

Part 1 - The Call for a Free Will Offering – a Willing Heart

[A Review of: Gold, Silver, Brass, Blue, Scarlet, Purple, Fine Linen, Goat's Hair, Rams Skins Dyed Red, Badgers Skins, Shittim Wood, Oil and Spices.]

In chapter thirty-four we learned what happened during Moses' last ascent to Mount Sinai. God gave Him additional terms for the Covenant that He had to re-make with Israel because they had broken the first covenant back in Exodus 32. While up there, God also 'passed by' Moses and showed him His glory, declaring His Name and righteousness while doing so. This impacted Moses so much that, after he went down to speak to the children of Israel, his face shined so much they were afraid of him. So, he had to put on a vail while speaking to Israel but took it off when going into the Tabernacle to speak with God. We learned the spiritual significance of this vail is our carnal heart for that's what separates us from God. We remain spiritually blind while we keep our heart (carnal mind) blind to the truth (the vail is upon our heart) because we're not ready to give up our sins. But, once we are ready to face our sins and repent for them, the vail is done away with because we accept Jesus Christ's perfect life, death and resurrection as payment for our sins. *The vail upon our heart is taken away when we remove the stubbornness and rebelliousness from our heart.* And consequently, we *willingly* seek to get to know God by studying His Word and allowing His Holy Spirit to convict, cleans and guide our heart. The impact of this is that we allow the Holy Spirit into our heart to help teaching us to write God's Word into our heart, so we can obey Him *from the heart - willingly*. The hard stone the Law was written into symbolizes our heart when it is hardened while physical circumcision symbolizes how we must cut off the hardness from our heart and accept God's Word (and Holy Spirit into it).

We then learned of a few more details God wanted added to the Law that specified things Israel was *not* to do or *were* to do. This further taught us how important it is to totally destroy any and all idols, images and false gods we have *in our heart* and the chief 'false god' we have is our own ego – our pride – our 'self'. All of the specified laws God gave Moses helped to further explain how we are to make an internal transformation in our heart and mind. Isa 1:19-20 explains it so well when it warns: *If ye be **willing and obedient**, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye **refuse and rebel**, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.* Rom 12:2 further sums it up by telling us to *be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.* The Tabernacle we have been learning about thus teaches us how to conform to God's Image by teaching us how to clean our heart (desires, intentions, feelings) and mind (thought process) after we've accepted Jesus Christ's sacrifice for us.

We now move on to a chapter where we'll see Moses faithfully give God's Word to Israel (which he learned of while on the mountain) and then we'll see him make a call for Israel to give a free will offering to supply the things needed to make the Tabernacle. We'll also learn how Israel answered the call...

Exodus 35

*I And Moses gathered all the congregation of the children of Israel together, and said unto them, **These are the words** which the LORD hath commanded, that ye should do them.*

Moses told Israel that: **These are the words** which the LORD hath commanded, that ye should do them. Why is God's Word so important?

It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

John 6:63

Words are God's way of transferring information (understanding and wisdom) into our heart and mind, which is what we must have to live, for it is written that *man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God* (Deut 8:3, Luke 4:4). God's Words therefore are life to our very soul. These words of God were written in the Bible and the title book of Deuteronomy actually means 'these are the words' [study it here: https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Deuteronomy] because it teaches God's Word in a way that even the least educated in God's Word can understand. Further, these are the Words that Jesus gave us also...

*44 And he said unto them, **These are the words** which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, **that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.***

45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

48 And ye are witnesses of these things.

49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Luke 24:44-49

Contrary to the old saying that 'sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me'... *words do hurt us if they are lies*. Words are powerful, for the good or the bad. We must have truth in our heart and mind (soul) if we are going to live forever with our Heavenly Father. Why? Because when we believe in lies, we do things that cause harm to ourselves and others. But, when we believe truth, we do that which causes us to live because we obey God's Laws willingly, from the heart. Most of the founding fathers of America knew this well. John Adams, a signer of the US *Declaration of Independence* and the second President of the United States well expressed the importance of this when he stated...

[W]e have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. . . Our constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.

[I]t is religion and morality alone which can establish the principles upon which freedom can securely stand. The only foundation of a free constitution is pure virtue.

John Quincy Adams, the sixth President of the United States, added to this when he said...

The law given from Sinai was a civil and municipal as well as a moral and religious code; it contained many statutes . . . of universal application-laws essential to the existence of men in society, and most of which have been enacted by every nation which ever professed any code of laws.

And then there was Robert Winthrop, a former speaker of the US House of Representatives, who so perfectly summed it up...

