

Prayer and Anointing

Exodus Chapter 30

Exd 30:1 1) Altar of Incense v. 1 - 10

This Altar of Incense is a picture of prayer. As we go through this we can learn a few things about prayer.

Psalm 141:1-2 "*O LORD, I call upon You; hasten to me! Give ear to my voice when I call to You! May my prayer be counted as incense before You; The lifting up of my hands as the evening offering.*"

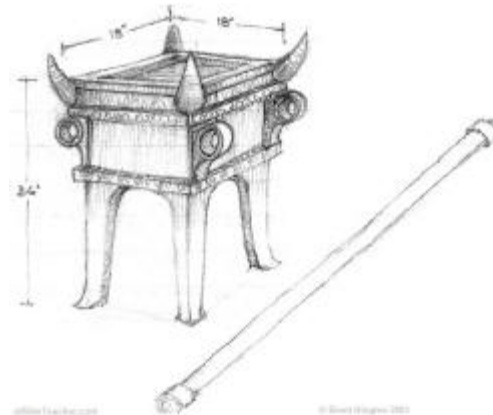
Old Testament speaks about Israel burning incense to other God and that is wicked in God's eyes.

Luke 1:8-11 "*Now it happened {that} while he was performing his priestly service before God in the {appointed} order of his division, according to the custom of the priestly office, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were in prayer outside at the hour of the incense offering. And an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense.*"

"Moreover, you shall make an altar as a place for burning incense; you shall make it of acacia wood.

Exd 30:2 "Its length {shall be} a cubit, and its width a cubit, it shall be square, and its height {shall be} two cubits; its horns {shall be} of one piece with it.

- This is a piece of furniture that will be in the tabernacle in the same room as the lampstand and the table of showbread.
- This table is 18" x 18" x 36"



Exd 30:3 "You shall overlay it with pure gold, its top and its sides all around, and its horns; and you shall make a gold molding all around for it.

Exd 30:4 "You shall make two gold rings for it under its molding; you shall make {them} on its two side walls--on opposite sides--and they shall be holders for poles with which to carry it.

Exd 30:5 "You shall make the poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold.

- This altar of incense will be made of acacia wood over laid with gold.
- This will have pole covered with gold also to carry the altar.

Exd 30:6 "You shall put this altar in front of the veil that is near the ark of the testimony, in front of the mercy seat that is over {the ark of} the testimony, where I will meet with you.

- The altar of incense is placed in the holy place with the lampstand and the table of showbread. But the table of incense is in front of the veil that separates the Holy of Holies and it is the closest piece of furniture to the Ark of the Covenant.
 - Veiled from the Ark of the Covenant. God's Mercy seat. If the Table of incense represents prayer, it is prayer that may ascent to the Mercy Seat but that cannot see. In our prayers we do not see God. But our prayers ascend to where He dwells.
 - The nearest piece of furniture tells us that the closest place we can come to God is in prayer.

Exd 30:7 "Aaron shall burn fragrant incense on it; he shall burn it every morning when he trims the lamps.

- Aaron will burn incense **EVERY MORNING**
- The recipe for the fragrant incense is in verses 34-38
- When he trims the lamps is when he attends the menorah adding oil.

Exd 30:8 "When Aaron trims the lamps at twilight, he shall burn incense. {There shall be} perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations.

- Aaron would burn incense again **EVERY NIGHT**
- Perpetual = (continual, evermore, without ceasing) throughout the generations.
- Psalm 55:16-17 "As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me. Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice."
- 1 Thessalonians 5:15 "Pray without ceasing"
- 2 Timothy 1:3 "I thank God, whom I serve from [my] forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day"

Exd 30:9 "You shall not offer any strange incense on this altar, or burnt offering or meal offering; and you shall not pour out a drink offering on it.

