

The Altar of Burnt Offerings, Hangings of the Courts, Olive Oil Burning Always

In chapter twenty-six we learned about the frame of the Tabernacle: from the curtains and skins that protected it to the boards of 'shittim' (acacia) wood overlaid with gold and set in silver that made the frame, all of God's Tabernacle signifies to us something spiritual. And in the case of the curtains, skins and framework we learned how important God's Laws are for they give us the framework for our thought process, while the curtains and skins teach us how to protect our heart and mind from being seduced into sinning. We also learned that the vail which kept God away from the children of Israel (and the rest of the world) was *rent* by Jesus Christ so that now, when *anyone* believes in Jesus, we can go directly to God in prayer. However, because many people don't want to kick the sins out of their heart and mind, they still keep the 'vail' of separation between themselves and our Heavenly Father. We must learn, from the Word of God, how to kick our sins out and replace them with knowledge (and desire) of how to obey God's Laws *from the heart*. This can only be done when one studies God's Word for themselves. While good teachers are a blessing, *they cannot connect your heart with the Holy Spirit of God. Only you can do that* through *sincere* study of His Word, prayer and thinking upon His Word throughout the day. Only you can truly evaluate your own heart, mind and soul. This is why only *our faith in Jesus Christ* (the Word of God) can heal us spiritually (Mark 5:34).

We now come to a chapter that will explain the altar of burnt offerings, the hangings in the court and the lighting in the Tabernacle. As always, these also have great importance in the spiritual Temple of God, which is (never forget it) your own soul...

Exodus 27

*1 And thou shalt make an **altar** of shittim wood, five cubits long, and five cubits broad; the altar shall be foursquare: and the height thereof shall be three cubits.*

Now Moses is being instructed on the altar of shittim (acacia) wood. It was to be five by five cubits (a square) and then three cubits high. This would have been a very large altar, being roughly 7.5 feet long by 7.5 wide feet and then about 4.5 feet high. And remember, a cubit could have been larger than 18 feet so it's possible that this would have been even larger. This altar was huge. Remember, the altar was where animals were sacrificed and there would be a lot of ashes from the many animals sacrificed. As an example of just how many animals could be offered at times, 2 Chron 7:5 tells us that when the Temple of Solomon was dedicated, *king Solomon* (alone) *offered a sacrifice of twenty and two thousand oxen, and an hundred and twenty thousand sheep*. 22,000 oxen and 120 sheep ... from just one man. That is a lot of animals! Imagine how many animals were given from the *whole* of Israel. It's no wonder that serving God was a full-time job for the Levites. And oxen were very large animals so killing them, cleaning them and offering them as sacrifices took a lot of work and time. Thus, it also produced a lot of ashes, which would explain why the altar needed to be so very large. It was designed to accommodate mass sacrifices.

As for the spiritual significance of the altar, we learned quite a bit about that in Ex 20:23-26, when God gave Moses stipulations on how altars were to be made. We learned that an altar is a raised structure (or place) on which sacrifices are offered or incense is burned in worship. At this time, Jesus had not yet come to die for our sins so animal sacrifices were still instituted because *they looked forward to the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ*. But now that Jesus has died for our sins (and risen from the dead) we are not to offer blood sacrifices anymore, for His sacrifice fulfilled all blood sacrifices *once and for all times* (Heb 10:10). However, it is still important for us to study these carnal rituals (blood sacrifices) because they are examples that show us spiritual truths (1 Cor 10:11, Gal 3:24-25). And, back in Exodus (before God had Moses set up the Tabernacle), God gave Moses very strict instructions on how an altar was to be made. He specifically wanted only an altar of stone or earth – that’s all that was acceptable to Him. He didn’t want people making (molding) their own altars because that’s essentially making their own religion, something He detests to this very day.