Men, in a word, must necessarily be controlled either by a power within them or by a power without them; either by the Word of God or by the strong arm of man; either by the Bible or by the bayonet.

The reason our Heavenly Father wants us to willingly write His Laws upon in heart and mind is because He is no tyrant. He does not want to have to rule with a 'rod of iron', albeit Jesus Christ *will* rule with a 'rod of iron' during the Millennium (after His Second Advent, Rev 19:15, 20). Accepting God's Laws into our heart and mind is essentially a choice of life or death (Deut 30) and it all centers upon what 'words' you have in your heart and mind – what you believe and trust in. Thus, Jesus' commission is that *repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem*. Why? So others can believe God's Words and live. Let's remember this as we move along because Moses was faithful to give God's Word to Israel so they could build God a Tabernacle... have you been faithful to share His Word with others, as the Holy Spirit guides you to do? It's important, *for unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more* (Luke 12:48).

Exodus 35

2 Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day there shall be to you an holy day, a sabbath of rest to the LORD: whosoever doeth work therein shall be put to death.

3 Ye shall kindle no fire throughout your habitations upon the sabbath day.

The children of Israel were soon going to be very busy working on making items for the Tabernacle, so Moses is stressing the importance of keeping the Sabbath, even when they are working on something incredibly important, such as the Tabernacle. That's why he also points out the death penalty for not keeping it and then also says they were not to even kindle a fire on the Sabbath day. But this would not leave them without light; remember that God kept a cloud over Israel by day and a pillar of fire in the camp at night (Ex 13:21-22), so they were not without light. Likewise, we are not without spiritual light for the Word of God (Jesus Christ) is our Light (Ps 18:28, 118:27, 119:105, 130, Prov 6:23, John 8:12, 9:5).

And, as we learned in the last chapter (part 4), [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Exodus/270], the physical Sabbath keeping symbolizes the *spiritual* Sabbath we are to keep, which is in Jesus Christ. Learning to truly rest in God, through Jesus Christ is how we are to keep the Sabbath. When we learn to *put our trust in God's Word* (His promises) we will find *true peace of mind* (the true Sabbath). Isa 26:3-4 says: *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, **whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.** Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength.* Instead of finding rest (which many today call a mental 'escape') through other means (like drugs, alcohol, entertainment, fantasies, etc.) we must learn to *discipline* our heart and mind to *think on God's Word and believe* in His promises in order to find true spiritual rest from stress, worries, anxieties (from any mental or emotional stress/pain we have in life). Our life in the flesh will *always* have problems [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/740>], so we must learn how to deal with them. And trying to deal with them any other way than learning how to truly go to God for our spiritual rest (through His Son, Jesus Christ) is seeking other gods (seeking advice, instruction, comfort, etc.) and idols (seeking entertainment and 'escapes'). This is bad because *that's what ensnares us into Satan's rebellion* – it *deceives us into sinning* to find a way to cover the pain we have inside, instead of seeking our Heavenly Father's comfort through His Holy Word and His Holy Spirit. And *the way* we seek spiritual rest (easement for our internal pain and problems) is what determines what kind of works we have...

16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

*24 And **they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.***

25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

26 Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

Gal 5:16-26

5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

Rom 8:5-10

So, although Moes gave Israel all the Laws and instructions God gave him on the Mt. Sinai, the Sabbath is repeated here because it's truly what will give Israel the strength to be able to make the Tabernacle for God. Likewise, only by finding spiritual rest in our Heavenly Father, through His Word and prayer to Him, can we find the internal strength to overcome sin and help others learn to do so by helping them come to Jesus Christ and have a personal relationship with Him... and *this is* what building the spiritual Tabernacle is all about. So, Moses was 'laying the groundwork' for what he will say next...

Exodus 35

4 And Moses spake unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, This is the thing which the LORD commanded, saying,

*5 Take ye from among you an offering unto the LORD: **whosoever is of a willing heart**, let him bring it, an offering of the LORD; gold, and silver, and brass,*

What we must never, ever forget is that: in order to serve God, we absolutely must have a willing heart. But, because the heart (our carnal mind) is *deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked* (Jer 17:9), we *must change it*. We have to cut off cut off (circumcise) the stubborn and rebelliousness out of our heart (Deut 10:16, 30:6, Jer 4:4, Col 2:11) so God's Words can truly soak into our heart (carnal mind) and transform it into a willing heart instead of a rebellious and stubborn one. Remember...

