

CANNABIS AND THE OLD TESTAMENT

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And the earth brought forth grass and herb yielding seed after its kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good. (Genesis 1:12)

The Lord said, "Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree in which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to everything that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so." And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day. (Genesis 1:29-31)

Exodus 20:1-17: No prohibition is made against cannabis use in the Ten Commandments.

Moreover, the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Take thou also unto thee principal spices, of pure

myrrh 500 shekels, and of sweet cinnamon half so much, even 250 shekels, and of cannabis* 250 shekels, And of cassia 500 shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary, and of oil olive an hin: And thou shalt make it an oil of holy anointment, an ointment compound after the art of the apothecary: it shall be an holy anointing oil. And thou shalt anoint the tabernacle of the congregation therewith, and the ark of the testimony, And the table and all his vessels, and the candlestick and his vessels, and the altar of incense, And the altar of burnt offerings with all his vessels, and the



laver and his foot. And thou shalt sanctify them, that they may be most holy: whatsoever toucheth them shall be holy. (Exodus 30:22-29)

* King James Bible mistranslates as 'calamus'

And he put the golden altar in the tent of the congregation before the veil: And he burnt sweet incense thereon; as the Lord commanded Moses. ... And he reared up the court round about the tabernacle and the altar, and set up the hanging of the court gate. So Moses finished the work. Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. (Exodus 40:26-27, 33-34)

And he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before the Lord, and his hands full of sweet incense beaten small, and bring it within the veil; and he shall put the incense upon the fire before the Lord, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is upon the testimony, that he die not: (Leviticus 16:12-13)

Numbers 16:17-19 tells how every man of the congregation had a censer full of burning incense until there were 250 of them, and the glory of the Lord appeared unto all of them.

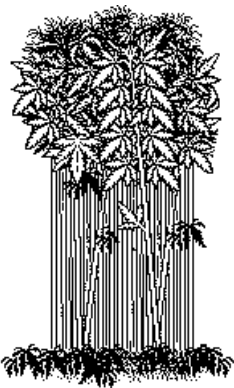
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases. (Psalms 103:2-3)

He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth; And wine that maketh glad the heart of man and oil to make his face to shineth. (Psalms 104:14-15)



And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. (Isaiah 6:3-4)

The Lord said unto me, "I will take my rest and I will consider in my dwelling place like a clear heat upon herbs, and like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest. For afore the harvest, when the bud is perfect and the sour grape is ripening in the flower, he shall cut off the sprigs with pruning hooks and take away and cut down the branches. (Isaiah 18:4-5)



And I will raise up for them a plant of renown, and they shall be no more consumed with hunger in the land, neither bear the shame of the heathen any more. (Ezekiel 34:29)

Justice and Ethics

Thy commandments are faithful: They persecute me wrongfully; help thou me. (Psalms 119:86)

These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue and hands that shed innocent blood; An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief; A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that

soweth discord among brethern. (Proverbs 6:16-19)

If a ruler hearken to lies, all his servants are wicked. (Proverbs 29:12)

Thus saith God the Lord, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it and the spirit to them that walk therein: I the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house. (Isaiah 42:5-7)

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of the prison to them that are bound." (Isaiah 61:1)

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you, that you will be no priest to Me...for I desired mercy and not sacrifice. (Hosea 4:6, 6:6)

Saving a life — *piku-ach nefesh* — is the most urgent *mitzvah* in Judaism. "Nothing must take precedence over saving of life" (Talmud B., Yoma 82a)

The *mitzvah* of *bikkur cholim*, visiting the sick, has as its object cheering the sick, being of service to them and giving them hope.

"Blessed is God, Ruler of the Universe, who creates with a word." *Baruch atah adonai, elohaynu melech ha-olam, sheh ha kol ne he yea bead va ro.*

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