

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

September 10, 2025

Exodus 30:34-38

### Introduction:

1. In Exodus 30.22-38, there are two recipes required for the service of the tabernacle.
  - a) **Exodus 30.22-33:** The recipe for the anointing oil.
  - b) **Exodus 30.34-38:** The recipe for the incense.
2. These recipes had to be exactly as God specified. (cf. Lev. 10.1-3)

### I. THE RECIPE FOR INCENSE

- A. The command.
  1. **Exodus 30.34:** *"The Lord said to Moses"*
  2. Everything we are reading is the instructions given to Moses which will later be delivered to the children of Israel. (Ex. 36ff)
- B. The composition.
  1. **Exodus 30.34:** *"Take sweet spices."* Literally, aromatic spices.
  2. **Exodus 30.34:** The incense was composed of four spices.
    - a) Stacte (nataf): literally, "to drop." Believed to be gum resin, sweet aroma.
    - b) Onycha (shekhelet): Lit., "lid." From a mollusk. Musky aroma.
    - c) Galbanum (khebenah): Gum resin from a perennial herb. Pungent and unpleasant. Acts as a fixative to extend the aroma of other spices.
    - d) Frankincense (levona): Highly prized resin from the Boswellia tree. Sweet.
  3. **Exodus 30.34:** *"there shall be equal amounts of each."*
- C. The creation.
  1. **Exodus 30.35:** *"make an incense blended as by the perfumer"* (Ex. 37.29)
  2. **Exodus 30.36:** *"and you shall beat some of it very fine"* Lit., "grind, crush."
- D. The crime.
  1. **Exodus 30.37:** *"You shall not make any for yourselves according to its Composition."* Specifically, making incense according to this recipe.
  2. **Exodus 30.38:** *"he shall be cut off from his people"* (Ex. 31.14; Lev. 20.2,3)

### II. LESSONS FROM THE TEXT

- A. Is the death penalty for making incense too harsh?
  1. Adam and Eve were cast out of the garden for eating fruit. (Gen. 2.17; 3.11)
  2. A man was put to death for gathering sticks on the Sabbath. (Num. 15.32-36)
  3. Is any commandment too insignificant to obey? (Heb. 2.2)
- B. God gives us recipes we are expected to follow to the letter.
  1. The unleavened bread to represent the body of Jesus. (1 Cor. 11.23,24)
  2. The fruit of the vine to represent the blood of Jesus. (1 Cor. 11.25)
  3. Would anything else suffice? (1 Cor. 11.20,21)