If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

Isa 1:19-20

*Be not conformed to this world: but be ye **transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

Rom 12:2

What transforms our mind (our heart, the carnal mind)? God's Word does but it's through accepting God's only begotten Son, Jesus (and all He has done for us) that allows us to be able to accept God's Word into our heart. Why? It is the Holy Spirit of God (which comes after we accept Jesus Christ and are trying to learn of Him through His Word) that helps us to both circumcise the hardness and rebelliousness out of our heart and allows us to truly soak up God's Word; to truly believe and understand His Words *in our heart*. You can study the Word of God for many years without truly allowing to impact your heart. You can know it inside and out but, without truly accepting God's Word *into your heart*, you won't truly change. This is what

happened to Paul. He studied God's Word for many years yet it never impacted his heart until Jesus Christ literally struck him down on the road to Damascus (Acts 9). But, when the Holy Spirit touched Paul's heart, he began to make an internal transformation that's only possible with help from the Holy Spirit of God. Paul had to make the internal transformation because, in order to spread the Gospel (help build the *spiritual* Tabernacle for God, 1 Cor 3:16, 6:19, 2 Cor 6:16) he had to have a *willing* heart, just as we do today. And, just as the Israelites of old had to be willingly offer their services and materials in order to make the Tabernacle of God, so likewise do we today.

This is why 1 Corinthians 13 harps so much on the importance of truly having love in your heart (love is called 'charity' in that chapter). Without truly having that fervent love for God *in your heart*, you can study God's Word all you won't, but you'll remain fruitless because you have not truly 'taken it to heart'. You can do all kinds of things but all your works mean nothing to God because you don't truly love Him in your heart. You are just 'going through the motions' until you actually have true love for God *from your heart*. Rom 13:10 explains that God's Law is love. Why? Because it *explains* the kind of fruit (works) that a truly repentant heart will produce. Some call it 'works of faith' and that's an adequate description. When we genuinely love God, we cannot fake it; true love for God must come from deep within our heart. And when we have that true love for Him *our works will reflect it*; our works will be in obedience to His Law which His Holy Spirit teaches us how to obey from our heart.

You see, God desires our love more than anything in the world. That's why He created us (Rev 4:11, Hosea 6:6). But the only way He could create children who truly love Him was to give them a choice *not* to love Him... that's why we're here in these flesh bodies, folks. Because many of God's children chose *not* to love Him and instead are rebelling against Him. So, in order for God (YHWH) to truly judge us to life or death, He must truly know who loves Him and who does not. It is His desire that as many of His children love Him as possible (2 Pt 3:9). He really does not want the wicked to die (Ezek 18, 33), albeit Satan and the fallen angels are already sentenced to die (Jude 6, 13, Ezek 28:18, Rev 20:10,14). But God is working to bring the rest of His children (whomsoever will) back to Him by restoring faith and love for Him in their hearts. That's the essence of the spiritual battle. This is the reason for the emphasis on a willing heart is displayed so much throughout this chapter, and we should remember it. As it is written: *every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver* (2 Cor 9:7).

Exodus 35

6 And blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair,

We've already covered, in detail, the spiritual symbolism of the materials used in making the Tabernacle [chapter 25 - https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Exodus/158] so we'll just review them in this chapter. Verse 5 asked for gold, silver and brass, which are timeless commodities that have been long used as money (Gen 13:2, 24:22), for implements of war or elsewhere in society. All three have practical uses and are valuable. 1 Peter 1:7 reveals that God considers our faith in Him

much more precious than silver and gold. As gold, silver and brass were pivotal instruments in building the Tabernacle, so likewise is our faith in God (and His Son, Jesus Christ) pivotal in building the spiritual Tabernacle. Instead of trusting in and loving money (which these metals were often used for) we must have faith in God alone for *the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows* (1 Tim 6:10). And the way we get pure faith and love for God is through hard times for (1 Peter 4:12-19). Just as a fire purifies metal, likewise hard times purifies our faith in Jesus Christ (Isa 48:10, Mal 3:3, Ps 66:10, Prov 17:3, Zech 13:8-9).

Verse 6 then calls for: *blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair*. Blue, purple and scarlet are colors often associated with royalty and wealth, especially purple (Judges 8:26, Prov 31:22, Lk 2:14, Mk 15:17, 20). Blue and purple were also very difficult to obtain from nature, so they were expensive dyes to get. Scarlet dye was not as hard to get but still precious and valuable. Purple was the most precious dye sought out for at that time as it required many mollusks (supposedly 250,000) to make just *one ounce* of dye. Purple can represent royalty, majesty and high officials (Judges 8:26, Esther 8:15) as well as conveying the meaning of wealth, prosperity and luxury (Exodus 28:5, Ezekiel 27:7, Proverbs 31:22, Song of Solomon 3:10, 7:5, Luke 16:19, Acts 16:14, Revelation 17:4, 18:12, 16). Scarlet, of course, is the color of blood and is symbolic of our sins and Jesus' atonement for them (Isa 1:18) while blue symbolizes service to God and living in obedience to Him (Num 15:38-40). Notably, this is why the 'harlot' of Rev 17:4 was *not* arrayed with any blue! She wanted to be royalty and has lots of 'blood' on her hands but she wants *nothing* to do with God's Word.

