fragrance.
- For fragrance your oils are good. Like an oil that is poured out is your name. That is why maidens themselves have loved you. (**Song of Solomon 1:3**)
- The cleansing power and skin-softening characteristic of the oil, plus the fragrance of the additives, made such **ointments** very useful for the prevention of chafing and skin irritation, and for a body deodorant in hot countries where water was often very scarce.
- Offering guests such a preparation upon their arrival at ones home was certainly an act of hospitality, as noted by what Jesus said when someone greased his feet with **perfumed oil**.
- And, look! A woman who was known in the city to be a sinner learned that he was reclining at a meal in the house of the Pharisee, and she brought an alabaster case of **perfumed oil**. (**Luke 7:37**)
- And, taking a position behind at his feet, she wept and started to

wet his feet with her tears and she would wipe them off with the hair of her head. Also, she tenderly kissed his feet and greased them with the perfumed oil. (Luke 7:38)

- At the sight the Pharisee that invited him said within himself; This man, if he were a prophet, would know who and what kind of woman it is that is touching him, that she is a sinner. (Luke 7:39)
- But in reply Jesus said to him; Simon, I have something to say to you. He said; Teacher, say it! (Luke 7:40)
- Two men were debtors to a certain lender, the one was in debt for five hundred denarii, but the other for fifty. (Luke 7:41)
- When they did not have anything with which to pay back, he freely forgave them both. Therefore, which of them will love him the more? (Luke 7:42)
- In answer Simon said; I suppose it is the one to whom he freely forgave the more. He said to him; You judged correctly. (Luke 7:43)
- 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)
- When perfumed **ointments** of special make were used in preparing a corpse for burial, they no doubt served primarily as disinfectants and deodorants.
- So they buried him in his grand burial place that he had excavated for himself in the City of David, and they laid him in the bed that had been filled with balsam oil and different sorts of **ointment** mixed in an **ointment of special make**. Further, they made an extraordinarily great funeral burning for him. (2 Chronicles 16:14)

- And they went back to prepare spices and **perfumed oils**. But, of course, they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment. (**Luke 23:56**)

- With such usage in mind, Jesus explained that the anointing he received in the house of Simon the leper, which consisted of very costly perfumed oil the scent of which filled the whole house, was in a figurative sense for the preparation of me for burial.

- While Jesus happened to be in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper. (**Matthew 26:6**)

- A woman with an alabaster case of costly perfumed oil approached him, and she began pouring it upon his head as he was reclining at the table. (**Matthew 26:7**)

- On seeing this the disciples became indignant and said; Why this waste? (**Matthew 26:8**)

- For this could have been sold for a great deal and been given to poor people. (**Matthew 26:9**)

- Aware of this, Jesus said to them; Why do you try to make trouble for the woman? For she did a fine deed toward me. (**Matthew 26:10**)

- For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. (**Matthew 26:11**)

- For when this woman put this perfumed oil upon my body, she did it for the preparation of me for burial. (**Matthew 26:12**)

- Mary, therefore, took a pound of **perfumed oil**, **genuine nard**, very costly, and she greased the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet dry with her hair. The house became filled with the scent of the **perfumed oil**. (**John 12:3**)

- Precious perfumes, such as the spikenard used on this occasion, were usually sealed in beautiful alabaster cases or vials.

- And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at the meal, a woman came with an alabaster case of **perfumed oil**, **genuine nard**, very expensive. Breaking

open the alabaster case she began to pour it upon his head.
(Mark 14:3)

See Also ALABASTER

.. Holy Anointing Oil And Incense

- The first **ointment** mentioned in the Bible was the holy anointing oil used to sanctify the dedicated articles of the tabernacle and its priesthood.
- 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)
- Personal use of this special **ointment** was prohibited, under penalty of death. This Law shows the sacredness attached to the tabernacle and its personnel.
- 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)

