

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

וְתַּּּתְּבֹּא	הַלְּפָנִים	אַתָּה	לְפָנֵי	רְכָב	פְּנֵי	עַל	אֲשֶׁר	אָרֶן
And thou shalt put	before	the veil	before	the mercy seat	before	the ark	that is by the ark	
H5414	H853	H6440	H6532	H834	H5921	H727		
בְּעַד תְּמִימָה	לְפָנֵי	הַכְּפָרָה	אֲשֶׁר	עַל	בְּעַד תְּמִימָה	אֲשֶׁר		
of the testimony	before	the mercy seat	before	the ark	before	of the testimony		
H5715	H6440	H3727	H834	H5921	H5715	H834		
אֵלֶּךָ אָוֹת	לְבָבְךָ							
where I will meet								
H3259	H0	H8033						

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org