Along with precious dyed cloth, God also asked for fine linen to be given *willingly*. Linen is a plant-based fabric made of flax and noted for its strength, coolness, and luster. It is highly resistant, strong, durable, and rigid, making it ideal for clothing. Linen is also lightweight, easy to wear and care for. It is hypoallergenic, making it suitable for people who suffer from asthma, allergies, and skin complications. It is also antibacterial and does not absorb odors. Linen clothes are generally more sustainable than cotton and other common fabrics we have today; thus, they can be passed down from generation to generation with long-lasting appeal. It is no surprise that linen was therefore such a sought-after fabric. Egypt was well known for making fine linen (Ezek 27:7, 16, Prov 7:6), and was where Solomon got the fine linen for YHWH's Temple (2 Chron 1:16), so it's likely where Israel got the fine linen for the first Tabernacle of God (along with all the other items they 'spoiled' from the Egyptians). Linen has long been given as gifts, such as was given to Joseph (Gen 41:42). King David also wore a linen robe and ephod at times (1 Chron 15:27) and God mentioned linen as one of the gifts He gave Jerusalem in Ezekiel 16. Linen is also one of the riches of Satan's worldwide governmental (and religious) system spoken of in Revelations 18. So, the Bible is full of mentions of linen and fine linen. It was clearly a very precious commodity back then, as it is still today. Now, the spiritual significance of fine linen is made quite clear in Rev 19:8 when we're told that *the fine linen is the righteousness of saints*. This is why, then, that Jesus Christ was wrapped in fine linen for burial (Mk 15:46). It's therefore quite evident why this material was used so much in the Tabernacle in the Wilderness and also why Israel's clothing did not wear out after 40 years in the wilderness (Deut 29:5).

Exodus 35

7 And rams' skins dyed red, and badgers' skins, and shittim wood,

Goats' hair, rams' skins dyed red and badger' skins were also a part of the Tabernacle and we'll learn in the next chapter (Ex 26:7,14) that the goat's hair will be used for curtains while the rams' skins dyed red and badgers' skins will be as outer coverings for the Tabernacle. The word 'badger' is a bad translation. The Hebrew word (#8476) actually means *a (clean) animal with fur*, probably *a species of antelope*. This required quite a few animals to be killed for the only way you get the skin or hair from an animal is to kill them (to this day). And remember, animals were a form of wealth at that time. This therefore would be another form on monetary wealth people were to willingly give to God. Although there is very little information given about the use of the *skins* of the rams and badgers (which were likely an antelope of some sort), the fact they are used suggests our Heavenly Father wanted an impervious covering, not to be penetrated by the elements. Further, the covering was twofold: first the rams skins (dyed red) and then the badgers skins. The rams' skins were to be died red, which, of course, symbolizes the precious blood of our dear Savior Jesus Christ. Further, rams were often used in the burnt offerings (Lev 8:18, 9:2, 16:3, 5), peace offerings (Lev 9:18, Num 6:14, 7:88) and trespass offering (Lev 5:16, 6:6, 19:21). It was even used in the consecration of the priests (Ex 29:15-26). So, it's not surprising that their skins would be used to also protect God's Tabernacle and that they were to be died red, *symbolic of the precious blood of Christ that protects His Temple* (1 Cor 3:16, 6:19, 2 Cor 6:16) to this very day. Since the Tabernacle (and Temple) of God symbolize our soul and how we are to make a Temple for Him to dwell in, we see that we too are to have two un-penetrable layers of protection. Ephesians 6 tells us what it is. While all the spiritual armor is important, we find that it is all founded upon two simple things: The Word of God and the Holy Spirit. We must study His Word and write it upon our mind and heart (Jer 31:31, Heb 8:10, 10:16) and allow His Holy Spirit to guide us and clean our heart (Eph 5:26, Titus 3:5, John 15:3, 14:15-31, 16:33, 1 Cor 6:11, Heb 10:22, Rev 1:5, 7:14).