- Yehowah gave Moses the formula for the **holy anointing oil**. Only the choicest perfumes were to be used, myrrh, sweet cinnamon, sweet calamus, cassia, and the purest olive **oil**, and each in specified amounts.
- 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**)
- Likewise, Yehowah gave the formula for the holy incense. It was not just a substance that would smolder and smoke, it was a special perfumed incense.
- And Aaron must make perfumed incense smoke upon it. Morning by morning, when he dresses the lamps, he will make it smoke. (**Exodus 30:7**)
- That he might make perfumed incense smoke upon it, just as Yehowah had commanded Moses. (**Exodus 40:27**)
- And he must take the fire holder full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before Yehowah, and the hollows of both his hands full of fine perfumed incense, and he must bring them inside the curtain. (**Leviticus 16:12**)
- Here I am building a house to the name of Yehowah my God to sanctify it to him, to burn perfumed incense before him, with the constant layer bread and burnt offerings in the morning and in the evening, on the Sabbaths and on the new moons and at the festival seasons of Yehowah our God. To time indefinite this will be upon Israel. (**2 Chronicles 2:4**)
- As for us, Yehowah is our God, and we have not left him, but priests are ministering to Yehowah, the sons of Aaron, and also the Levites in the work. (**2 Chronicles 13:10**)

- And they are making burnt offerings smoke to Yehowah morning by morning and evening by evening and also perfumed incense, and the layers of bread are upon the table of pure gold, and there are the golden lampstand and its lamps to light up evening by evening, because we are keeping the obligation to Yehowah our God, but you yourselves have left him. (2 Chronicles 13:11)
- To make it, specific amounts of stacte drops, onycha, perfumed galbanum, and pure frankincense were used, God further describing it as a spice mixture, the work of an ointment maker, salted, pure, something holy.
- Some of the incense was finely powdered and was probably sifted to obtain a uniform product, suitable for its special use. Private use was a capital crime.
- And Yehowah went on to say to Moses; Take to yourself perfumes, stacte drops and onycha and perfumed galbanum and pure frankincense. There should be the same portion of each. (Exodus 30:34)
- And you must make it into an incense, a spice mixture, the work of an ointment maker, salted, pure, something holy. (Exodus 30:35)
- And you must pound some of it into fine powder and put some of it before the Testimony in the tent of meeting, where I shall present myself to you. It should be most holy to you people. (Exodus 30:36)
- And the incense that you will make with this composition, you must not make for yourselves. For you it is to continue as something holy to Yehowah. (Exodus 30:37)
- Whoever makes any like it to enjoy its smell must be cut off from his people. (Exodus 30:38)
- In making both the anointing oil and holy incense, fragrant balsam oil was used.
- Oil for the luminary, balsam oil for the anointing oil and for perfumed incense. (Exodus 25:6)
- And oil for the luminary and balsam oil for the anointing oil and

for the perfumed incense. (**Exodus 35:8**)

- And the **balsam oil** and the **oil** for illumination and for the anointing oil and for the perfumed incense. (**Exodus 35:28**)
- It seems reasonable to assume that the perfume agencies used in making the holy **ointment** were powdered and then cooked in the **oil**.
- It causes the depths to boil just like a pot, it makes the very sea like an **ointment** pot. (**Job 41:31**)
- After which it was allowed to settle before the **oil** was drawn off and filtered.
- Making the **anointing oil** and perfumed incense was not a matter of trial and error, for at the outset Yehowah said; In the heart of everyone wise of heart I do put wisdom, that they may indeed make the **anointing oil** and the perfumed incense for the sanctuary.
- As for me, look! I do put with him Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan, and in the heart of everyone wise of heart I do put wisdom, that they may indeed make everything I have commanded you. (**Exodus 31:6**)
- The tent of meeting and the Ark for the testimony and the cover that is upon it, and all the utensils of the tent. (**Exodus 31:7**)
- And the table and its utensils, and the lampstand of pure gold and all its utensils, and the altar of incense. (**Exodus 31:8**)
- And the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, and the basin and its stand. (**Exodus 31:9**)
- And the garments of knitted work and the holy garments for Aaron the priest and the garments of his sons for acting as priests. (**Exodus 31:10**)
- And the anointing oil and the perfumed incense for the sanctuary. According to everything I have commanded you they will do. (**Exodus 31:11**)
- And let all the wise-hearted ones among you come and make all that Yehowah has commanded. (**Exodus 35:10**)

