

The Wonderful Use of Incense

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by Sha'ul bayn
Yahukhenun ha Yahudah



“Professing belief in the Almighty Father יהוה (YaHUAH),
through His TaNaK (falsely called ‘Old Testament’).”

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We often think of you, our readers. We know that there are numerous hosts who are doing their best to study Scripture and walk this narrow path of belief in the Most High, belief in Scripture and observance of Torah (teaching, law, instruction). Every week we receive emails from new visitors and people who are studying our articles on different subjects. That shows that people are still seeking truth in this age. There is a great work of unveiling falsehood and solidifying of truth amongst the people of יהוה (YaH).

In recent days, we have taken on an affinity to incense. Considering that the English word “incense” is found over 120 times in Scripture, Scripture clearly has a focus on incense that many people have missed. Incense was to be burned in the House of יהוה (YaH) as part of the priestly services. It was called the “altar of incense.” Sadly, with the destruction of the House of יהוה (YaH), people have often forgotten the understanding and use of incense. But can you picture yourself walking into the House of יהוה (YaH), filled with the cloud of His presence, seeing the beautiful oil light of the menorah (lampstand), smelling the freshly baked loaves of showbread (the bread of the presence of YaH), and inhaling the strong scent of burning incense? It was pleasing to יהוה (YaH). It has been pleasing to our family to have incense in our home.

Whenever people did not obey the laws and instructions of יהוה (YaH), we see that it was like a “strange fire” or “offering” or disgusting “incense” to Him. In fact, the Almighty instructed Y'shr'Al (Israel) not to offer any kind of strange incense upon His altar (Ex. 30:9). Such disobedience and rebellion would be equivalent to my early experiences with incense. When I first started to buy incense, like most people probably, I bought some incense sticks from the store. Most are made with glue, sawdust, and stuff that should never be burned in our homes. I was a novice. But I couldn't help but remember my early childhood experiences and the enjoyment that I had when I smelled the incense of the Catholic churches I attended. The Catholics have some things right. Much of their religion is copied from the truth of Scripture, but mingled with falsehood to become part of their pagan “sacraments.” But the truth of the matter is that I remembered my early childhood experiences, and how pleasing it was to smell the strong incense in those churches.

I am now rediscovering the joy of my early childhood experiences with incense in a more Scriptural sense, from a proper understanding of the TaNaK (OT). The Psalmist asked the Almighty to receive his prayers as incense (Psalm 141:2). Having bought organic incense sticks made with myrrh and natural binding to bind the myrrh to the stick, it has provided a very strong but sweet smell to our home. We can truly say that it reminds us of how the Most High must enjoy our offerings of prayer and praise, or when we are obedient to His laws, instructions and commands. It gives us a preview of how it will be to live in the age that is without end, which is soon to come, and which is within our hearts and minds in prayer. And lately we have been digging deeper to get the full experience of incense in the most natural ways.

What I am truly interested in doing is following a practice similar to that which is found in YaH's altar of incense service, described in Sh'moot (Ex.), with the exception of the gold. It was a gold altar in order to withstand the burning. And fire and gold always looks beautiful. The fire was made using charcoal. And there are several websites which offer the kind of charcoal we would need to burn our incense on. We'll share these at the back of this article. It is like a brick, with an indent on one side to place the incense upon.

So the first thing we will need to do is to obtain the charcoal. It is not the same as the charcoal briquettes for barbeques though. Most people burn the incense charcoal on a fireproof surface. Or they may use something like an “abalone shell” (seashell) or something of that nature. The idea is a bowl-shaped fire-proof container to place the charcoal in. Then when the charcoal is a hot ember, heated like an oven burner, then place the incense upon the charcoal.

I have currently been using cassia buds. Cassia is found in Scripture, and can be bought from any organic health store for very cheap. It provides a wonderful scent and can be added to your tea for a cinnamon-type of flavour, similar to anise. Frankincense comes in silvery crystals or rocks. Whether it be cassia buds, frankincense resin crystals, or otherwise, we may place these upon hot charcoal for a scent that permeates our homes and uplifts our being. Aromatherapy is quite prevalent as a health treatment and is validated by many physicians today in health care. The main options for incense are to buy powdered herbs, powdered or chipped types of wood like sandalwood, or tree resin crystals or powders like frankincense and myrrh. But the easiest route is still to buy sticks of organic frankincense from stores like Green Earth.

Another interesting fact is that insects don’t take very kindly to incense. Perhaps this was another reason the Almighty enjoyed incense in His House, and why the earliest Aibreem (Hebrews) enjoyed its use. So you don’t actually have to buy those horrible chemical-burning repellents. By using essential oils and burning incense, we can keep the insects away.

My point is that our family has discovered a pleasing and enjoyable addition to our prayers, worship and home atmosphere through the Scriptural use of incense. We are looking forward to using charcoal with powdered herbs, resins, essential oils and wood chips... and we would like to encourage others to try this method of enlightening the home, uplifting our spirit and enjoyment in prayer and worship. Please share with us your experience or thoughts on this subject. We would love to hear from you.

I have found a number of websites that offer organic incense ingredients. There is also a book that is offered for a very reasonable price, with instructions on making and using incense. Simply copy and paste the following links into your web browser’s “address” bar. We can’t offer a review of it yet, since we have not read it, but you may find the book here:

http://www.christianbook.com/Christian/Books/easy_find?within=N%253D1014709%2526Ne%253D1000000%2526Ns%253Dproduct.number_sold%2526Nso%253D1%2526Nu%253Dproduct.endeca_rollup%2526category%253DChurch%2520Supplies%2526action%253DSearch%2526event%253DHPT&Ntk=keywords&Ntt=incense&action=Search&N=0&Ne=0&event=ESRCN&nav_search=1&cms=1

I am particularly curious to get the incense stove and to try the more natural “bamboo charcoal” from Organo-Leptic: http://www.organo-leptic.com/index.php?target=categories&category_id=166.

Other websites that offer incense-making kits using natural ingredients or offer just the incense types can be found here:

http://www.mountainroseherbs.com/candle/accessories.html#irc_imk
<http://www.scentedmountain.com/store/>

We pray that you have enjoyed this article, and perhaps you will experience the joy of Scriptural incense use.

YaH khey (YaH lives),
Sha'ul and Family.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WEBSITES LISTED ABOVE offer other products which are not the focus of this article and which we would not recommend. We are encouraging the purchase of true herbs, powders, resins, charcoal and incense-related things from these sites. But we are not recommending the other health products that they offer. Some of them offer essential oils also... with the warning that they should not be taken internally. Truthfully, the only place that we know of that offers Scriptural essential oils that can be used internally and externally is through Young Living.