Now, since the goats' hair was to be for curtains (Ex 26:7) it was likely spun and not on skins. Exodus 35:26 says: *All the women whose heart stirred them up in wisdom spun goats' hair*. This was likely woven into a coarse, dark-colored cloth, quite common to this day in the East for making tents. The dark color of these tents is suggested in the words of the bride in the Song of Solomon 1:5: *I am black, but comely, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, as the tents of Kedar, as the curtains of Solomon*" and again in Song of Solomon 6:5: *Thy hair is as a flock of goats*. Rev 6:12 also tells us that, after the sixth seal was opened *there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood*. Thus, the goats' hair was likely dark or black. But what would the spiritual significance of goat hair be? Goat hair is the outermost covering of the animal, even over the skin, and *is thus the point of contact between the animal and the outer world* - it is also *the point of separation*. The hair shields the animal from the rain, and protects it from extremes of cold and heat. Thus, *hair indicates separation*. Of course, we have a Biblical example that back this up. The Nazarite lets his hair grow long in token of his separation from everything that defiles (Num. 6:5). If defilement came in, he had to shave off his hair in token that he had lost his separation. One of the signs of leprosy (a disease

that caused people to be separated from society) was the hair turning its color, or sometimes its falling out was the precursor of this disease (Lev. 13:30, 42). So, we see that, our Heavenly Father requires that we separate ourselves from sin (Rev 18:4, 2 Cor 6:14-18).

This is why, then, that the prophets of the Old Testament separated themselves from surrounding evil. Samuel was separated from before his birth by the promise his mother made even before she conceived him (1 Sam. 1:11). His long hair of being a Nazarite marked his separation from sin and closeness to God. He was the ‘point of contact’ between God and Israel in that he was to be a witness to the nation of their separation from God Almighty (YHVH). Jeremiah too was separated from the time he was in the womb, but by God Himself (Jer 1:5) and he carried out this separation throughout his life (Jer. 15:17). The ministry of the prophets did not begin till the failure of the priesthood made it necessary. It was because the people did not separate themselves from sin (false gods and idols) that the prophets were called to separate themselves from sin and come close to God *so they could call the people to do the same*. We must get the beam out of our own eye before we can help others (Mth 7:1-5). The garment of hair as the prophets' garb was thus connected with the witness against sin and separating oneself from sin. This is why it's written to *Cry aloud, spare not ... show My people their transgression* (Isa. 58:1) and *Repent ye, and believe the gospel*" (Mark 1:15). John the Baptist *clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins* while he warned the people to separate themselves from their sins before the Messiah came (Mark 1:6-8).

Next, we're told that shittim wood was to be *willingly* given. The word *shittim* is #7848 and it means: the *acacia* (from its scourging thorns). The acacia tree comes in a vast array of species, with more than 1,000 varieties found worldwide. The wood of the acacia tree is known for its durability, making it ideal for construction and furniture which is likely one of the reasons why our Heavenly Father chose to use it in His Tabernacle. The strength from this tree would make the structure of the Tabernacle (though it was a tent) very firm. Exodus 36 tells us that, along with the acacia wood there will be two heavy sockets of silver under each board giving the Tabernacle a very solid foundation, and the five bars running through rings would hold all firmly together. Our Heavenly Father truly is a Master Builder both physically and spiritually; which is why it is written that *other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ*. And those who are of the household of God... *are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone* (Eph 2:19-20). But surely the shittim (acacia) wood has a spiritual significance to it? Yes, it does. Apart from the tabernacle there is but one passage which refers directly to this wood, but it helps shed a bit of light as to the spiritual meaning.

17 When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them.

18 I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.

*19 I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the **shittah** tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree together:*

20 That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the LORD hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it.

Isa 41:17-20

The word translated ‘shittah’ in verse 19 is actually the same word translated as ‘shittim’ (#7848) but it’s actually bearing its Hebrew name, for the word in the Hebrew is literally *shittah* (pronounced as: shit-taw'). But the point is that: Isaiah 41 uses this wood to explain *the future day of Israel's blessing* God would make the wilderness and solitary place to rejoice in – in other words, *it's talking about the time of restoration*. The nation of Israel was, at the time of this prophesy in Isaiah 41 (and is yet again) a moral cesspool in which nothing grew for God (there was no righteousness ‘springing’ forth and growing); but God promised that would not always be the case. The trees common to the area (including the shittim/acacia tree) would once again grow in abundance. So, the wood of the shittim tree *points to a promise of restoration, even in the midst of a wasteland*.