Thus, the spiritual aspect of an altar is *that it signifies what we are to do in our soul in order to be accepted by God (YHVH)*. You see, **the spiritual altar is our soul** - it’s where we are to offer spiritual sacrifices, such as: thanksgiving (Ps 107:11, 116:17, Amos 4:5), praise (Jer 17:26, 33:1, Heb 13:15) and righteousness (Deut 33:19, Ps 4:5). And, in order to truly offer those sacrifices, you must have truth in your soul. This is why Jesus said that those who worship God *must worship him in spirit and in truth* (John 4:24). Without truth we end up being self-righteous hypocrites because we do not truly clean our heart (carnal mind) of sinful thoughts, desires (lusts), pride or intentions (Mth 15:13-20, Mk 7:20-23, 2 John 2:16). And if, in your heart, you regard the traditions of man as more important than God’s Word, *you are building the altar in your heart from un-natural rock or earth*. Note that God is likened to our Rock in Deut 32 and then came to this earth in an earthen vessel (flesh) (John 1:1, 14, Heb 2). So, we cannot truly be worshiping God unless we build up our mind and heart (carnal mind) by studying and obeying God’s Word sincerely. This will then cause us to give God spiritual sacrifices of thanksgiving, praise and righteousness, *because God’s Word changes the way we think and what we desire when we truly absorb it into our heart and mind* – it changes who we are for the better. So, we should not build our spiritual altar with carved rock or metals, which is symbolic of lies (traditions of man).

In short, our mind and heart cannot be established on anything other than the true Word of God, which is the Old Testament (the altar of Rock, which is God Himself) and the New Testament (the altar of earthen vessel, which is Jesus Christ). When Pastors do not teach the truth, they create their own doctrine (or use another man-made doctrine). This is distorting God’s Word just as carving a rock or shaping metal for the altar of God is distorting God’s natural materials to make Him an altar. God said, *do not mold the altar*. Just use natural rocks or earth (soil, clay). So again, what this means spiritually is that we are not to create our own doctrine (which is usually done to get more money). We are to stick with His Word and teach it to the fullest, not taking away anything or adding anything (Rev 22:18-19). Altering your doctrine to make more money (or even just to keep your ‘job’) *does not help God’s children*. We need truth for our soul to function properly. Truth is healing and cleansing (John 15:3).

So, these were the rules for a man-made altar but God (YHVH) then designated this special altar to be in His Tabernacle. The spiritual significance, however, is the same: it still signifies how we are to make spiritual sacrifices in our heart and mind. And remember, this altar we are learning about now was to be used for the entire tribe and thus, needed to be much larger to accommodate for so many sacrifices. It also had to be mobile. For this reason, God had Moses make it out of a different material than earth or stone...

Exodus 27

2 And thou shalt make the horns of it upon the four corners thereof: his horns shall be of the same: and thou shalt overlay it with brass.

There are a couple points we need to look at in this verse. First, the word 'brass' in the Hebrew is #5178 and means: *copper*, hence, *something made of that metal*, i.e. *coin, a fetter*; figuratively, *base* (as compared with gold or silver). It's been translated in the KJV as - brasen, brass, chain, copper, fetter (of brass), filthiness, steel. The Companion Bible also has a note (back on Ex 25:3) that says a mixture of copper and zinc was unknown at that time. So, this 'brass' was probably pure copper or bronze (which is a mixture of copper and tin).

Secondly, there were to be *four horns* made upon the four corners of this altar. Rev 9:13 tells us that the golden altar before God in heaven also has four horns and the altar in the Millennial Temple also has four horns (Ezek 43:15-20). While blood sacrifices have been *forever* done away with (since Jesus Christ has died for our sins, once and for all, Heb 10:10), there remains an altar in heaven, and there will be one in the Millennial Temple because the altar still *signifies* the spiritual altar, which is our very soul. And upon the altar, there are to be four horns. Jeremiah brings out the spiritual significance of the altar of God...

1 The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron, and with the point of a diamond: it is graven upon the table of their heart, and upon the horns of your altars;

2 Whilst their children remember their altars and their groves by the green trees upon the high hills.

Jer 17:1-2

The tables of our heart are likened to these horns of the altar... thus connecting the spiritual significance of the altar of God being *our heart*, which is where sin resides, as Jesus told us in Mth 15:13-20 and Mk 7:20-23. Thus, today, (as back then) God wants us to burn the animal (our carnal mind/nature) that is within each and every one of us. This is called crucifying the old man (Rom 6:6, Eph 4:22, Col 3:9, Luke 9:23) and it's the 'animal' we are to kill on the altar of our soul. It is what all these carnal animals symbolized. Further, because God does not want us to die spiritually, the blood sacrifices also looked forward to the Messiah, Jesus Christ who would die for our sins, so our soul does not have to die for that death is *permanent* (Rev 20). And it is because of the Holy Spirit given to us after Jesus paid the price for our sins (Acts 2:33) that we are able to crucify this 'animal' (carnal mind) within our heart (Rom 8:7).

