

Leviticus 24

Verses 1-4

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ²“Command the sons of Israel that they bring to you clear oil from beaten olives for the light, to make a lamp burn continually. ³Outside the veil of testimony in the tent of meeting, Aaron shall keep it in order from evening to morning before the Lord continually; *it shall be* a perpetual statute throughout your generations. ⁴He shall keep the lamps in order on the pure *gold* lampstand before the Lord continually.

Command Israel to bring you clear oil from beaten olives for the light

In order to make olive oil they had to press the olives to squeeze out the juice.

Then they strained the juice to remove the pulp and when the oil rose to the surface of the juice, they skimmed it off.

See pic 2405 Olive trees



See Pics 2506

Olives and olive oil



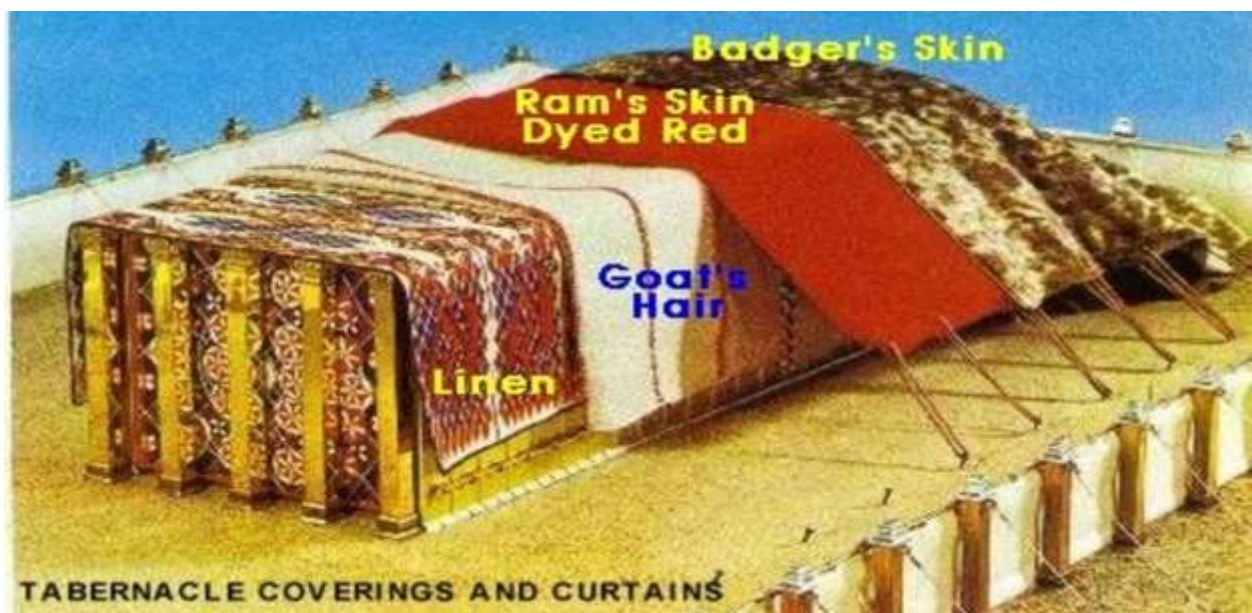
Aaron shall keep it in order from evening to morning before the Lord continually

Some scholars believe this means every night while others think this means always, day and night.

It makes sense that the lights would be used both day and night because there was no other source of light in the Holy Place.

See pics 2410

No light source



See pic 2411

The golden lampstand



The golden lampstand was positioned on the south side of the Holy Place.

This was the only light in the Tabernacle.

Verses 5-9

⁵“Then you shall take fine flour and bake twelve cakes with it; two-tenths *of an ephah* shall be *in* each cake. ⁶ You shall set them *in* two rows, six *to* a row, on the pure *gold* table before the Lord. ⁷ You shall put pure frankincense on each row that it may be a memorial portion for the bread, *even* an offering by fire to the Lord. ⁸ Every Sabbath day he shall set it in order before the Lord continually; it is an everlasting covenant for the sons of Israel. ⁹ It shall be for Aaron and his sons, and they shall eat it in a holy place; for it is most holy to him from the Lord’s offerings by fire, *his* portion forever.”

Then you shall bake 12 cakes and set them *in two rows, six to a row*

This was the weekly changing of showbread

See Pic 2415



You shall put pure frankincense on each row that it may be a memorial portion for the bread, *even an offering by fire to the Lord.*

The frankincense was burned at the end of each week (instead of the loaves) in order that Aaron and his sons could feast on the loaves

Frankincense, also known as Olibanum (ow li bu num) has a woody, spicy smell

It is made from the resin of the Boswellia tree which typically grows in the dry, mountainous regions of India, Africa and the Middle East

See Pic 2420

The Boswellia Tree



See Pic 2421 Frankincense



Every Sabbath day he shall set it in order before the Lord continually

The old bread was replaced every Sabbath

It shall be for Aaron and his sons, and they shall eat it in a holy place

The pagan world offered food to their deities thinking they needed to be fed

The Jews offered sacrifices to God for thanksgiving and forgiveness of their sin.