- Namely, the tabernacle with its tent and its covering, its hooks and its panel frames, its bars, its pillars and its socket pedestals. (Exodus 35:11)
- The Ark and its poles, the cover and the curtain of the screen. (Exodus 35:12)
- The table and its poles and all its utensils and the showbread. (Exodus 35:13)
- And the lampstand of illumination and its utensils and its lamps and the oil for illumination. (Exodus 35:14)
- And the altar of incense and its poles, and the anointing oil and the perfumed incense, and the screen of the entrance for the tabernacles entrance. (Exodus 35:15)
- He made additionally the holy anointing oil and the pure, perfumed incense, the work of an ointment maker. (Exodus 37:29)
- And they proceeded to bring the tabernacle to Moses, the tent and all its utensils, its hooks, its panel frames, its bars and its pillars and its socket pedestals. (Exodus 39:33)
- And the altar of gold and the anointing oil and the perfumed incense and the screen for the entrance of the tent. (Exodus 39:38)
- Thereafter certain ones of the priests were delegated to be ointment makers for the compounding of these materials and also to take the oversight of the supply of such items.
- And some of the sons of the priests were makers of the ointment mixture of balsam oil. (1 Chronicles 9:30)
- And the oversight of Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest is over the oil of the luminary and the perfumed incense and the constant grain offering and the anointing oil, the oversight of all the tabernacle and all that is in it, namely, the holy place and its utensils. (Numbers 4:16)

- However, when Israel fell away from pure worship, Yehowah ceased to take pleasure in the making or using of these special **ointments** and incenses.
- Stop bringing in any more valueless grain offerings. Incense, it is something detestable to me. New moon and Sabbath, the calling of a convention, I cannot put up with the use of uncanny power along with the solemn assembly. (**Isaiah 1:13**)

• Economic Value Of Ointments And Perfumes

- **Ointments**, perfumes, and incense were not limited to the holy products used in the sanctuary. By Solomon's day there were all sorts of perfume and fragrant powders available for scenting houses, garments, beds, and bodies of royalty and others who could afford them.
- And when the turn of each young woman arrived to go in to King Ahasuerus after it had happened to her according to the women's regulation for twelve months, for that was the way the days of their massage procedure were gradually fulfilled, six months with oil of myrrh and six months with **balsam oil** and with the massages of the women. (**Esther 2:12**)
- All your garments are myrrh and aloeswood and cassia, out from the grand ivory palace stringed instruments themselves have made you rejoice. (**Psalms 45:8**)
- I have besprinkled my bed with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon. (**Proverbs 7:17**)
- What is this thing that is coming up from the wilderness like columns of smoke, being perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, even with every sort of scent powder of a trader? (**Song of Solomon 3:6**)
- Look! It is his couch, the one belonging to Solomon. Sixty mighty men are all around it, from the mighty men of Israel. (**Song of Solomon 3:7**)
- How beautiful your expressions of endearment are, O my sister, my bride! How much better your expressions of endearment are than wine and the fragrance of your **oils** than all sorts of perfume! (**Song of Solomon 4:10**)

- Nor was the making of these preparations restricted to the Levitical priesthood. Even women were sometimes skilled **ointment makers**, and in Nehemiah's day there was a trade group to which members of the **ointment mixers** belonged.
- And your daughters he will take for **ointment mixers** and cooks and bakers. (**1 Samuel 8:13**)
- At his side Uzziel the son of Harhaiah, goldsmiths, did repair work, and at his side Hananiah a member of the **ointment mixers** did repair work, and they proceeded to flagstone Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall. (**Nehemiah 3:8**)
- In the ancient world the public interest in perfumed products created commerce and trade not only in such consumer items but also in the raw materials needed to make the same.
- Besides myrrh especially for **ointments**, and frankincense for incense, other materials including spikenard, saffron, cane, cinnamon, aloes, cassia, as well as various spices, gums, and aromatic plants, were often transported long distances before reaching the pots and perfumeries of the **ointment makers**.
- Spikenard and saffron, cane and cinnamon, along with all sorts of trees of frankincense, myrrh and aloes, along with all the finest perfumes. (**Song of Solomon 4:14**)
- 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**)
- 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**)