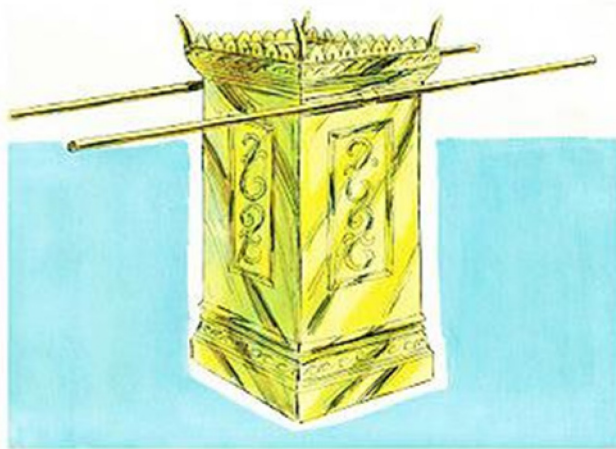


The Altar of Incense - Ex 30:1-10

July 26, 2020



Ex 30:1-10 “Moreover, you shall make an altar as a place for burning incense; you shall make it of acacia wood. 2 Its length shall be a cubit, and its width a cubit, it shall be square, and its height shall be two cubits; its horns shall be of one piece with it. 3 You shall overlay it with pure gold, its top and its sides all around, and its horns; and you shall make a gold molding all around for it. 4 You shall make two gold rings for it under its molding; you shall make them on its two side walls - on opposite sides - and they shall be holders for poles with which to carry it. 5 You shall make the poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. 6 You shall put this altar in front of the veil that is near the ark of the testimony, in front of the mercy seat that is over the ark of the testimony, where I will meet with you. 7 Aaron shall burn fragrant incense on it; he shall burn it every morning when he trims the lamps. 8 When Aaron trims the lamps at twilight, he shall burn incense. There shall be perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations. 9 You shall not offer any strange incense on this altar, or burnt offering or meal offering; and you shall not pour out a drink offering on it. 10 Aaron shall make atonement on its horns once a year; he shall make atonement on it with the blood of the sin offering of atonement once a year throughout your generations. It is most holy to the LORD.”

Structure:

The Altar of Incense was made of shittim wood & overlaid with gold

Type of Jesus – the God/Man; the shittim wood speaks of natural man; the gold of Deity.

The Altar in length and width was square 1½ ft. by 1½ ft. and in height was 3 ft.

Like the Table of Showbread, the Altar of Incense had a gold crown all around the top of it.

This golden crown speaks of Jesus Christ glorified.

Heb 2:9 But we do see Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor ...

The Rings and Poles - were made for their journeying

They speak of God's provision for us.

2Pt 1:3 His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness ...

The Altar has 4 horns, one on each corner

Horns represents authority (see Dan 7 & 8; Rev 13 & 17).

They point to Jesus

Psa 132:17 There I will cause the horn of David to spring forth; I have prepared a lamp for Mine anointed.

Mt 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

They point to our authority in Christ

Our authority is in the name of Jesus.

Jn 16:23 In that day you will not question Me about anything. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you.

Our authority also comes from our abiding in Jesus

Jn 15:7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

Our authority also comes from knowing His will

1Jn 5:14-15 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

Other Facts:

The Altar is placed in front of the veil going in to the Most Holy place

The blood of atonement is placed on the horns of the Altar once a year

Incense was to be burned on it perpetually.

The incense (Ex 30:34-38) was prohibited for being copied or used for any other purpose.

Types

The altar is a figure of Jesus Christ - our great Intercessor.

This altar was where Aaron (the high priest) ministered; Aaron was a figure of Jesus Christ, our great High Priest in heaven (Heb 2:14-18; 5:5-10; 6:20; 7:1-28; 9:11-15; 10:19-22)

Heb 8:1-2 Now the main point in what has been said is this: we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, 2 a minister in the sanctuary and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man. (see Heb 8:1-6)

Heb 8:6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.

Heb 9:24 For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;

Jesus Christ is in the heavens today praying for us.

Heb 7:25 Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. (Jn 17:9)

Rom 8:34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

The intercessory prayers of Christ

Jn 14:16 I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever (Jn 16:26; 17:9)

Incense represents prayer - it's a symbol of prayer and praise

Psa 141:2 May my prayer be counted as incense before You; The lifting up of my hands as the evening offering.

Rev 5:8 When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Rev 8:3-5 Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand. Then the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and threw it to the earth; and there followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

A prophetic picture of the intercessor ministry in the Old Testament is the watchman

(Ps 127:1; Ezk 3:17; 33:6-7; Hos 9:8).

The altar is also a picture of our new nature in Christ

Gal 3:27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

2Cor 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. (Rom 13:12-14; Gal 5:24; Eph 4:22-24)

Our call to prayer and intercession in the New Testament

1Thes 5:17 pray without ceasing; (Rom 12:12; Eph 6:18-19; Col 1:9)

Phil 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Col 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving;

1Tim 2:8 Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension.

Lk 18:1 Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart, (Lk 18:1-8 parable of widow and the Judge)

Prayer times: At all times incense was burned on the Altar -

every morning – early (Isa 21:11-12)

Psa 88:13 But I, O LORD, have cried out to You for help, And in the morning my prayer comes before You. (Psa 5:3; 143:8)

day and night

Psa 88:1-2 O LORD, the God of my salvation, I have cried out by day and in the night before You. 2 Let my prayer come before You; Incline Your ear to my cry!

morning, noon and evening

Psa 55:17 Evening and morning and at noon, I will complain and murmur, And He will hear my voice. (Dan 6:10)

Transition from the Old into the New

There were four hundred years of silence [where God doesn't speak] between the Old and New Testaments. The silence is broken as Zacharias performs the priestly duty of burning the incense. God initiated a new dispensation at the altar of incense as people were in prayer (Lk 1:10).

Lk 1:8-10 Now it happened that while he [Zacharias] was performing his priestly service before God in the appointed order of his division, 9 according to the custom of the priestly office, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. 10 And the whole multitude of the people were in prayer outside at the hour of the incense offering.

Prayer can be from religiosity; this would go along with the Acacia wood.

Mt 6:5-7 "When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. 6 But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you. 7 And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words."

Prayer needs to be inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Rom 8:26 In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words;

Spirit inspired prayer usually begins with prayer in the spirit (tongues).

Eph 6:18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

Jude 20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

1Cor 14:14-15 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. 15 What is the outcome then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also.