

Exodus 40:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt anoint the altar of the burnt offering, and all his vessels, and sanctify the altar: and it shall be an altar most holy.

Analysis

Anointing the bronze altar and vessels 'sanctifies' (נִקְדָּשְׁתָּ, vekidashta) them, making them 'most holy' (קֹדֶשׁ קֹדָשִׁים, qodesh qodashim, holy of holies). The bronze altar, though located in the outer courtyard, receives the highest consecration because it bore atoning sacrifice. This teaches that sacrifice's place is supremely holy—Christ's cross, though outside Jerusalem (Hebrews 13:12), is salvation's most sacred site. Whatever touches the altar becomes holy (Exodus 29:37), prefiguring Christ sanctifying those who approach through Him (Hebrews 10:10, 14).

Historical Context

The bronze altar's 'most holy' status meant that anything touching it was consecrated to God and couldn't be used for common purposes. This principle protected the altar's sanctity and taught Israel that approaching God through sacrifice was their holiest privilege.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does the bronze altar's supreme holiness despite its 'outer' location teach about sacrifice's centrality?
2. How does Christ sanctifying those who touch Him by faith illustrate the altar's consecrating power?

Interlinear Text

וּמִשְׁחָתָּ	אֶת	הַמִּזְבֵּחַ	הָעֹלָה	אֶת	כָּל
And thou shalt anoint	H853	and it shall be an altar	of the burnt offering	H853	H3605
H4886		H4196	H5930		
כָּל יוֹ	וּקְדָשְׁתָּ	אֶת	הַמִּזְבֵּחַ	וְהִי הִיא	
and all his vessels	and sanctify	H853	and it shall be an altar	H1961	
H3627	H6942		H4196		
הַמִּזְבֵּחַ	קְדוֹשִׁים:	קְדוֹשִׁים:			
and it shall be an altar	holy	holy			
H4196	H6944	H6944			

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 7:26 (Holy): For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

Isaiah 61:1 (Parallel theme): The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

Isaiah 11:2 (Parallel theme): And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

1 Corinthians 1:30 (Parallel theme): But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

John 3:34 (Parallel theme): For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.

John 17:19 (Holy): And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (Parallel theme): For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Luke 1:35 (Holy): And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

Leviticus 8:11 (Sacrifice): And he sprinkled thereof upon the altar seven times, and anointed the altar and all his vessels, both the laver and his foot, to sanctify them.