So, we see that the acacia (shittim) tree was durable and strong and used in the promise of restoration but we must wonder why God chose this tree above all others for the Tabernacle? In Solomon's temple cedar and olive trees were used (1 Kings 6:15, 31-33). The answer is found in the meaning of the Tabernacle of the Wilderness versus the Temple of Solomon. The Tabernacle of the Wilderness depicted (looked forward to) the true Sacrifice, the true Bread of Life and the true High Priest, which is (of course) our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Solomon's Temple, on the other hand, was a type of the post resurrection era, which many call the Christian Era. Additionally, the acacia (*shittim*) tree was the only tree which grew in the desert, making it the only one practically available for the purpose intended. This proves that our Heavenly Father knows how to build Himself a Tabernacle, even in the wilderness, where there is a lack of materials. So, no matter how ‘dry’ you think your own soul might be, our Heavenly Father is well able to ‘make due’ with who you are and *help you change* into a spiritual garden flowing with the Living Water and many good plants and trees. That's the significance the Bible teaches us over and over again. So, no matter how broken we are, no matter how much pain and/or sin we have, He is able to heal us and bring life back to our soul. For one stunning example, consider how the wicked king Manasseh actually repented when he was chastised (2 Chron 33:9-18). The Apocrypha also documents this with his sincere (heartfelt) prayer of repentance.

Exodus 35

8 And oil for the light, and spices for anointing oil, and for the sweet incense,

Olive oil is extremely symbolic in the Word of God. This can truly be another study for another time [**Oil Needed; Be Sure You're Ready** <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/286>]. But we'll look at some key points here to try to open up the reason it was so important in the Tabernacle of God (and still is to this very day). Let it first be noted that oil in itself does not bring forth light. *You must have fire* to get the light but *oil is the fuel for the fire*. Though this is a physical fact, it also has great symbolism which reveals a great spiritual truth.

Ex 27:20 tells us that the oil they used was to be *olive* oil - *thou shalt command the children of Israel, that they bring thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamp to burn always*. Lev 24:2 mirrors this command. What does it mean to ‘beat’ the olive? The word ‘beaten’ is

#3795 and means: *beaten*, i.e. *pure (oil)*. It comes from #3807, a primitive root that means: *to bruise* or *violently strike*. In other words, the oil from olives were to be extracted mechanically rather than being heated or chemically refined. This is an important factor in producing olive oil *to this day* and spiritually signifies how we must go through hard times in order to grow spiritually and produce good fruit for our Heavenly Father; being spiritually ‘beaten’ by the world causes us to learn how to dig our heart and mind deeper into God’s Word and find that strong conviction to stand for Him and His Word (Zech 13:9, Lk 8:15, Heb 12:1, 5-11, 1 Pt 1:7, Mth 7:17-27). Further, ‘science’ has finally caught up with God’s Word in realizing the amazing health benefits that come from *pure* olive oil that is extracted through what we term as ‘pressing’ rather than being heated. First or Cold pressed olive oil (called *Extra virgin – keep that in mind*) refers to the *first* pressing of the crushed (bruised) olives. This is the best of the oil and is what God commanded be used to light His Sanctuary. Though back then they did not have the high tech means to extract olive oil (like we do today), nevertheless, they were still quite capable at extracting olive oil in a pure form. We think our high-tech ways are so superior to our ancestors but the truth is that *there is no new thing under the sun* (Eccl 1:9).

But why does Ex 27:20 and Lev 24:2 tell us that *olive* oil (and only the best of the olive oil) was to be used and not some other kind of oil? Why did God choose olive oil over all other oils? He had good reasons. For one, Extra Virgin olive oil is extremely healthy for us so it’s symbolic of the Word of God being spiritually good for our soul. Olive oil is a mono-unsaturated oil and thus lowers the blood total cholesterol, raises the HDL (good cholesterol), lowers the LDL (bad cholesterol), lowers blood pressure, lowers blood sugar, lowers the risk of coronary artery disease, cancer and many other diseases. Extra Virgin olive oil is also loaded with antioxidants, which have powerful biological effects. It contains nutrients that fight inflammation, including oleic acid as well as the antioxidant oleocanthal. Therefore, Extra Virgin olive oil can also help reduce joint pain and swelling from rheumatoid arthritis and the benefits are greatly increased when combined with (clean) fish oil. Extra Virgin olive oil even has antibacterial properties which are particularly effective against *Helicobacter pylori*, a type of bacterium that can cause stomach ulcers and stomach cancer.

So, while animal fat ‘belongs’ to the Lord (Lev 3:16, 17, 7:23) and we are, therefore, not to eat it. Olive oil is a ‘fat’ approved for eating and specifically designated for anointing. The priests were anointed with olive oil (Ex 28:41, 29:7, 30:30, 40:15), as was the altar (Ex 29:36), the tabernacle, congregation and the altar of God (Ex 30:26). The kings of Israel were also anointed (1 Sam 9:16, 15:1, 16:3, 12, 1 Kings 1:34, 19:15-16). To this day we are commanded to anoint the sick with olive oil for healing (James 5:14-15). Anointing is a *symbolical* way of ‘cleansing’ something or someone. Though the oil used in the anointing does not itself do the healing, it is the act of obedience *in faith* that Jesus *can* heal us (IF He wants to) that brings the healing (Mark 5:34, Luke 7:50, Luke 17:19, Luke 18:42).