- God commands that only the holy incense from the recipe in verses 34-38 will be burnt here. It will be only for incense. No sacrifice at this altar.
- There is another altar that we read about in Chapter 27. That altar was the bronze altar and was meant for sacrifice.
- "Prayer is not the place where sacrificial atonement is made, but it is the place where sacrificial atonement is enjoyed." (Guzek)
- Leviticus 10:1-3 "Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, **took their respective firepans, and after putting fire in them, placed incense on it and offered strange fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. And fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD.** Then Moses said to Aaron, "It is what the LORD spoke, saying, 'By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, And before all the people I will be honored.' " So Aaron, therefore, kept silent."
- Luke 11:1-4 "And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples. And he said unto them, When ye pray, say,
Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name. _____ Begin w/ Praise Looking Up
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. _____ Humility before His Will+ Purpose
Give us day by day our daily bread. _____ Request for basic physical needs
And forgive us our sins;
for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. _____ Request for basic spiritual needs
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil." _____ Request for guidance
- In this lesson from Jesus concerning prayer there is no offering or sacrifice. We see no penance concerning sin, but a simple 4 word request for forgiveness.

Exd 30:10 "Aaron shall make atonement on its horns once a year; he shall make atonement on it with the blood of the sin offering of atonement once a year throughout your generations. It is most holy to the LORD."

- Once a year, on the Day of Atonement, the High Priest takes blood from the sin offering at the bronze altar and touches the horns of the table of incense. (10th day of the 7th month. Five days before the Feast of Tabernacles.)

This Altar is now Attended by the High Priest Jesus. **RIGHT NOW!!**

- Romans 8:34 "Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us." Jesus isn't condemning us. He is interceding for us. (see also verse 26,27)

- Hebrews 7:25 "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."
- An example of Jesus' intercession. Luke 22:31-32 "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded {permission} to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

What about our Prayers?

- Revelation 8:1-4 "And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer [it] with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, [which came] with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand."

Exd 30:11 **2) A Census and Ransom money** v. 11 - 16

The LORD also spoke to Moses, saying,

Exd 30:12 "When you take a census of the sons of Israel to number them, then each one of them shall give a ransom for himself to the LORD, when you number them, so that there will be no plague among them when you number them.

- God will allow Israel to take a census without punishment.
- A census speaks of ownership. A man could only count what he owned. Israel didn't own Israel. They were ransomed by God. They were under God's ownership.
- Numbers they were allowed Chapter 1 & 4 the instructions were given and in Chapter 26 they counted. This was to count the men available for war.
- David conducted a census and a plague occurred. (2 Samuel 24:1-25)

Exd 30:13 "This is what everyone who is numbered shall give: half a shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary (the shekel is twenty gerahs), half a shekel as a contribution to the LORD.

Exd 30:14 "Everyone who is numbered, from twenty years old and over, shall give the contribution to the LORD.

- The ransom (tax) was a flat tax. Everyone paid the same. ½ a shekel.
- A shekel was actually a measurement of weight. The particular standard of a shekel equaled 220 grains. (possibly a particular seed) Wealth was measured in gold silver grain and livestock. Sold was measured according to the weight of a shekel. It wasn't until later that an actual coin called a shekel was established.
- In Matthew 17:24-27 Peter answered the tax collectors that Jesus paid taxes. When Jesus saw Peter next He told him to go fishing and catch a fish. That fish will have one shekel in its mouth to pay the temple tax for both Peter and Jesus. ½ shekel each.

Exd 30:15 "The rich shall not pay more and the poor shall not pay less than the half shekel, when you give the contribution to the LORD to make atonement for yourselves.

- The contribution of atonement is the same whether rich or poor. In this, all men are equal. The redemption is the same for everyone.
- We strive to set ourselves apart in our influence, wisdom and finances, yet God sees us the same. Man who needs atonement, all men receives salvation the same way, through His Son Jesus.
- 1 Timothy 2:5-6 "For [there is] one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all,"

Exd 30:16 "You shall take the atonement money from the sons of Israel and shall give it for the service of the tent of meeting, that it may be a memorial for the sons of Israel before the LORD, to make atonement for yourselves."

Exd 30:17 **3) A Bronze Lavar** v. 17 - 21

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Exd 30:18 "You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base of bronze, for washing; and you shall put it between the tent of meeting and the altar, and you shall put water in it.

Exd 30:19 "Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet from it;

Exd 30:20 when they enter the tent of meeting, they shall wash with water, so that they will not die; or when they approach the altar to minister, by offering up in smoke a fire {sacrifice} to the LORD.

