

Exodus 30:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt make the staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold.

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

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

וְעַשׂ יְתָהָר	את	בְּבָדִים	עַץׁ יְמִינָה	שְׁטָהִים	יצְפִית	אַתָּה מִ
And thou shalt make	H853	the staves	wood	of shittim	and overlay	H853

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