

# Twelve Oils of Ancient Scripture

## Timeless Treasures

*In the Twelve Oils of Ancient Scripture collection, D. Gary Young has gathered the 12 most significant oils found in the Bible. His wish is that you savor and enjoy these precious and pure essential oils with their beautiful and intriguing histories.*

**Aloes/Sandalwood** (*Santalum album*). Many botanists believe that aloes were derived from sandalwood, one of the oldest sources of incense known to man.

**Cassia** (*Cinnamomum cassia*). One of the oldest known spices, cassia was an ingredient in the holy anointing oil and the incense that was burned daily in the temple.

**Cedarwood** (*Cedrus atlantica*). Cedar was an integral part of two Biblical purification rituals—one for lepers and another for those who were impure from touching a dead body.

**Cypress** (*Cupressus sempervirens*). The cypress tree is renowned for its durability. Some Bible scholars believe cypress may be the “gopher wood” used to build Noah’s Ark.

**Frankincense** (*Olibanum-Boswellia carteri*). Because frankincense symbolizes divinity, it was one of the three gifts given to the Christ child.

**Galbanum** (*Ferula gummosa*). Ancient incenses included spices or perfumes with lovely fragrances, but were not complete without the earthy odor of galbanum.

**Hyssop** (*Hyssopus officinalis*). Branches from the hyssop plant were used during the exodus from Egypt to dab Hebrew doorposts with lamb’s blood as protection from the plague of death.

**Myrrh** (*Commiphora myrrha*). It is fitting that myrrh symbolizes suffering since it is produced by slicing the bark of a myrrh tree so that the precious resin oozes out and hardens into drops called “tears.”

**Myrtle** (*Myrtus communis*). To the ancient Jews, myrtle was symbolic of peace and justice.

**Onycha** (*Styrax benzoin*). Like frankincense and myrrh, onycha is a resin and was used in various religious ceremonies.

**Rose of Sharon/Cistus** (*Labdanum-Cistus ladanifer*). Anciently, the gum that exudes from this plant was collected from the hair of goats that had browsed among the bushes.

**Spikenard** (*Nardostachys jatamansi*). Hebrews and Romans used spikenard in the burial of their dead.



### at a glance

- Aloes/Sandalwood has been studied for its ability to oxygenate the brain.
- Cassia oil is among the most antiseptic of essential oils.
- Cedarwood was recognized historically for its calming and purifying properties.
- Cypress is used to support the circulatory system.
- Frankincense was used anciently for everything from gout to a broken head.
- Galbanum is used for its antiseptic and body-supporting properties.
- Hyssop is known for supporting the respiratory system.
- Myrrh was used by the ancient Arabian people for a variety of skin conditions.
- Myrtle has been studied for its soothing effects on the respiratory system.
- Onycha was traditionally known for its comforting and soothing properties.
- Rose of Sharon/Cistus has been studied for its effects on cell regeneration.
- Spikenard helps soothe and nourish the skin.



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