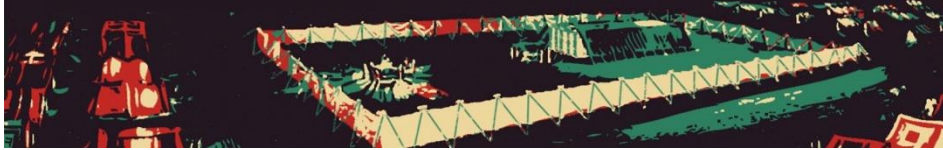


“Altar of Incense, Christ Our Supplication”

Exodus 30:1-10

The Tabernacle of Testimony



I. THE PURPOSE OF THE ALTAR (EXODUS 30:1)

A. INCENSE SPEAKS OF GOD'S INTERCESSION FOR US (HEBREWS 7:25, 8:1-5, 9:24)

Incense is perfume that you burn. It is symbolical of prayer, or intercession, to God.

Psalm 141:2, "Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice."

The incense was burned in the tabernacle continually. It was fed by the coals from the brazen altar. As the priest would take this mixture of spices and put it upon the altar of incense, the smoke was going up and perfuming the tabernacle. This speaks of the Lord Jesus Christ, who continually ever lives to make intercession for us.

The finished work of Christ is the brazen altar. But, the unfinished work of Christ is the golden altar of incense. Jesus, who is our intercession and our supplication, ever lives, in the heavenlies, making intercession for us.

The tabernacle in the wilderness was just a picture of the true tabernacle. The priest in the wilderness was just a picture of Jesus, our high priest. Just as these Old Testament priests offered incense that went up to God continually, Jesus is now in that tabernacle in Heaven offering incense that is going to the Father continually.

John 11:41, "Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me."

Luke 22:42, "Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done."

Jesus always prayed in the will of God. And, Jesus' prayer was always answered.

John 17:9, 15, 20: "I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. . . .¹⁵ I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. . . .²⁰ Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word:"

B. THE INCENSE SPEAKS OF GOD'S INTERCESSION THROUGH US (REVELATION 5:8; 8:1-3)

The odours (incense) in Rev. 5:8 are the prayers of the saints. In Rev. 8:3, there is "another angel" separate from the other seven. This angel is Jesus Christ. Note that the word "censer" means, "something to burn incense in; a golden incense burner."

II. THE PATTERN OF THE ALTAR

A. THE DIMENSIONS OF THE ALTAR (EXODUS 30:2)

It was the smallest piece of furniture, which tells us we're not heard for our much speaking. It was also the tallest piece of furniture, and that tells us that we're never nearer to Heaven than when we're on our knees.

B. THE MATERIALS OF THE ALTAR (EXODUS 30:1, 3)

The wood speaks of the humanity of Jesus, and the gold speaks of the deity of Jesus.

It is especially true when we think of intercession, for Jesus Christ is our mediator.

1 Timothy 2:5, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;"

Job, in the Bible, knew that he had problems. He knew that He needed guidance.

Job 9:33, "Neither is there any daysman betwixt us, that might lay his hand upon us both."

Job was crying out for Jesus—God and man in one person.

C. THE HORNS OF THE ALTAR (EXODUS 30:2)

Luke 1:69, "And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;"

The four horns speak of the saving power of our Lord, that reaches the four corners of the earth. Prayers and supplications should be made for all men for salvation.

D. THE GOLDEN RINGS OF THE ALTAR (EXODUS 30:4)

Everywhere they went, they were to carry this golden altar. The lesson is that prayer is for all times and for all places.

E. THE CROWN UPON THE ALTAR (EXODUS 30:4)

A golden crown speaks of the sovereignty of our Lord. The brazen altar speaks of Christ in His humiliation; the golden altar speaks of Christ in His exaltation. He's not interceding with uncertainty. He is commanding with authority.

