

Exodus Oil

Introduction

I have just listened to an unsolicited audio sent to me about 'The Exodus Effect', where a supposed Christian pastor pitches a cure-all oil that is claimed to be based on the holy anointing oil described in Exodus for the services of the Tabernacle.

It is one of those sales pitches where someone waffles for 40 minutes trying to convince you that their product is the best thing since sliced bread and no one in the world knows about it. In this case, the speaker claims to be the first person in history to understand what this oil really is and how it is prepared. He claims it has cured arthritis, lupus, damaged backs, bunions, cancer and a host of other things. You then have to buy his book to learn how to make this oil, which he describes as the most brilliant scientific discovery ever that can extend your lifespan.

The author then claims that because it is a Christian oil, his church had a revival, growing from 25 to over a hundred in weeks because people came to be cured by the oil. In reality this is another American snake-oil salesman who actually wants you to disobey God's word. True revivals bring people to Christ, not oil.

This is my analysis of his claims.

The author

The author only names himself as 'Pastor Andrew' in Colorado in the audio and many associated web sites.

This in itself is concerning since he refuses to give his full name or location. If his product is so brilliant why not give his full name and let people contact him. I learned from another source that his name is Andrew Truman (or is this an alias?).

Then, despite claiming to be a pastor, he is free to use swear words in his commentary. This man is not a Biblical Christian.

What he describes as revival coming to his church through the use of this oil involves old ladies dancing in the aisles and people speaking in tongues. This is not a Biblical fruit of revival but rather of apostate Charismaticism.

The author makes the point that ancient OT people lived for hundreds of years and then implies this was because they knew this secret. Well the diminishing lifespan had nothing to do with a secret oil but was caused by sin. Gradually the effects of sin on the genome led to deterioration and a reduced lifespan. In any case, the oil recipe given to Moses was when the lifespan had already massively reduced, even though Moses lived to 120. In fact far from this secret oil increasing lifespans, as he claims, God himself has said that the normal lifespan of man is now around 70, 'The days of our lives are seventy years; and if by reason of strength they are eighty years, yet their boast is only labour and sorrow' (Ps 90:10).

The author also claims that the US government has patented this compound and is likely to restrict it (hence buy his book quickly for \$47 or \$67 for the complete system). Why did he not patent it if he discovered it? Why are there alternative websites selling a similar product?

I do not trust this person; but let us look at the Biblical data.

The spices

The key passage utilised in his presentation is the following:

Moreover the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 'Also take for yourself quality spices -- five hundred *shekels* of liquid myrrh, half as much sweet-smelling cinnamon (two hundred and fifty *shekels*), two hundred and fifty *shekels* of sweet-smelling cane, five hundred *shekels* of cassia, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, and a hin of olive oil. And you shall make from these a holy anointing oil, an ointment compounded according to the art of the perfumer. It shall be a holy anointing oil. With it you shall anoint the tabernacle of meeting and the ark of the Testimony; the table and all its utensils, the lampstand and its utensils, and the altar of incense; the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the laver and its base. You shall consecrate them, that they may be most holy; whatever touches them must be holy. And you shall anoint Aaron and his sons, and consecrate them, that *they* may minister to Me as priests. Exod 30:22-30

The formula

The author explains at length how it took him and a chemist weeks to discover the exact formula that worked to heal, initially on his sick wife. Only on the 33rd time of experimenting did the formula actually work.

Firstly, you should know that 33 is a very important occult number, one of the most important occult numbers (search and you will see that it occurs over and over again in news stories, such as cases of Covid-19).

But why did the author bother to keep trying different proportions since Moses was told exactly what the proportions to be used are:

Item	Measure	Adam Clarke, Comm.	Keil & Delitzsch Commentary on the OT
Liquid myrrh	500 shekels ¹	48 lbs. 4 oz.	14 ½ lbs.
Cinnamon	250 shekels	24 lbs. 2 oz.	7 lbs.
Sweet-smelling cane (Calamus)	250 shekels	24 lbs. 2 oz.	7 lbs
Cassia	500 shekels	48 lbs. 4 oz.	14 ½ lbs.
Olive oil	One hin ²	1.62 gallons	5 quarts. (10 pints.) also 6 pints. (?)