Therefore, it should be no mystery (or surprise) that God (Jesus Christ) is symbolic of pure olive oil. He is the oil that sustains our lamps. We must work to obtain the oil, work to obtain the wisdom of His Word. We can accomplish that by diligently seeking out the scriptures and knocking on His door asking for understanding of them in order to perform His work. Then He will pour the oil upon us, His Holy Spirit whereby we are given the wisdom of His Word as He gave it to Solomon (1 Kings 3:3-15). This will ensure we have a full vessel of oil which allows

our flame of truth to burn continually, to be a witness of the Lord before the entire world. That flame must remain constant as God told Moses, “Command the children of Israel, that they bring unto thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamps to burn continually,” (Leviticus 24:2). Continually, without end. ***Our relationship with God should be constant if we expect to keep our vessels full of oil, full of courage, strength, and the Holy Spirit.***

Now, God also ordained certain combinations of spices (herbs) for the olive oil and then also for a perfume to be a ‘sweet incense’ to Him when they burned incense (we’ll learn more about this later in Exodus 30:1-9 and 40:5,27). What this amounts to is that, God had exclusive rights to these ‘recipes’. Today we would simply say He had a ‘patent’ on these spice combinations and no one else in the country was allowed to use this combination of ‘spices’. To do so would mean losing their citizenship to the Kingdom of God (i.e., being ‘cut off’ from his people). These spices had benefits medicinally and had wonderful fragrance. And, since animals were going to be sacrificed in the area, they needed some way to clean things. After all, they didn’t have bleach or any other modern disinfectant in those days. What did they use instead? They used plants – herbs and spices- to clean with in those days (Ps 104:14, Gen 1:11, 30) along with lye soap (Jer 2:22, Mal 3:2). This anointing oil and spice (herb) mix was extremely cleansing, which is why He said: *thou shalt sanctify them, that they may be most holy: whatsoever toucheth them shall be holy*. Whatever the anointing oil would touch it would clean because, not only is olive oil itself an antibacterial, antifungal and antiviral, but so were the spices He instructed be used. What’s more, they also smelled really good which would be very much welcomed over the smell of blood from dead animals.

So, God not only instructed this anointing oil be used for cleansing (sanctification) but then, He commanded that incense be *burnt*. Why? Burning incense literally cleans *everything, even the air*. As we now know, viruses transfer *through the air*. So, if you clean the air then you remove all the viruses floating around. This is why frankincense was burnt. If you research the cleansing properties of frankincense, you’ll learn how powerful it is at cleansing the air. In addition to cleansing the air, burning incense also removed the bad bacteria and fungus’ that were on surfaces. Further, spices and herbs are better than modern day cleaners because *they only kill only the bad* bacteria, funguses and viruses but *leave the good ones*. As we now know, the world (including our body) is made of, not only bad but *good* bacteria, funguses and virus’. We need the good ones to be healthy. We think we’re so smart in our ‘modern day’ but the sad fact is our health and hygiene ‘knowledge’ is so screwed up. We use ‘cleaning tools’ (sanitizers and disinfectants) that kill off the *good* (beneficial) bacteria, funguses and viruses and therefore we leave ourselves susceptible to things like ‘super bugs’ and such. Our immunity is greatly reduced when we kill off the *good* (beneficial) bacteria, funguses and viruses. In all our modern day ‘cleanliness’ we are dirtier than ever – inside and out.

So, basically, when God speaks of sanctifying the Tabernacle (Temple), the furniture in the Tabernacle (or Temple), the priests and/or the congregation – He is talking about cleaning them. And He uses the physical cleansing to explain the way we are to clean ourselves *spiritually*. He wanted His earthly Tabernacles to be healthy and clean - likewise, He wants His spiritual

Tabernacle (our soul) to be healthy and clean. So, naturally, the spices He commanded be used in His anointing oil and perfumed incense have spiritual meanings to them as well. This is why, two out of the three gifts given to Jesus Christ (God in the flesh) after He was born, were spices used in the Tabernacle...

