

Exodus 30:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And two golden rings shalt thou make to it under the crown of it, by the two corners thereof, upon the two sides of it shalt thou make it; and they shall be for places for the staves to bear it withal.

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 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

מִתְּמַשֵּׁל וְלֹא	תִּמְשַׁלְתָּה	שְׁנִי	בְּזַבְעַת	זְבֻבָּה	וְשָׁנִי	וְתִּמְשַׁלְתָּה	מִתְּמַשֵּׁל וְלֹא
And two	rings	golden	of it shalt thou make		H0		H8478
H8147	H2885	H2091		H6213			
לִזְרָן	עַל	שְׁנִי	צְלֻעַת יָדֶךָ	מִתְּמַשֵּׁל הַ	לִזְרָן	עַל	
to it under the crown	H5921	And two	corners	of it shalt thou make	H5921		
H2213		H8147	H6763	H6213			
שְׁנִי	צְדַקְתְּךָ	וּבְנֵה	לְבָתָת יִם	לְבָדָיִם	לְשַׁת אֶת		
And two	sides	H1961	it and they shall be for places	for the staves	to bear		
H8147	H6654		H1004	H905	H5375		
בְּבִקְרָמָה:	אַתְּ וְ						
H853	it withal						
H1992							

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 25:27 (Parallel theme): Over against the border shall the rings be for places of the staves to bear the table.

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