So, why then, are there four horns on the altar? Horns have always been symbolic of *power* (i.e., 1 Sam 2:1, 10, 2 Sam 22:3, Ps 18:2, Ps 75:10, 89:17, 24, 92:10, 112:9, 148:14, Jer 48:25, Lam 2:2, 17, Ezek 29:21, Ezek 34:21, Dan 7:8, 20, 24, 8:3, 6, 7, 30, Micah 4:13, Amos 6:13, Hab 3:4, Zech 1:18-21, Lk 1:69, Rev 13:1, 11, 17:3, 7, 12, 16). And remember that four in Biblical numerics signifies: God's *creation*, the *world*. So, horns on the altar of sacrifice symbolizes the power that God has given us (through the great sacrifice of His precious son, Jesus Christ). What power?

17 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

*19 Behold, **I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.***

20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

21 In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.

22 All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him.

Luke 10:17-22

Jesus has given us power over the enemy, which is who? The enemy is the Devil (Matt 13:39) who is also called *the great dragon, that old serpent, and Satan*, (Rev 12:9, 20:2) and Lucifer (Isa 14:12). 1 Cor 15:26 also tells us that death is our enemy and Heb 2:14 tells us that Jesus destroyed the power of death, who is the devil. Further, James 4:4 tells us that *friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God*. So, anyone who is friends with the world is the enemy of God. This is a pretty broad range of enemies and we're advised in Rom 12:19-21 not to have a vengeful attitude but to simply give them '*spiritual*' food and water, which will heap 'coals of fire' on their heart. In other words, because of the sacrifice Jesus Christ made for us, God has given us power *through His Word and through His Holy Spirit*. This is power also over 'serpents and scorpions', which is explained in the Revelations to be Satan, his fallen angels and all those who follow (serve) them.

But the power Jesus Christ gives us is not to be used to take vengeance out for personal offense. The power Jesus gives is to be used (and truly can only be used) to serve God, not our selves. The power (horns on our spiritual altar) that Jesus Christ gives us is the power *through His Word and Holy Spirit* to speak (and teach) the truth no matter how it 'burns' someone. If you're given the unction from God, don't shrink back from saying something even if you think it'll anger or offend someone. Truth *does* burn but it burns sin and sin only. For those who have cleaned their hearts, it warms them instead of burning them. It's like the dross (slag) that comes off of gold or silver. If someone does not have much truth (or any at all) in their heart, the truth will burn much

hotter in their heart than in someone who has the truth! However, if we still have sins we have not dealt with, God's Word will indeed burn us until we kick them out (Ps 90:8). This is why it's good to pray after the manner of the Psalmist...

*12 Who can understand his errors? **cleanse thou me from secret faults.***

13 Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Ps 19:12-20:1

Moreover, 1 Cor 4:20 tells us that *the kingdom of God is not in word, **but in power.*** 1 Thess 1:5 says that, *our gospel came not unto you in word only, but **also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance.*** 2 Tim 1:7 also says that, *God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of **power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*** So, **the four horns on the altar symbolize spirit of power God gives us.** This power comes from the Holy Spirit of God being IN us and it's given so we can burn the enemy *with the truth*. Further, Jesus will use this power when He returns...

*And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord **shall consume with the spirit of his mouth**, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:*

2 Thess 2:8

26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?

28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

*30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and **bind them in bundles to burn them:** but gather the wheat into my barn.*

Matt 13:26-30

11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

*13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and **his name is called The Word of God.***

14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

*15 And **out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations:** and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.*

16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;

18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

*21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, **which sword proceeded out of his mouth**: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.*

Rev 19:11-21

So, let's remember the vital lesson of horns being upon the altar of burnt offerings, for it is ever so important to us today...

