

Exodus 30:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when Aaron lighteth the lamps at even, he shall burn incense upon it, a perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations.

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 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

וּבְהִעָלָהּ	וְאָהֳרֹן	אֶת	הַנֵּרוֹת	בַּיּוֹם	הַעֶרֶב יִם
lighteth	And when Aaron	H853	the lamps	H996	at even
H5927	H175		H5216		H6153
יִקְטִירֶנָּה	קֵטֹרֶת	תָּמִיד	לִפְנֵי	יְהוָה	
he shall burn incense	incense	upon it a perpetual	before	the LORD	
H6999	H7004	H8548	H6440	H3068	
לְדֹרֹתֵיכֶם:					
throughout your generations					
H1755					

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 9:24 (Parallel theme): For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: