

# Exodus 27:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt make an altar of shittim wood, five cubits long, and five cubits broad; the altar shall be foursquare: and the height thereof shall be three cubits.

## Analysis

The bronze altar (*מִזְבֵּחַ*, mizbeach) of acacia wood overlaid with bronze stands at the tabernacle entrance—the first object worshipers encounter. Bronze consistently represents judgment; this altar where animals are consumed by fire prefigures Christ bearing God's judgment in our place. Measuring  $5 \times 5 \times 3$  cubits (approximately 7.5' square, 4.5' high), its size indicates the magnitude of sin requiring atonement. Christ's cross is our bronze altar where divine wrath was satisfied.

## Historical Context

This altar stood in the outer court between the tabernacle entrance and the courtyard gate, visible to all Israel. Daily burnt offerings (morning and evening) were consumed here, maintaining covenant relationship between God and His people through substitutionary sacrifice.

## Related Passages

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does the bronze altar's prominent placement emphasize that atonement must precede worship?
2. In what ways did Christ's cross serve as the ultimate 'bronze altar' bearing God's judgment?

## Interlinear Text

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וְעַשְׂתָּה	אֶת	הַמִּזְבֵּחַ	עֵץ	שְׁתִים	אֶת	וְעַמְתִים	שְׁתִים	אֶת	וְעַמְתִים	שְׁתִים	אֶת
<b>And thou shalt make</b>	H853	<b>an altar</b>	H4196	<b>wood</b>	H6086	<b>of shittim</b>	H7848	<b>and five</b>	H2568	<b>cubits</b>	H520
H6213		H4196		H7848		H2568		H520			
לְאָרֶךְ	רַבְבָּה	אֶת	וְעַמְתִים	רַבְבָּה	אֶת	וְעַמְתִים	רַבְבָּה	אֶת	וְעַמְתִים	רַבְבָּה	אֶת
<b>long</b>	<b>and five</b>	<b>cubits</b>	<b>broad</b>	<b>shall be foursquare</b>							
H753	H2568	H520	H7341	H7251							
וְעַל שְׁלֹשָׁה	אֶת	קָרְבָּנוֹת									
<b>thereof shall be three</b>	<b>cubits</b>	<b>and the height</b>									
H7969	H520	H6967									

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