



Lesson 7 – The Altar of Incense

Read Exodus 30:1-10

- 1) What was the length and width of the Altar of Incense?

Exodus 30:2 A _____ shall be the length thereof, and a _____ the breadth thereof; foursquare shall it be...

- 2) How Tall was the Altar of Incense?

Exodus 30:2 ...and two _____ shall be the height thereof: the horns thereof shall be of the same.

Remember, a cubit is measured from the tip of your elbow to the point of your extended fingers. Usually 18-20 inches.

- 3) What was the Altar covered in?

Exodus 30:3 And thou shalt overlay it with pure _____, the top thereof, and the sides thereof round about, and the horns thereof; and thou shalt make unto it a crown of gold round about.

The altar was made of the shittim, or acacia wood, and all overlaid with pure gold. Around the top was a beautiful crown of gold, and beneath the crown were rings, in which were staves for carrying the altar, all overlaid with pure gold.



- 4) What was to be burning upon this altar perpetually?

Exodus 30:7,8 And Aaron shall burn thereon sweet _____ every morning: when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it. And when Aaron lighteth the lamps at even, he shall burn incense upon it, a perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations.

Exodus 30:34-36 And the LORD said unto Moses, Take unto thee sweet spices, stacte, and onycha, and galbanum; these sweet spices with pure frankincense: of each shall there be a like weight: And thou shalt make it a perfume, a confection after the art of the apothecary,



tempered together, pure and holy: And thou shalt beat some of it very small, and put of it before the testimony in the tabernacle of the congregation, where I will meet with thee: it shall be unto you most holy.

- 5) What would happen to the person who copied the composition for their own personal use?

Exodus 30:37,38 And as for the perfume which thou shalt make, ye shall not make to yourselves according to the composition thereof: it shall be unto thee holy for the LORD. Whosoever shall make like unto that, to smell thereto, shall even be cut _____ from his people.

The incense, composed of an equal weight of four fragrant gums and resins, was prepared by divine direction. It was very sacred, and the person making any like it, even for a perfume, was to be cut off from among the people.

- 6) Who's duty alone was it to place the incense before the Lord?

Exodus 30:7,8 And _____ shall burn thereon sweet incense every morning: when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it. And when _____ lighteth the lamps at even, he shall burn incense upon it, a perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations.

Here God specifically mentions Aaron. Aaron was chosen to do this because he was the High Priest, and it would be the same duty of every High Priest that would come after him.

The altar and the fragrant incense in the earthly sanctuary were an example of the work our great High Priest is performing for us. Our minds should often dwell upon the work of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary.

- 7) What directive was Moses given?

Exodus 25:40 And look that thou make them after their _____, which was shewed thee in the mount.

John, the beloved disciple, was permitted several times in vision to behold the Saviour officiating in the heavenly sanctuary. He saw a heavenly being standing at the glorious golden altar. He beheld the incense offered upon that holy altar. How it must have thrilled his soul when he saw that precious incense added to the poor, faltering prayers of the struggling saints here on the earth: He saw those prayers, after the incense was added, ascend up before God, and they were accepted because they were made fragrant with the incense.

- 8) What does Romans tell us about our prayers?

Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also _____ our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with _____ which cannot be uttered.



Romans 8:27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh _____ for the saints according to the will of God.

The smoke that rises from the altar signifies our prayers with the aid of the High Priest rising up to God in heaven.

9) What did Jesus tell His disciples?

John 16:23 ... Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my _____, he will give it you.

The power in a name is the character of the individual that bears the name. The name of the precious Redeemer is honored, and every petition presented in that name is granted in the courts of heaven because Jesus lived a sinless life. He was pure and holy, without one stain of sin. It is Christ's righteousness that makes our prayers accepted before the Father.

The weakest saint who knows how to press his petitions to the throne of grace in the name of Jesus, the sinless One, has all the treasures of heaven at his command. Having the richest millionaire of the earth sign his checks at earthly banks would in no way compare with the privilege of the Christian.

10) What did David tell us in Psalms 141?

Psalms 141:2 Let my prayer be set forth before thee as _____; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

As there was no other part of the daily ministration that brought the priest so directly into the presence of God as the offering of incense; so there is no part of our religious service that brings us so close to the Master as the pouring out of our souls in earnest prayer. Anciently, as in the antitype, the prayer of faith entered the "**holy dwelling-place**" of God in heaven.

A lamb was burned upon the brazen altar in the court each morning and evening at the time the incense was renewed upon the altar. The golden altar was an "**altar of continual intercession,**" representing the prayers of God's people coming up before Him continually; while the brazen altar was an "**altar of continual atonement,**" representing the putting away and destruction of sin, the only thing that separates us from God and prevents our prayers from being answered.

11) What were God's people doing at the time Incense was offered?

Luke 1:9-10 According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. And the whole multitude of the people were _____ without at the time of incense.



The morning and evening lamb was offered as a whole burnt-offering for the entire congregation, showing their desire to put away sin and consecrate themselves to the Lord, so that their prayers could ascend from off the altar with the fragrant incense. In ancient Israel, the people living near the temple gathered at the hour of sacrifice, and often **“the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense.”** The habit of morning and evening prayer in the home came from this typical worship. The faithful Israelite who was far from the temple would pray with his face toward the temple where the incense was ascending each morning and evening.

The type was beautiful, but the antitype far surpasses the type. In the heavenly sanctuary, there is an inexhaustible supply of Christ's righteousness. In the type the incense was always ascending, typifying that at any time, day or night, when a struggling soul cries out for help or gives thanks and praise for the help received, his prayer is heard. In the morning, as the duties of the day seem more than human strength can bear, the burdened soul can remember that in the type a fresh supply of incense was placed on the altar each morning, and from out the antitypical heavenly sanctuary help will come for the day to the one that claims divine help in the name of Jesus

In the evening, as we review the work of the day and find it marred with sin, there is blessed comfort as we kneel confessing our sins, to know that in heaven the fragrant incense of Christ's righteousness will be added to our prayers, as in the type the cloud as in type the incense shielded the priest, so Christ's righteousness will cover the mistakes of the day; and the Father, looking upon us, will behold only the spotless robe of Christ's righteousness.

Not every prayer is answered immediately, as it would not always be in our best interest; but every prayer to which the fragrance of Christ's righteousness has been added is lodged on heaven's altar



Can you see the Altar of Incense representing our prayers ascending to heaven? _____

Are you interested in making your prayers more effective? _____

Will you now ask Him to help you grow into His perfect character? _____