15 Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O LORD, in the light of thy countenance.

16 In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted.

*17 For thou art the glory of their strength: and **in thy favour our horn shall be exalted.***

Ps 89:15-17

Exodus 27

3 And thou shalt make his pans to receive his ashes, and his shovels, and his basons, and his fleshhooks, and his firepans: all the vessels thereof thou shalt make of brass.

Moses was also told to make tools from the 'brass' (copper) to use when making burnt offerings (sacrifices). When animals are burned, the ashes have to go somewhere. Again, that's why the altar was nearly five feet tall and almost eight feet wide: to accommodate for the many ashes that would accumulate, especially during the feast days. But the ashes would still need to be removed at some point in time. And we see that's the purpose of many of these tools. The word 'pans' is #5518 and means: *to boil up; a pot*; also, a *thorn* (as springing up rapidly); by implication, a *hook*. The word 'shovels' is #3257 and simply means: a *shovel*. The word 'basons' is #4219 and means: a *bowl* (as if for sprinkling). The word 'fleshhooks' is #4207 and means: *to draw up; a fork*. The word 'firepans' is #4289 and means: (in the sense of removal) a *pan for live coals*. The word 'vessels' is #3627 and means: *something prepared*, i.e. *any apparatus* (as an implement, utensil, dress, vessel or weapon). Moses was to make pots, shovels, forks, bowls and firepans. These tools would enable the Levites to move the sacrifices and clean up after them.

Exodus 27

4 And thou shalt make for it a grate of network of brass; and upon the net shalt thou make four brasen rings in the four corners thereof.

The word 'grate' is #4345 and means (in the sense of covering): *a grate*. The word 'network' comes from two words. The first is #7639 and means: *a net-work*, i.e (in hunting) a *snare*, (in architecture) a *ballustrade*; also a *reticulated ornament to a pillar*. This was the same word used in Exodus 25:24 when speaking of the table of showbread. There was to be made with a crown, like a wreath of gold around the table of shoewbread. The word 'wreath' is this same word #7639. We learned that a ballustrade is a row of balusters topped by a rail. A baluster is an object or vertical member that has a vasselike or turned outside. It can be an upright vase-shaped support for a rail. This 'wreath' is no doubt also symbolic of the 'crown of thorns' our dear Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, 'wore' shortly before He was crucified on the cross for *our* sins (Mth 27:29, Mk 15:19, John 19:2, 5). The second word 'network' is made from is interesting. It's #4639, which means: *an action* (good or bad); generally, *a transaction*; abstractly, *activity*; by implication, *a product* (specifically, a poem) or (generally) *property*.

So, the altar of burnt offering was not only to have four horns but also a grate (we think of it as a grill) on which the animal was to be place when it was burned (naturally). But the grate was also to be made of a beautiful 'network' of 'brass' (copper), showing us that even in the sacrifice there was to be beauty. Truly our Heavenly Father loves to receive the spiritual sacrifices that these blood offerings symbolize (Ps 50:7-15, 107:11, 116:17, Jonah 2:9, Amos 4:5, Ps 54:6, Jer 17:26, 33:1, Deut 33:19, Ps 4:5, Heb 13:15). And the ultimate sacrifice they pointed to was our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The reason His great Sacrifice was pleasing to God is clearly explained in the great book of Isaiah, chapter 53...