Exd 30:21 "So they shall wash their hands and their feet, so that they will not die; and it shall be a perpetual statute for them, for Aaron and his descendants throughout their generations."

- Here we have something very different. We have Moses instructed in having a laver for washing. But no instructions concerning its size, materials other than brass, how it is carried. These details are missing on this piece.
- "Drinking water is usually a type or picture of the Holy Spirit, Washing water is usually a type or picture of the Word of God" (Focht)
 - John 7:38-39 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" But this He spoke of the Spirit,"
 - Ephesians 5:26 "that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,"
- Exodus 38:8 tells us that when it came time to actually make this the bronze came from the mirrors the women had from Egypt. This was the highly polished metal that reflected their image.
- James 1:23-25 "For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for {once} he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the {law} of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does." The Word of God is like a mirror to us. Many times we see ourselves in the text of scripture.
- "Wash their hands and feet" reminds us of John 13:10, when Jesus washed the disciples' feet. He said, "He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean"
- The lesson here is the same as the New Testament. The people are His. They are clean, but they need to be cleansed by the Word daily to refresh from what has gotten on them by walking in the world.
- Psalm 24:3-4 "Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and pure heart."

Exd 30:22 **4) The Anointing Oil** v. 22 - 33

Moreover, the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Exd 30:23 "Take also for yourself the finest of spices: of flowing myrrh five hundred {shekels,} and of fragrant cinnamon half as much, two hundred and fifty, and of fragrant cane two hundred and fifty,

Exd 30:24 and of cassia five hundred, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, and of olive oil a hin.

Exd 30:25 "You shall make of these a holy anointing oil, a perfume mixture, the work of a perfumer; it shall be a holy anointing oil.

Exd 30:26 "With it you shall anoint the tent of meeting and the ark of the testimony,

Exd 30:27 and the table and all its utensils, and the lampstand and its utensils, and the altar of incense,

Exd 30:28 and the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, and the laver and its stand.

Exd 30:29 "You shall also consecrate them, that they may be most holy; whatever touches them shall be holy.

Exd 30:30 "You shall anoint Aaron and his sons, and consecrate them, that they may minister as priests to Me.

- Exd 30:31 "You shall speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'This shall be a holy anointing oil to Me throughout your generations.
- Exd 30:32 'It shall not be poured on anyone's body, nor shall you make {any} like it in the same proportions; it is holy, {and} it shall be holy to you.
- Exd 30:33 'Whoever shall mix {any} like it or whoever puts any of it on a layman shall be cut off from his people.' "
- There are specific instructions for the mixture of this HOLY ANOINTING OIL.
 - Cinnamon and Fragrant Cane and myrrh and Cassia. Myrrh was expensive. More than gold or frankincense. The smell of this would be strong and sweet. Myrrh was used in embalming. Cassia was similar to cinnamon.
 - Everything in the tabernacle was anointed with this oil. Even Aaron and the priests.
 - But laymen were not to be anointed with this oil. The priests are to have a specific smell to them. People were to recognize when a priest entered the room.
 - 2 Corinthians 2:14-16 " *Now thanks [be] unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one [we are] the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life.*"
 - Is there an aroma of Christ on our life? Do people know a Christian has entered the room when we walk in?
 - We are not to copy this. It is to be holy. The oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. The anointing of the Holy Spirit isn't to be copied or imitated.

Exd 30:34 **5) The Incense** v. 34 - 38

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Take for yourself spices, stacte and onycha and galbanum, spices with pure frankincense; there shall be an equal part of each.

- Exd 30:35 "With it you shall make incense, a perfume, the work of a perfumer, salted, pure, {and} holy.
- Exd 30:36 "You shall beat some of it very fine, and put part of it before the testimony in the tent of meeting where I will meet with you; it shall be most holy to you.
- Exd 30:37 "The incense which you shall make, you shall not make in the same proportions for yourselves; it shall be holy to you for the LORD.
- Exd 30:38 "Whoever shall make {any} like it, to use as perfume, shall be cut off from his people."
- Again, the ingredients are specific.
 - Like the oil this was not to be copied and used as common.
 - Incense is a picture of prayer. We are not to take prayer as common. It is a holy devotion unto the Lord.

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