

GOLDEN ALTAR OF INCENSE

"Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec



Exod 30:1-8 And thou shalt make an **altar to burn incense upon**: of shittim wood shalt thou make it. A cubit shall be the length thereof, and a cubit the breadth thereof; foursquare shall it be: and two cubits shall be the height thereof: the horns thereof shall be of the same. And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, the top thereof, and the sides thereof round about, and the horns thereof; and thou shalt make unto it a crown of gold round about. And two golden rings shalt thou make to it under the crown of it, by the two corners thereof, upon the two sides of it shalt thou make it; and they shall be for places for the staves to bear it withal. And thou shalt make the staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold. And thou shalt put it before the vail that is by the ark of the testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the testimony, where I will meet with thee. And Aaron shall burn thereon sweet incense every morning: when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it. **And when Aaron lighteth the lamps at even, he shall burn incense upon it, a perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations.**

Heb 8:5 **Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things**, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.

God was preparing man's minds for the coming of His Son.

1. **altar of sacrifice** = 1st need- forgiveness of guilt of sin = the blood- by sacrifice- admit we are guilty sinner and in need of God's righteousness that condemns our sin- innocent victim dies in place of sinner If the blood of bulls and goats does not put away sin, God must have another plan.

Heb 10:4-5 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me

Jn 1:29 "Behold the lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." **Taken from the dark power of sin back to God by the power of the cross.** It all starts at the place of sacrifice = God's provision for my sin = Christ's perfect shed blood.

I am then to place my hand upon the sacrifice and confess my sin.

2. Laver - water cleansing of the wreckage of sin- defects of character (defilement of sin as opposed to guilt of sin at altar)

John the Baptist said "I baptize with water, but He baptizes with the Holy Spirit." **This is not just "patching up the old man" but a whole new life = REGENERATION.** This is the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit.

The Brazen Altar = Cross = blood

The Laver = Pentecost = water/Holy Spirit

The **golden altar of incense** points us to the Lord. It tells of His ministry of intercession today. Exodus 30:1- tells us there is no sacrifice on this altar. **There is to be the burning of incense symbolizing prayer and intercession going up to God as a sweet fragrance.** This is why we pray "in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" because it is solely through His merit, not our own merit or power.

If my guilt is put away, why do I need an intercessor? Why do I need the HOLY SPIRIT poured in me? If I am saved to the uttermost, why do I need saved more?

Intercession

1. Intercession strengthens the believers in daily life as they face temptation. How?

Heb 4:15-16 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, **that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.**

Children are distracted by selfish and self-centered impulses. The young are attracted by the allure of a world that looks good. The old are afflicted with pain and infirmity all to draw our sight away from God. WE NEED AN INTERCESSOR! Is eternal security a certainty? "He that believes has everlasting life", can man quit believing? Can faith be lost?

Paul, the chief of sinners was saved. Peter's belief was tested when Satan got a hold of him. But the Lord had anticipated Peter's testing and stumbling and interceded for him. This showed an incredible example of our High Priest

Luke 22:31-34 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: **But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.** And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both

into prison and to death. And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou **shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.**

Peter was assured by his Savior when you are restored, not *if* you are restored. The rooster crows to announce "dawn has come" and Peter sees that his denials prove his

vileness. Yet Christ's knowledge of us and His High Priestly ministry strengthen our feeble faith like Peter's in the end.

The golden altar has 4 horns that symbolize power. This is the power of our Lord's intercession. It's power is derived from the blood of the sacrifice.

1 Jn 2:1-2 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: **And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.**

When representing me before God, Christ presents me at my worst. I must confess everything, and then He is my advocate and the propitiation for my sins.