

*Between 1831 and 1838, Kirtland served as Church headquarters. See such entries as Kirtland: LDS Community; Schools of the Prophets; and Whitney Store. Here many more revelations were received, and in the Kirtland Temple, in 1836, Latter-day Saints experienced an increased outpouring of spiritual manifestations and visitations.*

*By 1838, the Church had organized more than two dozen branches in communities mostly in northeastern Ohio.*

*Some early Ohio converts had formed a communal society prior to their conversion. This communitarian impulse was redirected by a revelation, Doctrine and Covenants: Section 42; see Consecration in Ohio. Management of temporal affairs was seen as an integral part of building the Kingdom of God on the earth. Joseph Smith's role in the development of the Kirtland Economy became a focal point of dissent in the wake of the failure of an unchartered Kirtland bank during the Panic of 1837.*

*In early 1838, threatened by malcontents, Joseph Smith and other Church leaders fled Kirtland, moving Church headquarters to Missouri. Most Latter-day Saints soon left Ohio, although a Church organization was maintained at Kirtland for several years.]*

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## OIL, CONSECRATED

Olive oil is used by members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in blessing the sick and in performing initiatory ORDINANCES in the TEMPLE. Before oil is used, it is consecrated in a short ceremony. An officiating MELCHIZEDEK PRIESTHOOD bearer, holding an open vessel containing pure olive oil, consecrates it by the authority of the priesthood and in the name of Jesus Christ for its intended purposes. The oil is then stored and used upon occasion as required.

The use of oil in religious rites can be seen in the record of Old Testament times, when it was used to anoint objects (Gen. 28:18–19; Lev. 8:10–12), as an offering (Ex. 25:1–6), and to anoint priests (Ex. 29:7; Lev. 21:10–12) and kings (1 Sam. 10:1; 16:3). In the New Testament, oil was used to anoint the sick (Mark 6:13; James 5:14).

Two New Testament PARABLES illustrate possible symbolisms of oil both as a therapeutic ointment and as a source of light. The good Samaritan, finding the injured traveler, “bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine” (Luke 10:34). In another parable wise virgins “took oil in their vessels with their lamps” and thus were in possession

of material to provide light, to celebrate the coming of the bridegroom, Christ (Matt. 25:1–13).

The reason for using olive oil rather than any other kind of oil is never clearly stated in the scriptures. To say that olive oil is preferred because it is the oil indigenous to the Holy Land would be simplistic. A more likely explanation results from examining the wide range of meanings symbolized by the olive tree and the oil derived from the olive fruit, the only major culinary oil that is derived from a fruit. The olive branch has long been a token of peace. The olive tree is used in scripture as a symbol for the house of Israel (Hosea 14:6; Rom. 11:17; Jacob 5; D&C 101:43–62).

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## OLD TESTAMENT

The Old Testament is one of the STANDARD WORKS, or SCRIPTURES, accepted by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which values it for its prophetic, historical, doctrinal, and moral teachings. The Old Testament recounts an epochal series of ancient DISPENSATIONS during which people received periodic guidance through divine COVENANTS and COMMANDMENTS, many of which remain basic and timeless. In relation to the Old Testament, it is significant for Latter-day Saints that in September 1823 the angel Moroni quoted a series of Old Testament PROPHECIES when he revealed the location of an ancient record written on GOLD PLATES to the Prophet Joseph SMITH, whose translation yielded the Book of Mormon (JS—H 1:36–41). Moreover, Joseph Smith's extensive labors on the Old Testament and the accompanying revelations to him (June 1830–July 1833), which led to the JOSEPH SMITH TRANSLATION OF THE BIBLE (JST) and certain informative sections of the Doctrine and Covenants, underscore the importance of these scriptural texts. In addition, from the Book of Mormon it is clear that before 600 B.C. the prophet LEHI and his colony carried to the Western Hemisphere from Jerusalem a record on the PLATES of brass that included many Old Testament texts (1 Ne. 5:10–15), leading Lehi and his descendants to look forward to a redeemer (1 Ne. 19:22–23) and giving them a guide for their moral and spiritual development (Mosiah 1:3, 5).

The Old Testament, even by the name Old Covenant, is thus not outmoded in the LDS view.