¹ We cannot be certain exactly what 'the shekel of the sanctuary' was compared to other shekel measures, such as the Akkadian shekel used in trade. *Merriam Webster dictionary* says that the Hebrew shekel was about 252 grains troy. *The Free dictionary*, *Easton's Bible Dict.* and others says it was half an ounce avoirdupois or 220 grains troy.

² There are various measures for this also. *ISBE* says 8 quarts or 2 gallons. *The Westminster Bible Dict.* says 1.62 gallons.

So the first problem is that the author is lying about the formula. God gave Moses the exact measures to make the oil. Though we are uncertain about modern equivalents of 'hin' and 'shekel', the exact proportions are given for the compound.

The perfumers

The preparation of the anointing oil, as well as of the incense, was initially entrusted to Bezalel (Exod 37:29) and the preservation of it to Eleazar, the son of Aaron (Num 4:16). In later times it was prepared by the sons of the priests (1 Chron 9:30).

The spices

These are mostly well understood. They are:

Liquid myrrh

This was viscid white liquid or sap that flows from an acacia-like tree found in East Africa and Arabia Felix,³ *Balsamodendron myrrha*, distinguished from the dry gum. It was used in embalming (Jn 19:39) and as a perfume (Est 2:12; Ps 45:8; Prov 7:17) and sometimes as a drug (Matt 15:23).

Liquid (free flowing) myrrh was the best myrrh that exuded spontaneously from the bark; inferior quality oozes out in greater quantity from incisions.

What we know about myrrh is the same as that used in ancient times.

Cinnamon

Heb. *kinamon*, or the botanical *Cinnamomum zeylanicum*. Sweet smelling cinnamon, or cinnamon of fragrance.

It came from the inner bark of a tree of the Laurel or Bay family, which grows only in India on the Malabar Coast, in Ceylon, and China; though it was said to grow in Arabia in ancient times. We cannot be certain that the cinnamon we know today is the same as that used by Moses. However, it was imported from India in very early times by the people of Ophir, and brought with other spices from the south part of Arabia by the trading caravans that visited Egypt and Syria. It was introduced to the Semitic nations and then by the Phoenicians to the Greeks and Romans. Whether it actually came from Ceylon is uncertain as there is no word that can be discovered in the Indian dialects corresponding to 'cinnamon'.

The inner rind when dried and rolled into cylinders forms cinnamon sticks. The fruit and coarser pieces of bark when boiled yield a fragrant oil. It was one of the principal ingredients in the holy anointing oil (Ex 30:23) but is also mentioned elsewhere in Prov 7:17; Song 4:14; Rev 18:13.

Pliny mentions it being used in ointments and speaks of two sorts, a white and a black form. Pancirollus reckons cinnamon was among the things that are lost and says, that we have no knowledge of the true cinnamon. Galen affirmed that in his time it was scarce and was rarely found in use even by emperors.

³ In ancient times Arabia was divided into three parts. (1) Arabia Felix ('Happy Arabia'), so called from its fertility. It embraced a large portion of the country now known by the name of Arabia. The Arabs called it Yemen. It lies between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf. (2) Arabia Deserta, the el-Badieh or 'Great Wilderness' of the Arabs. From this name is derived that which is usually given to the nomadic tribes which wander over this region, the 'Bedouin'. (3) Arabia Petraea, i.e., the Rocky Arabia, so called from its rocky mountains and stony plains. It comprehended all the north-west portion of the country, and is much better known to travellers than any other portion. [Adapted from Easton's Bible Dict.]

Sweet-smelling cane (Calamus)

See later.

Cassia

Hebrew *kiddah*, i.e. 'split'); *kiddah* probably implies *cassia* and possibly the species called *κίττω* (*citto* in Greek).

This was a commercial product (Ezek 27:19). It is the inner bark of a tree resembling cinnamon, the *Cinnamomum cassia* of botanists, which was probably imported from India or Arabia. It was far less costly than cinnamon.

