

# Exodus 39:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the golden altar, and the anointing oil, and the sweet incense, and the hanging for the tabernacle door,

## Analysis

---

The golden altar (מִזְבֵּחַ הַזָּהָב, mizbach haZahav, altar of incense), anointing oil (שְׁמֵן הַמִּשְׁחָה, shemen haMishchah), and sweet incense (קְטוּרַת הַסְמִימִים, qetoret haSamim) enabled prayer and consecration. The incense's fragrant smoke ascending symbolized prayers rising to God (Psalm 141:2; Revelation 5:8). The golden material and Holy Place location (near the veil) emphasized prayer's preciousness. The anointing oil consecrated priests and implements (Exodus 30:22-33). Christ, our Intercessor (Hebrews 7:25), offers perfect prayer; believers' prayers ascend through Him (John 14:13-14).

## Historical Context

---

The incense altar stood before the veil (Exodus 30:6), closest to God's presence except for the ark behind the veil. The high priest burned incense twice daily (morning and evening), filling the Holy Place with fragrant smoke. The anointing oil's unique recipe (Exodus 30:23-25) could not be replicated for common use.

## Related Passages

---

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

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

## Study Questions

---

1. How does incense symbolizing prayer teach that prayer is precious, fragrant offering to God?
2. What does believers' prayers ascending through Christ reveal about the necessity of His mediation?

## Interlinear Text

---

אַתָּה	בְּמִשְׁׁמֶךָ	הַמְשִׁיחַ	בְּזִבְחַת	מִזְבֵּחַ	בְּזִבְחַת	אַתָּה
H853	oil	and the anointing	H853	altarpiece	and the golden	H853
H4196	H8081	H4888	H2091	H4196	H2091	H4196
incense	and the sweet	for the tabernacle	and the hanging	door	for the tabernacle	tabernacle
H7004	H5561	H168	H4539	H6607	H168	H168
רְתָתָה	מִסְבֵּחַ	פֶּתַח	מִסְבֵּחַ	מִסְבֵּחַ	פֶּתַח	מִסְבֵּחַ

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Exodus 30:7** (Parallel theme): And Aaron shall burn thereon sweet incense every morning: when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it.

---

From KJV Study • [kjvstudy.org](http://kjvstudy.org)