And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

Matt 2:11

Jesus was also buried with these spices (John 19:39). So, from His birth to His death He was surrounded by spices used in the Tabernacle of God... which is quite befitting because Jesus Christ is the carnal Tabernacle for God Himself (John 1:1,14). For, *in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily* (Col 2:9). We see then that spices like myrrh, sweet cinnamon, cassia, frankincense (and more) are not only good smelling but very cleansing as well. They therefore have a spiritual meaning.

Myrrh flows spontaneously from the tree (as well as through incisions), so it points to how willingly Jesus offered all that He was to God. Further, as the tree often had to be pierced for the ‘gum’ to flow, likewise was our Savior pierced. It was only because of this that the Holy Spirit of God was given to us (John 7:39, 14). On the other hand - the bitter taste of the myrrh helps us see the reality of the *sufferings* through which He went. As Ps 51:17 reminds us: *the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit*. This then is why Jesus, *being in an agony, prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground* (Luke 22:44). So, the sweet smell of Myrrh and the bitter taste both remind us of the great price Jesus paid for us on the Cross.

Cinnamon is not widely spoken of in the Bible. It is used a ‘spice’ that the apostate religion of Satan (described in the Bible as a ‘whore’) uses to seduce mankind (Prov 7:17, Rev 18:13) but also a spice that Christ uses to woo His virgin Bride (Son of Solomon 4:14). Doubtless, it’s a valuable spice that can be used for multiple purposes. But what is the spiritual significance of it? The fact that it comes from the bark of an evergreen tree tells us a lot, for in Hos 14:8 our Heavenly Father tells us that He is like an ‘green fir tree’ and that from Him we find our fruit. That is to say, we find the spiritual food we need to sustain our soul in Jesus Christ. Indeed, the Word of God (Jesus Christ) is *life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh* (Prov 4:22). Jesus also told us that: *it is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life* (John 6:63).

Sweet Calmus grows as an upright reed; therefore, it symbolizes our Heavenly Father as well as as our dear Savior, Jesus Christ. They are the balance and the measuring reed to weigh and measure men, wherein we’re all found wanting. Yet He is gracious, merciful and patient to help us change from our sins and learn how to be upright, like Him. Like the reed was grown in the mire, so too we are sown in the mire because the world has been set in our heart from conception (Ecc 3:11). Nevertheless, as we grow, we can learn how to rise above the mire (just as the reeds)

and learn how to be upright, like Jesus Christ. For wherever Jesus Christ finds a "bruised reed" (broken and contrite heart -Ps 51:17) He lifts us up out of the mire and establish our heart upright (Ps 25:8-9, Prov 16:17, Prov 10:29).

Frankincense is amazing and its positive benefits are numerous. This too was one of the gifts given to Jesus at birth (Mth 2:11) and, again, it is a 'spice' that the apostate religion of Satan (described in the Bible as a 'whore') uses to seduce mankind (Prov 7:17, Rev 18:13) and also a spice that Christ uses to woo His virgin Bride (Son of Solomon 4:14). But what is the spiritual significance of frankincense? We find it in the fact that even *the fumes or smoke of frankincense has disinfectant qualities that eliminate germs* - the smoke literally filters them out. And God commanded that this incense (with others) be burned. We can easily see why this was physically commanded: because it cleansed the Tabernacle (and Temple). And it is therein we find our spiritual meaning. As the smoke from frankincense cleansed, even the air, of the Tabernacle, so too does the Holy Spirit cleanse our heart and mind.

So, we see that the spices (herbs) point us to the uprightness, righteousness and Holiness of the Messiah, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who is the One that cleanses us spiritually. He truly is the only one that can make our soul 'sweet smelling' to our Heavenly Father (Rom 8:26-27) and the first step to that was done when He died for the sins of mankind at Calvary. Then, He overcame death (Satan, Heb 2:14) and sent His Holy Spirit into the hearts of those who accepted Him (Acts 2:33). He is still sending His Holy Spirit into the hearts of those who accept Him and it is the process of spiritual purification that His Word and Holy Spirit help us with, that makes us a 'sweet smell' to our Heavenly Father. Sincerely trying to get rid of our sins and do what's right with all we have inside is what pleases YHWH the most (Mk 12:30).

So, when you add the sweet spices to the olive oil you get a powerful (and good smelling) anointing oil that cleanses and purifies beyond anything man has ever come up with. Likewise, when you add the Word of God and the Holy Spirit to your mind (though process) and heart (emotions, feelings, intentions) then you become (in time) purified beyond any means that man can imagine. Let us continue to strive (with perseverance each day) to keep our hearts anointed with that pure olive oil and sweet bleed of spices (the Word of God and the Holy Spirit) so that we too can be an *odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God* (Phil 4:18).

We'll pick this up in part 2...

AMEN.