1 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

*5 But **he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.***

*6 **All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.***

7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

8 He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

9 *And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.*

10 *Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.*

11 *He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.*

12 *Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.*

Isa 53:1-12

It pleased God greatly to see Jesus suffer because *He was doing so for our sins*. And, God knew that, *by Jesus' sacrifice many of His children would return to Him*. As verse 11 points out: by His (Jesus') knowledge, He would justify many because He would bear their iniquities. Through His birth, life and death, Jesus fulfilled all Scriptures pertaining to blood sacrifices and ordinances (Col 2:14, Eph 2:15, Heb 10:10). And because Jesus not only died for us, but also rose from the dead (conquering Satan and his rebellion), Jesus therefore had the legal right to pardon whomsoever would come to Him and repent. Moreover, He also has the legal right to give His Holy Spirit to whomsoever will (Acts 10). And it is His Holy Spirit who helps us clean our 'secret faults'. Jesus even makes intercessory prayer for us when we need it (Rom 8:26-35). While we are to do all that we can to clean our heart and mind, the Holy Spirit will help us see and clean what we are blind to... as long as we *don't give up*. Study God's Word *daily* and with sincerity; and develop a personal relationship with Him. No one can do this but you. *You* have to reach out to the cross and ask God for help. *You* have to repent of your sins when you see them. *You* have to study His Word and try to truly understand them. And *you* have to learn how to apply His Words to your thought process, your desires, your words and (yes) your actions. *For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power* (1 Cor 4:20). Only the Holy Spirit can help you change your heart and mind but you have to take the initiate each and every day to actually do it. The power of God to do so IS REAL, and it's yours for the taking... IF you don't give up. *Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage* (Gal 5:1).

Exodus 27

5 *And thou shalt put it under the compass of the altar beneath, that the net may be even to the midst of the altar.*

So, the grate (grill) where the animals were to be sacrifices was 'under' the 'compass of the altar'. The Companion Bible has a note on this verse that says the words 'compass of the altar' probably refer to the margin (edge) where the priests stood. This 'place' is spoken of in 2 Chron 30:16 and it must have been a raised 'place', for the sacrificing priest is said to have 'come down' from it in Lev 9:22. These Scripture references are important to look at...

13 And there assembled at Jerusalem much people to keep the feast of unleavened bread in the second month, a very great congregation.

14 And they arose and took away the altars that were in Jerusalem, and all the altars for incense took they away, and cast them into the brook Kidron.

15 Then they killed the passover on the fourteenth day of the second month: and the priests and the Levites were ashamed, and sanctified themselves, and brought in the burnt offerings into the house of the LORD.

16 And they stood in their place after their manner, according to the law of Moses the man of God: the priests sprinkled the blood, which they received of the hand of the Levites.

17 For there were many in the congregation that were not sanctified: therefore the Levites had the charge of the killing of the passovers for every one that was not clean, to sanctify them unto the LORD.

18 For a multitude of the people, even many of Ephraim, and Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves, yet did they eat the passover otherwise than it was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, The good LORD pardon every one

19 That prepareth his heart to seek God, the LORD God of his fathers, though he be not cleansed according to the purification of the sanctuary.

20 And the LORD hearkened to Hezekiah, and healed the people.

21 And the children of Israel that were present at Jerusalem kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with great gladness: and the Levites and the priests praised the LORD day by day, singing with loud instruments unto the LORD.

22 And Hezekiah spake comfortably unto all the Levites that taught the good knowledge of the LORD: and they did eat throughout the feast seven days, offering peace offerings, and making confession to the LORD God of their fathers.

23 And the whole assembly took counsel to keep other seven days: and they kept other seven days with gladness.

24 For Hezekiah king of Judah did give to the congregation a thousand bullocks and seven thousand sheep; and the princes gave to the congregation a thousand bullocks and ten thousand sheep: and a great number of priests sanctified themselves.

25 And all the congregation of Judah, with the priests and the Levites, and all the congregation that came out of Israel, and the strangers that came out of the land of Israel, and that dwelt in Judah, rejoiced.

26 So there was great joy in Jerusalem: for since the time of Solomon the son of David king of Israel there was not the like in Jerusalem.

27 Then the priests the Levites arose and blessed the people: and their voice was heard, and their prayer came up to his holy dwelling place, even unto heaven.

2 Chron 30:13-27

These scriptures in 2 Chronicles are speaking about king Hezekiah, who was one of the latter kings the southern Kingdom of Judah when the northern Kingdom of Israel was taken away captive by the Assyrians. At this time, *most all* of the southern Kingdom of Judah was *also* taken captive by the Assyrians (2 Kings 18). This is a fact many today forget about (or overlook it altogether). But Hezekiah actually loved God (YHWH) and tried hard to obey Him. He therefore

