

# Exodus 30:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye shall offer no strange incense thereon, nor burnt sacrifice, nor meat offering; neither shall ye pour drink offering thereon.

## 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

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does Christ's intercession make your prayers acceptable to God?
2. Why must sacrifice (bronze altar) precede prayer (golden altar)?

## Interlinear Text

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לֹא	תַּעֲלֵה	מֵעֵל	וְ	קְרֵבָה	עַל	וְ	קְרֵבָה	לֹא	תַּעֲלֵה	מֵעֵל	וְ
H3808	Ye shall offer	H5921		incense	H7004		no strange	H2114	thereon nor burnt sacrifice	H5930	
	H5927				H7004					H5930	
וְ	מִנְחָה	לֹא	תַּעֲשֵׂה	תְּמִימָה	לֹא	תַּעֲשֵׂה	תְּמִימָה	לֹא	תַּעֲשֵׂה	תְּמִימָה	וְ
nor meat offering		drink offering	H3808			neither shall ye pour	H5258			H5921	
H4503		H5262									

## Additional Cross-References

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**Leviticus 10:1** (Parallel theme): And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not.

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