

Exodus 30:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt make an altar to burn incense upon: of shittim wood shalt thou make it.

Analysis

The golden altar for burning incense, made of acacia wood overlaid with gold—again the pattern of humanity (wood) and deity (gold) united. This altar stands in the Holy Place before the veil, representing prayer and worship ascending to God. The Hebrew **תְּבָרֶת** (qetoret, incense) symbolizes prayer (Psalm 141:2, Revelation 5:8). Christ, our intercessor, causes our prayers to ascend acceptably to God, adding His incense (perfect prayer) to ours.

Historical Context

Unlike the bronze altar (for sacrifice) in the outer court, this golden altar stood inside the Holy Place, closest to the Most Holy Place. Its position emphasized that prayer follows sacrifice—we pray based on atoning blood.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Christ add His 'incense' to your prayers, making them acceptable to God?

2. Why must the sacrifice altar (atonement) precede the incense altar (prayer)?

Interlinear Text

תַּעֲשֵׂה	ה	מִקְרָעֵת	ר	מִזְבֵּחַ	בְּ	קְרָבָת	נָתַת	קְרָבָת	נָתַת	עֵץ	וְ	שְׁטָמֵם
And thou shalt make		an altar		to burn		incense		wood		upon of shittim		
H6213		H4196		H4729		H7004		H6086		H7848		

תַּעֲשֵׂה	ה	אַתָּה:
And thou shalt make		H853
H6213		

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 8:3 (Sacrifice): And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

Exodus 40:5 (Sacrifice): And thou shalt set the altar of gold for the incense before the ark of the testimony, and put the hanging of the door to the tabernacle.

Leviticus 4:7 (Sacrifice): And the priest shall put some of the blood upon the horns of the altar of sweet incense before the LORD, which is in the tabernacle of the congregation; and shall pour all the blood of the bullock at the bottom of the altar of the burnt offering, which is at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

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