prayed to God for help and *Jerusalem alone* was spared, and only by the direct intervention by God Almighty (2 Kings 19). We see from the account in 2 Chron 30 just how much Hezekiah loved God. He worked hard to rid the country of idolatry and get them back on the path to worshipping the one true God, YHWH. And, because the Messiah (Jesus Christ) still had not come, they were still supposed to sacrifice blood sacrifices. [Note that they kept the Passover in the second month, instead of the first month. This is because, they realized they were not clean and therefore were working to clean themselves up (sanctify) before taking the Passover. Doing this was approved by God in Numbers 9:6-12.] So, Hezekiah organized the priesthood again (because it had gotten to be a mess from prior years of misrule from crooked kings and priests) and verse 16 tells us that *they stood in their place after their manner, according to the law of Moses the man of God*. The ‘place’ they were designated to stand was around the altar. And it was important they be in ‘that place’ because it was, they who were to help with the sacrifices.

Now, let’s look at what this means to us living today, *after* Jesus Christ died for us. We know that we don’t keep blood sacrifices anymore because Jesus fulfilled them for all times (Heb 10:10). So, how are ‘priests’ (or Pastors) of today supposed to now ‘stand by the altar of God’? They are simply supposed to stand FOR the Word of God. They are supposed to do this by the way they think, what they desire, what they say, what they do *and what they teach*. ***Every aspect of their lives should be devoted to standing by the altar***, which is what the cross at calvary is to us. Yes, Jesus’ dies on a cross *for our sins*. The cross became that altar and we are supposed to *stand near it, protect it and never forget* that great sacrifice Jesus Christ made for us. Our lives should be a reflection of the Cross and Jesus Christ. We must protect the truth as much as the Levites of old were to protect their rituals (which symbolized Christ and the atoning work of His blood and Holy Spirit, 1 John 1:7). Remember, all those who accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and King are part of the ‘priesthood’ now (1 Pt 2:9). So, we are *all* to stand with the altar, which is the Cross, *unwavering*. Now, what then happens when we ‘stand by’ the altar of burnt offering (which had four great horns of power)? Leviticus explains...

22 And Aaron lifted up his hand toward the people, and blessed them, and came down from offering of the sin offering, and the burnt offering, and peace offerings.

*23 And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of the congregation, and came out, and blessed the people: and **the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the people.***

*24 And **there came a fire out from before the LORD, and consumed upon the altar the burnt offering and the fat:** which when all the people saw, they shouted, and fell on their faces.*

Lev 9:22-24

Remember, the altar was nearly five feet tall. So, Aaron had to *come down* from it to bless the people. And God showed His acceptance of the sacrifice with... **fire**. He still does so today when He burns a fire within the hearts of those who believe on Him and give Him spiritual sacrifices like: thanksgiving (Ps 50:7-15, 107:11, 116:17, Jonah 2:9, Amos 4:5), praise (Ps 54:6, Jer 17:26, 33:1) and righteousness (Deut 33:19, Ps 4:5, Heb 13:15). Further, like Aaron ‘came down’ from the altar, likewise, our Heavenly Father ‘came down’ from His great throne in heaven and was incarnated into a flesh body, called Jesus Christ (John 1:1, 14). And He did this so we could

come to the altar (the Cross) and find forgiveness through the great sacrifice He made for us. As 1 John 1:7 so beautifully explains, *if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and **the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.***

And, after the cleaning takes, place... what then? Verse 22 tells us that *the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the people*. John 1:14 tells us that: *the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and **we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,**) full of grace and truth*. Those who saw Jesus while He was on earth literally saw that 'glory of God' incarnated but we who are living can still see God's Glory through His Written Word. Every time you open your Bible you are looking at the 'glory of God'. And when you are studying His Word, His glory will also come inside your soul through His Holy Spirit. The purpose is always to bring clarification, understanding, strength and peace... although it will also bring conviction, which is how He cleanses us. Remember that 1 John 1:7 says *the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin*. The blood of Christ is symbolic of His Holy Spirit, which was 'broken' for our sins (Ps 51:17, Isa 53:10-11). Therefore, it is His Holy Spirit (His blood) that cleanses us from our sins when His Holy Spirit enters our heart and helps us clean it through understanding His Word and being convicted by it (Heb 4:12). It's a beautiful process and truly, is an ongoing process for our entire life. You could say that, while in the flesh, we are a 'work in process'! We must not forget that our 'altar' is not the same as it was in the days of Moses; but the altar of old is still important because it teaches us how to come to Jesus Christ in repentance and cleansing, which requires us to sacrifice that 'old man' on a *daily* basis (Rom 6:6, Eph 4:22, Col 3:9, Luke 9:23) ...

