

Exodus 30:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Aaron shall burn thereon sweet incense every morning: when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it.

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

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

בְּ קֹרֶן	קֹטֶן	רְתַת	אַפְרֵן	עַל	יְקֹטִירֶנָה:
every morning	he shall burn incense	incense	thereon sweet	סְמִים	בְּ קֹרֶן
H1242	H6999	H7004	H5561	H5921	And Aaron
בְּ קֹרֶן	יְקֹטִירֶנָה:	תְּהִלָּת	הַנֶּרֶל	אַת	בְּהִיטִיב וְ
every morning	he shall burn incense	the lamps	the lamps	H853	when he dresseth
H6999	H5216	H3190	H1242		

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 2:28 (Parallel theme): And did I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to offer upon mine altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me? and did I give unto the house of thy father all the offerings made by fire of the children of Israel?

1 Chronicles 23:13 (Parallel theme): The sons of Amram; Aaron and Moses: and Aaron was separated, that he should sanctify the most holy things, he and his sons for ever, to burn incense before the LORD, to minister unto him, and to bless in his name for ever.

Luke 1:9 (Parallel theme): According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.

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