

WALKING IN THE SMELL OF ACCEPTANCE

Numbers: An aroma pleasing to the Lord

Numbers 15:3 ...present to the Lord food offerings from the herd or the flock, as an aroma pleasing to the LORD ... NIV

Numbers 15:7 and a third of a hin of wine as a drink offering. Offer it as an aroma pleasing to the LORD. NIV

Numbers 15:10 ...bring half a hin of wine as a drink offering. This will be a food offering, an aroma pleasing to the LORD. NIV

Numbers 15:13-14 “Everyone who is native-born must do these things in this way when they present a food offering as an aroma pleasing to the LORD.¹⁴ For the generations to come, whenever a foreigner or anyone else living among you presents a food offering as an aroma pleasing to the LORD, they must do exactly as you do. NIV

Numbers 15:24 and if this is done unintentionally without the community being aware of it, then the whole community is to offer a young bull for a burnt offering as an aroma pleasing to the LORD, along with its prescribed grain offering and drink offering, and a male goat for a sin offering. NIV

What is God wanting us to understand?

It's not about the smell.

Leviticus 26:31 I will turn your cities into ruins and lay waste your sanctuaries, and I will take no delight in the pleasing aroma of your offerings. NIV

Ezekiel 6:13 And they will know that I am the Lord, when their people lie slain among their idols around their altars, on every high hill and on all the mountaintops, under every spreading tree and every leafy oak—places where they offered fragrant incense to all their idols. NIV

God was pleased that they were obeying him.

The smells reminded them that God was pleased with them.

There is probably a future meaning as well.

Deeper meaning: God was pleased with them (or at least their sacrifice).

Numbers 24:5-9 [The Spirit of God said through Balaam] “How beautiful are your tents, O Jacob [another name for Israel], your dwelling places, O Israel!

“Like valleys they spread out, like gardens beside a river, like aloes planted by the LORD, like cedars beside the waters. Water will flow from their buckets; their seed will have abundant water.

“Their king will be greater than Agag; their kingdom will be exalted.

“God brought them out of Egypt; they have the strength of a wild ox. They devour hostile nations and break their bones in pieces; with their arrows they pierce them. Like a lion they crouch and lie down, like a lioness—who dares to rouse them?

“May those who bless you be blessed and those who curse you be cursed!” NIV

Idealistically: God was pleased with them.

That sacrifice is what Jesus is for us!

Ephesians 5:1-2 Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. NIV

Hebrews 10:1 The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. NIV

Hebrews 10:14 For by one sacrifice [Christ] has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. NIV

We walk in the aroma of forgiveness and acceptance.