3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father; even so we also should walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

6 Knowing this, that **our old man is crucified with him,** that the body of sin might be destroyed, that **henceforth we should not serve sin.**

7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.

8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.

10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

12 **Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.**

13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

Rom 6:3-14

Exodus 27

6 And thou shalt make staves for the altar, staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with brass.

7 And the staves shall be put into the rings, and the staves shall be upon the two sides of the altar, to bear it.

The word ‘staves’ is #905 in the Hebrew and has several meanings, but the most befitting meaning for this verse is: *a bar for carrying*. Like the Ark of the Covenant and the Table of Shewbread, the altar was also to be mobile. Remember that the Tabernacle and everything in it would be packed up and moved whenever Israel moved in the wilderness because God wanted to dwell near His people (Ex 25:8).

Exodus 27

8 Hollow with boards shalt thou make it: as it was shewed thee in the mount, so shall they make it.

The altar had to have room for the ashes of burnt animals to drop below it, so it was to be made with room underneath the grate (grill) for the ashes to drop. Again, Moses was given a pattern (a literal picture of everything) to go from so he knew exactly how to make these things (Heb 8:5).

Exodus 27

9 And thou shalt make the court of the tabernacle: for the south side southward there shall be hangings for the court of fine twined linen of an hundred cubits long for one side:

We now move on from the altar and are being told about the ‘hangings’ that were to go around the Tabernacle. This was for protection and separation. The area directly around the Tabernacle itself was called a court and the ‘hanging’s (which were a lot like curtains) were to be made of fine twined (twisted, #7806) linen a hundred cubits on the south side. This would have been about 150 feet long.

Exodus 27

10 And the twenty pillars thereof and their twenty sockets shall be of brass; the hooks of the pillars and their fillets shall be of silver.

The hanging on the south side was to be hung by putting up twenty pillars with sockets of brass and hooks and ‘fillets’ of silver. The word ‘*fillets*’ here is #2838 and means: *a fence-rail or rod connecting the posts or pillars*. So, there were also to be beams that went through these twenty pillars from which the hangings would then hang. *Twenty* in Biblical Numerics means *redemption*, which is quite befitting for the Tabernacle of God (Rom 3:24, Eph 1:7, Col 1:14).

Exodus 27

11 And likewise for the north side in length there shall be hangings of an hundred cubits long, and his twenty pillars and their twenty sockets of brass; the hooks of the pillars and their fillets of silver.

The North side was to be exactly the same as the South side.

Exodus 27

12 And for the breadth of the court on the west side shall be hangings of fifty cubits: their pillars ten, and their sockets ten.

The West side was to be shorter; only fifty cubits, which would be roughly 75 feet. It was to be set up the same way as the north and south hangings.

Exodus 27

13 And the breadth of the court on the east side eastward shall be fifty cubits.

14 The hangings of one side of the gate shall be fifteen cubits: their pillars three, and their sockets three.

15 And on the other side shall be hangings fifteen cubits: their pillars three, and their sockets three.

Now the East side was also to be fifty cubits (about 75 feet) but was to have a gate for the priest to go in and out from, in order to do their duties. The length of the curtains from each side to the gate was fifteen cubits, which is about 22 and a half feet. They were to be set up with only three pillars (on each side of the gate) because they were shorter lengths.

Exodus 27

16 And for the gate of the court shall be an hanging of twenty cubits, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, wrought with needlework: and their pillars shall be four, and their sockets four.

17 All the pillars round about the court shall be filleted with silver; their hooks shall be of silver, and their sockets of brass.

The gate was, naturally, only twenty cubits. If the overall length is only fifty cubits and the two sides by the gate are fifteen cubits, that only leaves twenty cubits left for the gate. The gate would be about 30 feet in length, which is a pretty large gate. Certainly, enough to take all the animals through, which were to be sacrificed. The gate was also to be made of finely twined linen but was also to have blue, purple and scarlet needlework. The gate would be set up in the same manner as the sides, with sockets of 'brass' (likely copper) and bars and hooks of silver.

