

# Exodus 30:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Aaron shall make an atonement upon the horns of it once in a year with the blood of the sin offering of atonements: once in the year shall he make atonement upon it throughout your generations: it is most holy unto the LORD.

## Analysis

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The golden altar of incense stands before the veil, closest to God's presence. Daily incense offerings represent prayer ascending to God (Psalm 141:2, Revelation 5:8, 8:3-4). The altar's position—after the bronze altar (sacrifice) but before the Most Holy Place (God's throne)—teaches that prayer is based on atonement and leads to intimacy. Christ, our intercessor, causes our prayers to ascend acceptably, adding His perfect intercession to our imperfect petitions.

## Historical Context

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The high priest burned incense on this altar twice daily (morning and evening) when tending the lampstand. The fragrant smoke ascending into the Holy Place symbolized prayers rising to God's throne.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does Christ's intercession make your prayers acceptable to God?
2. Why must sacrifice (bronze altar) precede prayer (golden altar)?

## Interlinear Text

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רְכִפֵּה יְכַפֵּר	אַבְרָהָם אֶל	עַל כָּרָנְתָּה וְ	תְּאַמֵּן כִּי	בָּשָׁנָה
shall he make atonement	And Aaron	H5921	upon the horns	of it once
H3722	H175	H7161	H259	H8141
מִזְבֵּחַ מְדֹבֶר מִזְבֵּחַ	מִזְבֵּחַ אֶת חַטָּאת	מִזְבֵּחַ יְמִינָה	מִזְבֵּחַ תְּאַמֵּן	בָּשָׁנָה
with the blood	of the sin offering	H3725	of atonements	of it once
H1818	H2403	H259	H8141	in a year
רְכִפֵּה יְכַפֵּר עַלְיוֹן	לְדֹרְתִּיכְתָּם	קָדְשׁ יְמִינָה		
shall he make atonement	H5921	upon it throughout your generations	holy	
H3722		H1755	H6944	
לְיְהֻדָּה הַ וְאַ קָדְשׁ יְמִינָה				
holy	H1931	unto the LORD		
H6944		H3068		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Leviticus 16:18** (Blood): And he shall go out unto the altar that is before the LORD, and make an atonement for it; and shall take of the blood of the bullock, and of the blood of the goat, and put it upon the horns of the altar round about.

**Hebrews 9:25** (Holy): Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;

**Leviticus 23:27** (Holy): Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