Olive oil

Made from olives, the fruit of the olive tree. Used as a compound in making scented oils and perfumes.

Availability according to ancient historians

- Pliny says that myrrh and sweet calamus grew in many places in Arabia and that cinnamon was found in Syria.
- Dionysius Periegetes mentions sweet smelling calamus along with frankincense, myrrh, and cassia.
- Strabo speaks of cassia and cinnamon growing in Arabia Felix.
- Diodorus Siculus makes mention of all these in Arabia.

It is not necessary that Moses had to get these spices from India or Africa.

The mixture

The proportions suggest that the spices were not crushed and mixed with the oil and myrrh in their natural condition; that would have resulted in a thick mess. It is more likely that the dry spices were softened in water and boiled to extract the essence and then mixed with oil and myrrh and boiled again to evaporate the remaining water. The complex production is indicated by the use of the term 'an ointment compounded according to the art of the perfumer or ointment-maker' (v25). This work was an art.

Calamus

The words

This is the Hebrew words $\sim f, bo-hnEq.W$ *besem* or *bosem* / *kaneh* or *Qaneh*; literally meaning 'cane of fragrance'.

This is explained in the Brown-Driver-Briggs-Gesenius lexicon as

- **H7070** $hn<q'$ *kaneh* 1) reed, stalk, bone, balances 1a) stalk 1b) water-plant, reed 1c) calamus (aromatic reed) 1d) derived meanings 1d1) measuring-rod 1d2) reed (as unit of measure - 6 cubits) 1d3) beam (of scales - for scales themselves) 1d4) shaft (of lampstand) 1d5) branches (of lampstand) 1d6) shoulder-joint
- **H1314** $\sim f, B,$ (or $\sim f, Bo$) *besem* 1) spice, balsam, balsam tree, perfume 2) (TWOT) sweet, sweet smell, sweet odour

There isn't any mystery about the Hebrew words but there may be some debate as to exactly what they indicate.

This was translated into Greek in the LXX as *kala,mou euvw,douj* meaning ‘sweet-smelling calamus’. See also Jer 6:20. In classical literature it is *κάλαμος αρωματικός*, *calamus aromaticos*.

What is it?

Historically the words have been translated as ‘sweet calamus’.

‘Calamus’ is the Latin word for ‘cane’ or ‘reed’, the translation of *kaneh*.

It is one of the sweet scents of Song 4:14 and was among the articles sold in the markets of Tyre (Ezek 27:19). There is a calamus that is not sweet.

The word designates an aromatic Oriental plant called the ‘sweet flag’; *Acorus calamus* of Linnaeus, which was found in Arabia Felix or from India. It is also called sweet cane (Isa 43:24; Jer 6:20). It is used in perfumes by cutting and drying the stalk and grounding it to powder. People speculate that it is actually lemon grass or ginger grass (*Andropogon schoenanthus*). It was imported to Tyre.

Cannabis?

The author claims that a certain French woman called Benet discovered that the translation was wrong and the real item is Cannabis: *kaneh-besem* to Canna-bis. This is a real stretch of the imagination that no scholar, linguist, translator, commentator or philologist has ever made before. However, he claims that the real Hebrew word is *Kannobos*. This is simply untrue and this looks like a Greek word. However, *Kannabos* is not even in the Greek LXX (Septuagint), it has *kalamou*. But there are two Hebrew words not one single word: ‘sweet-smelling cane’. The claims make no sense.

The Greeks knew of Cannabis by the name of *Kannabis*. If the Septuagint translation of the OT into Greek wanted to identify Calamus as Cannabis (as the author claims) there was a perfect word already there for it – they did not.

Now Cannabis oil does have many medicinal properties, as western governments are beginning to admit. Many studies have shown that oil prepared from parts of the plant are an effective anti-inflammatory and analgesic. However, smoking other parts cause euphoria, sedation and side-effects of paranoia and even psychosis.

The author claims that the missing ingredient for centuries in the holy anointing oil is Cannabis.

What is Cannabis and marijuana?