Exodus 27

18 The length of the court shall be an hundred cubits, and the breadth fifty every where, and the height five cubits of fine twined linen, and their sockets of brass.

We're given the overall dimensions of the court: a hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide and five cubits high. So, this would be about 150 feet long, seventy-five feet wide and around 7.5 feet tall.

Exodus 27

19 All the vessels of the tabernacle in all the service thereof, and all the pins thereof, and all the pins of the court, shall be of brass.

This verse reiterates verse 3, which dictates that the vessels used for the altar were to be of brass (copper). However, we're further told that there were also to be pins used, which were to be made of 'brass'. The word 'pin' is #3489 and means: *to pin through or fast; a peg*. These pins were apparently used on the altar and in the hangings of the court as well. So, we see that the construction of the Tabernacle, and the wall around it, was quite sturdy and would last a long time, even though it was mobile. Our God (YHVH) is indeed a master builder (Heb 11:10).

Exodus 27

20 And thou shalt command the children of Israel, that they bring thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamp to burn always.

21 In the tabernacle of the congregation without the vail, which is before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall order it from evening to morning before the LORD: it shall be a statute for ever unto their generations on the behalf of the children of Israel.

We learned previously (in chapter 25) about the candlestick and its seven lamps which were to light the tabernacle. Now Moses is commanded (again) to use pure olive oil to light the candlestick's lamps. 'Beaten' means the olives are pressed to get the oil out instead of using heat; the first pressing makes the purest olive oil. And, just as important, the light was to be *always* burning (unless being moved, of course). This has great spiritual significance...

*For **the commandment is a lamp**; and **the law is light**; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:*

Prov 6:24

*But all things that are reproved are made manifest by the light: for **whatsoever doth make manifest is light**.*

Eph 5:14

*This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that **God is light**, and in him is no darkness at all.*

1 John 1:5

*Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world**: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*

John 8:12

*14 **Ye are the light of the world.** A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.*

15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

*16 **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.***

Matt 5:14-16

So, the light that was in the Temple (which was to be *always* burning) is symbolic of our Heavenly Father Himself, the truth (which comes only from Him), His Law and His Son, Jesus Christ as well as all those who love, worship and serve God through His Son, Jesus Christ (John 14:6). We are to keep the Light shining *within our soul* all the time, just as the seven lamps of the Tabernacle were to always be burning. And the pure olive oil symbolizes the pure truth found only in God's Word. The parable of the virgins (in Mth 25) tells us that five of the ten virgins were too foolish to take any oil for their lamps, so they were unable to go into the marriage to the bridegroom. This tells that to truly have faith in Jesus Christ, we must have knowledge of who He is, for the Word of God is our oil because it is what brings light to our heart and mind. To say we love Jesus, but refuse to study His Word, is not credible because love is defined as *obeying* God's Word (Rom 13:10). And you cannot obey the Word of God *if you do not know it*. The foolish virgins were hypocrites. They claimed to love God but didn't want to go to the 'trouble' to learn what that meant. So, their vessels were not full of oil (truth). [Learn more about this in the study **Oil Needed; Be Sure You're Ready** <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/286>]. If you find yourself in this category, then...

4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

*5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and **will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.***

Rev 2:4-5

God wants us all to repent for our sins. And if we think we have none, we're only fooling ourselves (1 John 1:10). Stick with studying God's Word every day, with understanding and sincerity. Learn to apply it *to yourself* (your heart and mind, words and actions). We can't get our sins out in one day, month or even a year. It takes a lifetime of dedication to our Heavenly Father (Jesus Christ, the Word of God), patience and perseverance to clean our heart and mind. But that should not stop us from striving every day to pick up our cross and crucify our carnal mind (heart) (Lk 9:23). It's not always easy and it's not always fun, *nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby* (Heb 12:11). [**Where Is Your Joy** <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/299>]. Let's conclude this chapter with an ever so timely reminder...

6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

7 Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

9(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

13 But all things that are reproved are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.

14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Eph 5:6-16

AMEN.