

Exodus 30:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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

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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

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

Interlinear Text

אֶמְתָּ יָם	אָרְכּוֹ	אֶמְתָּ יָם	רֹחְבוֹ	רָב וַעֲ
A cubit	shall be the length	A cubit	the breadth	thereof foursquare
H520	H753	H520	H7341	H7251
הַ	אֶמְתָּ יָם	קִמְתּוֹ	מִמֶּנּוּ	קִרְנֹתָיו:
H1961	A cubit	shall be the height	H4480	thereof the horns
	H520	H6967		H7161

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 27:2 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt make the horns of it upon the four corners thereof: his horns shall be of the same: and thou shalt overlay it with brass.