Cannabis is a tall annual plant, *Cannabis sativa* that has many uses; family *Cannabaceae* (or *Cannabidaceae*):

It has long been cultivated for its stem fibre, known as ‘hemp’; used for mats and rope for centuries.

The oil-rich seeds may contain up to 22 per cent protein and 32 per cent oil, the latter being a substitute for linseed oil in paints. The seeds are a useful livestock feed, particularly for poultry.

The buds of the female flowers are used for the psychotropic narcotic drug compounded into a resin (‘Cannabis resin’) which is also known as ‘marijuana’ (Latin American). It is also derived from the leaves and stems of this species known as ‘grass’ (modern slang for dried leaves) or ‘hashish’ (powdered hemp leaves used by Muslim assassins or ‘*hašiši*’ -

'hashish-eater'). Certain varieties grown in India yield the powerful narcotic 'ganja' from the dried female flowers, and this is used medicinally.

The psychotropic effect derives from the sugars surrounding the buds, which contain TCH. The medicinal benefits come from CBD (Cannabinoids) which are used for healing and relaxing.

There are two subspecies (sometimes considered two species), *Cannabis sativa*, which is chiefly used for hemp, and *Cannabis indica*, from which the drug is usually obtained.

What the holy anointing oil signifies

Throughout history the anointing oil has been understood symbolically for the anointing of the Holy Spirit on believers, conferring gifts, fruit and graces.

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us *is* God. 2 Cor 1:21

You have an anointing from the Holy One. 1 Jn 2:20

The anointing which you have received from Him abides in you. 1 Jn2:27

The holy oil is emblematic of those gifts and graces giving us a sweet smell before God.

The anointing of believers is the baptism by the Holy Spirit into Christ whereby those in the body of Christ share the virtues and graces of Christ by the Holy Spirit.

For by one Spirit we were all baptised into one body -- whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free -- and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. 1 Cor 12:13

Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2 Cor 5:17

The days of Noah, while *the* ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. There is also an antitype which now saves us -- baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. 1 Pt 3:20-21

The virtues of the new nature are not a person trying to do well by prayer, but dying to his old life and putting on Christ as his nature. Thus the Christian life is lived by faith.

Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfil its* lusts. Rm 13:14

As many of you as were baptised into Christ have put on Christ. Gal 3:27

We must remember that the New Covenant has superseded the Old Covenant, which is cancelled in all its forms. The Old Covenant was the shadow but the substance of the New Covenant is in Christ. We no longer need any of the Old Covenant forms and shadows, whether it be vestments, temples, instrumental music, sacrifices or anointing oil.

The forms were necessary for OT believers because they did not have the fulness, which was only available in the New Covenant after the cross, resurrection and ascension of Christ.

Why bother with trying to resurrect a recipe for holy anointing oil (which is prohibited anyway) when we have the reality of what it symbolised – the ministry of the Holy Spirit within us?

‘He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’
But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified. Jn 7:38-39

The divine prohibition

It shall not be poured on man's flesh; nor shall you make any other like it, according to its composition. It is holy, and it shall be holy to you. Whoever compounds any like it, or whoever puts any of it on an outsider, shall be cut off from his people. Exod 30:32-33

This is the *coup de grace* against this author. He is under divine condemnation from the beginning.

He claims to be a pastor, a scholar and a Hebrew linguist, yet he has ignored very open, clear statements in the passage itself forbidding men to make this compound for personal use.

Now the point of the oil is symbolic, being a type of the work of the Holy Spirit producing Christ-likeness. However, even if you ignore the New Covenant and base your life on Old Covenant principles (as the author is doing), even the Old Covenant prohibits the use of this oil.

Holy

‘It is holy, and it shall be holy to you.’

‘Nor shall you make any other like it, according to its composition.’

The oil is holy, that is, separated unto God; ‘It is holy, and it shall be holy to you’.

Something that is separated unto God is not to be used for common purposes. Holy things are for the purpose God directed alone; it is sin to use them otherwise. Man cannot make something like this for personal use.

