

# Exodus 30:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## 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

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## 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

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וְעַל־ And thou shalt overlay	אֶת־ gold	טְהֵר־ it with pure	אֶת־ the top	אֶת־ the top
H6823	H853	H2091	H2889	H1406
וְעַל־ thereof and the sides	אֶת־ round about	אֶת־ and the horns	וְעַל־ thereof and thou shalt make	וְעַל־ thereof and thou shalt make
H7023	H853	H5439	H7161	H6213
וְעַל־ unto it a crown	אֶת־ gold	אֶת־ round about		
H0	H2213	H2091	H5439	

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