

Exodus 30:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt put it before the vail that is by the ark of the testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the testimony, where I will meet with thee.

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

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

וְנָתַתָּה	אֶתֹ	לִפְנֵי	הַכֹּהֵן	אֲשֶׁר	עַל	אֲרֹן
And thou shalt put	H853	before	the vail	H834	H5921	that is by the ark
H5414		H6440	H6532			H727
הָעֵדֻת	לִפְנֵי	הַכֹּהֵן	אֲשֶׁר	עַל	הָעֵדֻת	אֲשֶׁר
of the testimony	before	the mercy seat	H834	H5921	of the testimony	H834
H5715	H6440	H3727			H5715	
אֲנִי	לִפְנֵי	שָׁמָּה:	לִפְנֵי			
where I will meet	H0	H8033				
H3259						

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