

The Significance of Anointing

The olive tree, and especially the branch, is a symbol of peace and friendship. Noah found the olive leaf to be a sign of life following the flood (Genesis 8:11, NKJV). Aaron and his sons used cakes of bread anointed with olive oil as a sanctified offering to God in worship (Leviticus 8:26). A grain offering of fine flour mixed with olive oil is worship (Numbers 7:19, 25). Moses had olive oil poured on the heads of Hebrew priests to sanctify them for worship (Exodus 29:7). Olive oil burned in the temple menorah, providing light for the priests as they worked and worshiped (Exodus 25, 30:26-33). God cleansed people healed of leprosy with a mixture of fine flour and olive oil (Leviticus 14:10). God anointed kings with olive oil before taking office (1 Samuel 10:1, 1 Kings 1:39, 2 Kings 9:1,6). Mary anointed Jesus with the oil of spikenard in worship and for burial. Spikenard is more costly than olive oil (Mark 14:3-9). Psalm 45:7 prophesied Jesus' anointing as an oil of gladness. Isaiah 61:3 prophesied his anointing as an oil of joy. Both gladness and joy are the Holy Spirit. Beloved, the significance of anointing throughout the ages was a precursor of Jesus' anointing before his burial. He came in peace as a friend to pay for our inherited sin. His death and burial were a payment he gladly made with joy. Accept, honor, and love him for the gift of life he has given everyone.

Shalom!!

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