

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

וְצִפִּיתָ	אֶת־וְ	זָהָב	טָהוֹר	אֶת־	גִּגְוֹ	וְאֶת־
And thou shalt overlay	H853	gold	it with pure	H853	the top	H853
H6823		H2091	H2889		H1406	
קִירָתָיו	סָבִיב:	וְאֶת־	קַרְנֹתָיו	וְעָשִׂיתָ		
thereof and the sides	round about	H853	and the horns	thereof and thou shalt make		
H7023	H5439		H7161	H6213		
לְ	יָרֹא	זָהָב	סָבִיב:			
H0	unto it a crown	gold	round about			
	H2213	H2091	H5439			

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