Verses 10-12

¹⁰ Now the son of an Israelite woman, whose father was an Egyptian, went out among the sons of Israel; and the Israelite woman's son and a man of Israel struggled with each other in the camp. ¹¹ The son of the Israelite woman blasphemed the Name and cursed. So they brought him to Moses. (Now his mother's name was Shelomith, the daughter of Dibri, of the tribe of Dan.) ¹² They put him in custody so that the command of the Lord might be made clear to them.

Now the son of an Israelite woman, whose father was an Egyptian

This Israelite woman had married an Egyptian man. Since the father is not mentioned, he may have stayed in Egypt.

The woman and her son went out with the multitude that left Egypt.

The Israelite woman's son and a man of Israel struggled with each other in the camp and the son blasphemed the Name and cursed

It is obvious from this that the woman's son blasphemed God's name.

To avoid the possibility of this happening, Jews no longer use God's name (Yahweh)

They do use some of the other names of God in prayer or in Torah study but not even these in casual conversation.

See video 2425

<https://www.levickfamily.com/8.1.html>

They put him in custody so that the command of the Lord might be made clear to them.

Since the woman's son was an Egyptian, the people did not know what to do with him.

So they confined him until God decided the matter.

Verses 13-16

¹³ Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ¹⁴ “Bring the one who has cursed outside the camp, and let all who heard him lay their hands on his head; then let all the congregation stone him. ¹⁵ You shall speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘If anyone curses his God, then he will bear his sin. ¹⁶ Moreover, the one who blasphemes the name of the Lord shall surely be put to death; all the congregation shall certainly stone him. The alien as well as the native, when he blasphemes the Name, shall be put to death.

Bring the one who has cursed outside the camp, and let all who heard him lay their hands on his head; then let all the congregation stone him

As part of their judicial system those who heard him were witnesses and the laying on of hands meant they were witnesses to his words.

The one who blasphemes the name of the Lord shall surely be put to death

God made using his name in a profane way a capital offense

The entire congregation shall certainly stone him

The representatives chosen to meet out this justice represented all of Israel.

If all of the 2.5 million people stoned him, it would have created a new pyramid. ☺

The alien as well as the native, when he blasphemes the Name, shall be put to death.

All who dwelt in Israel were subject to this law regardless of their national origin

Verses 17-21

¹⁷ 'If a man takes the life of any human being, he shall surely be put to death.

¹⁸ The one who takes the life of an animal shall make it good, life for life. ¹⁹ If a man injures his neighbor, just as he has done, so it shall be done to him:

²⁰ fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; just as he has injured a man, so it shall be inflicted on him. ²¹ Thus the one who kills an animal shall make it good, but the one who kills a man shall be put to death.

If a man takes the life of any human being, he shall surely be put to death

The 6th Commandment says you shall not murder.

The penalty for this sin was death

¹⁸ The one who takes the life of an animal shall make it good, life for life.

If someone killed his neighbor's ox, he was required to provide the money so the neighbor could buy another one.

If a man injures his neighbor, just as he has done, so it shall be done to him: fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; just as he has injured a man, so it shall be inflicted on him

This sounds like injury for injury but this is not how it was practiced by the courts of the Jewish people.

Two very important principles are needed for real justice

1. Personal revenge cannot be allowed, it must be public justice (the courts)
2. The punishment for any crime must be proportional to the crime

In the law of the Hebrews, the "eye for eye" was meant to restrict the compensation to the value of the loss.

Only in the case of premeditated murder was compensation forbidden.

Verse 22

²² There shall be one standard for you; it shall be for the stranger as well as the native, for I am the Lord your God.”

This principle is still important for any nation that wants to please God

A nation cannot have two sets of laws, one for the home born citizen and another for the foreigner.

Also, the legal system should not favor the wealthy over the poor. America needs to work on this part of our justice system.

Verse 23

²³ Then Moses spoke to the sons of Israel, and they brought the one who had cursed outside the camp and stoned him with stones. Thus the sons of Israel did, just as the Lord had commanded Moses.

Did this action fit the 4 principles we discussed above

Personal revenge cannot be allowed, it must be public justice

The punishment for any crime must be proportional to the crime

A nation cannot have two sets of laws

The legal system should not favor the wealthy over the poor.

All four were met.