

Firstfruits of Oil – Scripture Study Guide (ESV)

Tier 1 – Direct References to Firstfruits of Oil

- Numbers 18:12 – “All the best of the oil and all the best of the wine and of the grain, the firstfruits of what they give to the LORD, I give to you.”
- Deuteronomy 18:4 – “The firstfruits of your grain, of your wine and of your oil, and the first fleece of your sheep, you shall give him.”
- 2 Chronicles 31:5 – “As soon as the command was spread abroad, the people of Israel gave in abundance the firstfruits of grain, wine, oil, honey, and of all the produce of the field. And they brought in abundantly the tithe of everything.”
- Nehemiah 10:37 – “And to bring the first of our dough, and our contributions, the fruit of every tree, the wine and the oil, to the priests, to the chambers of the house of our God; and to bring to the Levites the tithes from our ground, for it is the Levites who collect the tithes in all our towns where we labor.”

Tier 2 – Indirect or General References to Oil in Firstfruits

- Exodus 22:29 – “You shall not delay to offer from the fullness of your harvest and from the outflow of your presses. The firstborn of your sons you shall give to me.” (Presses refer to wine and oil.)
- Exodus 23:16 – “You shall keep the Feast of Harvest, of the firstfruits of your labor, of what you sow in the field. You shall keep the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in from the field the fruit of your labor.”
- Deuteronomy 26:1–11 – Instructions for presenting a basket of firstfruits, including produce from the land (oil implied).
- Nehemiah 13:12 – “Then all Judah brought the tithe of the grain, wine, and oil into the storehouses.”
- Ezekiel 44:30 – “And the first of all the firstfruits of all kinds, and every offering of all kinds from all your offerings, shall belong to the priests. You shall also give to the priests the first of your dough, that a blessing may rest on your house.”
- Hosea 2:8 – “And she did not know that it was I who gave her the grain, the wine, and the oil, and who lavished on her silver and gold, which they used for Baal.”

Themes & Study Notes

- Provision and Dependence – Oil was essential for food, light, anointing, and offerings. Giving the firstfruits acknowledged God as the source of all provision.
- Priestly Support – The firstfruits of oil, along with grain and wine, were assigned to the priests and Levites. This sustained temple service.
- Covenant Blessing – Offering the firstfruits was a sign of covenant faithfulness. In return, blessings were promised on the household and land.
- Spiritual Symbolism – Oil often symbolizes the Spirit and consecration. The firstfruits of oil point to the Spirit’s role in sanctification and offering our “first and best” to God.
- Festival Connection – The Feasts of Harvest (Shavuot/Pentecost) and Ingathering (Sukkot) included firstfruits offerings of oil, wine, and grain. These tied the agricultural calendar to Israel’s worship life.