Not for use on men that are not priests

The oil was used to anoint holy things used in Israel’s worship system, such as parts of the Tabernacle: ‘With it you shall anoint the tabernacle of meeting and the ark of the Testimony; the table and all its utensils, the lampstand and its utensils, and the altar of incense; the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the laver and its base’. But it was also used to anoint and consecrate priests that served in the Tabernacle: ‘you shall anoint Aaron and his sons, and consecrate them, that they may minister to Me as priests’.

Holy oil was only to be used as God directed on ceremonially holy men, Aaron and his sons. This means that it is sin to use the holy oil on anyone else.

It can only be prepared by priests

The appointed duty of Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest *is* the oil for the light, the sweet incense, the daily grain offering, the anointing oil, the oversight of all the tabernacle, of all that *is* in it, with the sanctuary and its furnishings. Num 4:16

In later times it was prepared by the sons of the priests (1 Chron 9:30). Thus God's command is that no one else, outside of the Levitical priesthood, can prepare this compound for use. It is sin for someone else to make it.

Not for human use

'It shall not be poured on man's flesh.'

Only ceremonially separated priests could receive the holy oil. It was forbidden to put it on any other person and especially a woman (who could not be a priest).

Not for use by people outside the kingdom

'Whoever puts any of it on an outsider, shall be cut off from his people.'

This holy oil was only for the use of priestly Israelites for the period of the Old Covenant. It is forbidden to use it on anyone outside of the Levitical priests and especially a non-Israelite. Using it on Americans, for example, is a sin.

Not to be altered

The exact formula is given to Moses and this must be mixed perfectly as God directed. Any alteration of the formula is sin and produces something that is not holy.

The author claims to have found extra substances that increase the beneficial effects of his mixture. He does not say what these are but I suspect them to be things like spikenard and hyssop. Adding to the holy oil is a sin.

Penalty for disobedience is death

'Shall be cut off from his people.'

This means death and the heritage cut off from God's people. [Exod 9:15, 23:23, 31:14.]

Why do people (if the testimonies are true) claim that they have been benefited medically by the author's mixture?

God has always provided mankind with medicinal herbs and spices for healing. For thousands of years these were understood and used effectively. Unlike what the author claims,⁴ many people in history lived to ripe old ages of over 90; go and check in your local graveyard.

Today there is a revolution going on whereby people are trying to rediscover the values of food, nutrition, herbs and spices.

The spices used in this mixture all have varying benefits, and are mostly anti-inflammatory and anti-bacterial. Inflammation is the cause of many ailments, such as heart disease and cancer. Using these spices with olive oil (itself beneficial) would produce favourable effects.

⁴ He says that lifespans reduced to 35 in the times of Jesus and then doubled through modern medicine. This is rubbish. The apostle John was alive in the mid-90s AD and would likely have been over 80. In the 5th century BC, Plato lived to 82. Augustine, born in the 4th century AD, lived to 76. In the 8th century Charlemagne lived to be 72. Many lived into their 80s and some people lived to be over 100. In some places, such as rural areas in the Turkish mountains, it was common for people to be over 100 due to the minerals in the drinking water. In Victorian slums during the Industrial Revolution, a life could easily end at 42 due to poor living conditions in cities. The average age of death for modern American doctors is in their 50s.

However, turpentine of certain pine trees is even more beneficial.

Conclusion

The author is a charlatan; that much is certain. It is doubtful that he is a Christian and it is likely that he is trying to make money from gullible people, since he is essentially selling a book claiming to increase healthy lifespans.

Can we be sure that he even exists? Is the speaker just a front for a corporation seeking to get rich by duping gullible Christians? It seems that Exodus oil is selling like hot cakes. Someone is getting rich.

Avoid such nonsense where things of spiritual significance are downgraded to be common materials for human consumption.

If you have serious ailments and seek alternatives to failed allopathic medicine, do your own research to find the natural products that best suit you. But the best way of ingesting natural medicines is in a balanced diet of organic food. If you need Curcumin, for example, put Turmeric on your food or drink Turmeric tea. It can be damaging to use compounded supplements without a full understanding of their chemical effects on the body. An overdose of certain vitamins, for instance, can damage the kidneys and the liver.

Avoid snake-oil salesmen.

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