

Anointed Saviour Anointed People



Finchampstead Lent Lecture

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Anointing Today





Ancient Near East

Anointing bowls and vessels found:

- Purification,
- Bodily hygiene and beautification,
- Treatment of wounds and curing diseases
- Anointing of kings and priests

Linked with the gods/magic





Old Testament

Two different types of anointing:

- **Practical anointing** (Heb. *suk* or *tuah*, Gk. *aleipho*) Care of the body; for beauty; a mark of honour for a guest
- **Symbolic anointing.** (Heb. *masah*, Gk. *chrio*.) Anointing of kings and priests





Anointing of Kings

Saul (1 Sam 9:16), David (1 Sam 16:3, 12f), and subsequent kings were anointed:

- God's initiative (through a prophet)
- Conveyed authority (Ps 45:7)
- Gift of the Holy Spirit (e.g. 1 Sam 16:13)
- Under God's protection (e.g. 1 Sam 24:6-11)





Anointing of Priests

- The High Priest (Ex 29:7), and later the other priests (Ex 40:15), were anointed to consecrate them
- Objects (tabernacle, altar, sanctuary vessels, the ark) were anointed for the same reason



*‘The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me to preach good
news to the poor...’ (Isaiah 61:1)*



Anointing in the OT

In the Old Testament anointing symbolises:

- Setting apart for a task given by God
- Authority (to lead or to speak God's words)
- Protection
- The gift of the Holy Spirit





The Anointed One

Jesus is frequently called Messiah or Christ

Four times he is said to be ‘anointed’:

- In mission: fulfilling Isaiah 61 (Lk 4:18)
- Facing opposition: fulfilling Psalm 2 (Acts 4:25-27)
- As gifted with the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:38)
- In his authority: fulfilling Psalm 45:7 (Heb 1:8-9)

Anointed with the Holy Spirit
at his baptism





Anointed People - Paul

2 Corinthians 1:21-2

'Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He has anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come'

**We are anointed with the Holy Spirit,
because we are 'in Christ'**



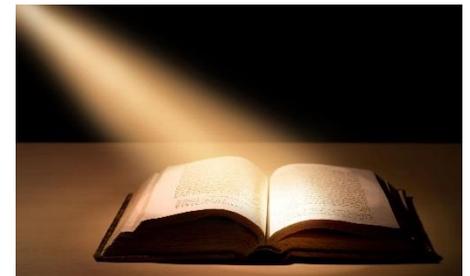


Anointed People - John

1 John 2:20, 27-28

But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth... As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit – just as it has taught you, remain in him.

The anointing is ‘the Spirit of truth’ who brings to mind the words of Jesus





Anointing and Healing

Anointing oil was used in praying for the sick:

- By the disciples of Jesus (Mark 6:13)
- By the elders of the church (James 5:14)

This anointing was probably also understood to symbolise the power of the Holy Spirit.





Anointing Today

In the Church of England we use different oils:

- Oil of Chrism – at baptism and confirmation
- Oil of Catechumens – at baptism
- Oil of the Infirm – in prayer for healing

These always symbolise a deeper anointing by the Holy Spirit.





Your Anointing

'You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood... a people belonging to God...' (1 Peter 2:9)

Like the OT kings and priests you are anointed:

- To set you apart for a task given by God
- To enable you to know His will
- To help you fulfil His will
- To show that you are 'in Christ'



This anointing is the gift of the Holy Spirit