

Exodus 30

The last couple of weeks we concentrated on the High Priest. We can certainly see how the earthly High Priest was just a type or picture of the True High Priest, Jesus. The fullest revelation of Jesus as High Priest is found in the Book of Hebrews:

Hebrews 4:14-16 NKJV Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession. (15) **For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin.** (16) Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

As a Man, Jesus was tempted just as we are. He understands that we are weak and needy. But He did not sin for His blood was pure and undefiled by Adam's curse.

It was His perfect "human" blood that could remove sin. Yes, it was still a substitutionary atonement, but it was a perfect one – one perfect Man for sin-filled mankind. It's not just as God that He will make a way of escape when we are confronted with sin, but that He is a Man who truly understands how we need an escape from the clutches of sin.

Hebrews 5:5-8 NKJV So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, *but it was* He who said to Him: "YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU." (6) *As He* also says in another place: "YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK"; (7) who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, (8) though He was a Son, *yet* He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

Jesus did not make Himself High Priest. Instead, just as much as Jesus was **declared** to be the **Son** (in [Psa 2:7](#)), He was also **declared** to be a **priest forever** (in [Psa 110:4](#)). It was the Father who did so. As a Man, albeit God as well, He still had to understand the full implications of manhood. He had to learn obedience in the sense of experiencing it. Again, to understand us and with what we go through in our wrestling with obedience.

One of the most compelling examples is from Jesus' experience in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus asked that the cup be taken away from Him yet the cup was not taken away. Nevertheless, His prayer **was heard** because **His prayer was not to escape His Father's will, but to accept it - and that prayer was definitely heard.**

Hebrews 7:24-28 NKJV But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. (25) Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. (26) For such a High Priest was fitting for us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; (27) who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. (28) For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, *appoints* the Son who has been perfected forever.

Every earthly priest died. Jesus is eternal. His sacrifice was once for all and need only be accepted to be granted eternal life. Confessing Him, the Man Jesus is God the Son who was raised from the dead and believing Him for salvation will result in salvation by grace through faith! Because He is eternal, when He saves it is for eternity!

See also:

Hebrews 2:17-18

Hebrews 8:1-3

Hebrews 8:6-7 .

Hebrews 9:11-15

Hebrews 10:19-23

Hebrews 13:10-15

So, Jesus is our True and Perfect High Priest! But we also learned that the High Priest had to officiate the animal sacrifices.

*“For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have give it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.” **Leviticus 17:11.***

A “sacrifice,” in its biblical context, is defined as the offering up of something precious for a cause or a reason. The word “atonement” means to cover or satisfy an offense committed, a substitutionary act. Thus, we can understand what God meant when He told Moses that the blood was to make atonement for the soul. In other words, those who are covered by the blood sacrifice are set free from the consequences of sin.

The animal sacrifices from the time of the Mosaic covenant only atoned for sin partially and for a short time, hence the need to repeat the sacrifices. Hebrews 9:12-18 confirms the symbolism of blood as life and applies Leviticus 17:11 to the sacrifice of Yeshua.

Hebrews 9:12-14 NKJV Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. **(13)** For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, **(14)** how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

NOW LET’S LOOK AT THE CHART I HAVE PROVIDED AND REVIEW EACH SACRIFICE

Next, we’re going to look at some other things that had to be fashioned for the Tabernacle. We will look at the

- 1. Altar of Incense**
- 2. The Census Tax**
- 3. The Bronze Laver**

4. The Anointing Oil and Incense

These are found in Exodus 30.

Exodus 30:1-10 NKJV "You shall make an altar to burn incense on; you shall make it of acacia wood. (2) A cubit *shall be* its length and a cubit its width—it shall be square—and two cubits *shall be* its height. Its horns *shall be* of one piece with it. (3) And you shall overlay its top, its sides all around, **and its horns with pure gold**; and you shall make for it a molding of gold all around. (4) Two gold rings you shall make for it, under the molding on both its sides. You shall place *them* on its two sides, and they will be holders for the poles with which to bear it. (5) You shall make the poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold. (6) And you shall put it before the veil that *is* before the ark of the Testimony, before the mercy seat that *is* over the Testimony, where I will meet with you. (7) "Aaron shall burn on it sweet incense every morning; when he tends the lamps, he shall burn incense on it. (8) And when Aaron lights the lamps at twilight, he shall burn incense on it, a perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations. (9) You shall not offer strange incense on it, or a burnt offering, or a grain offering; nor shall you pour a drink offering on it. (10) And Aaron shall make atonement upon its horns once a year with the blood of the sin offering of atonement; once a year he shall make atonement upon it throughout your generations. It *is* most holy to the LORD."

First, some explanations:

The name "altar" is a bit misleading. No sacrifices were offered upon it. It was also called *the golden altar* ([Exo 39:38](#); [Num 4:11](#))

The sweet incense, the symbol of prayer, was burnt upon it every day, morning and evening ([Exo 30:7-8](#)). The blood of the sin-offering, too, was sprinkled upon it every year on the great day of atonement ([Lev 16:18-20](#)), and at such other times as occasion required ([Lev 4:17-18](#)).

It was placed between the altar of burnt-offering in the Court and the mercy-seat in the Holy of Holies. It was separated from the latter by the veil. Being in front of the veil of the Holy of Holies, it had a prominent place between the Lamp and the Table of Showbread.

It was made of Acacia wood like other furniture and overlaid with pure gold. It also had 4 gold-covered horns.

Now, what does this all mean?

Let's first look at verse 3 in Revelation 8:

Revelation 8:3 NKJV Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer *it* with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. (see also Revelation 8:3-4).

The altar of incense was for its perpetual burning, day and night. According to Revelation it is symbolic of the prayers of the saints. I'm not sure whether the Israelites understood the spiritual significance of the incense but David wrote of it

Psalms 141:2 NKJV Let my prayer be set before You *as* incense, The lifting up of my hands *as* the evening sacrifice.

And certainly at the time of Jesus for we read in Luke 1 about Zacharias, the father of John the Baptizer:

Luke 1:8-10 NKJV So it was, that while he was serving as priest before God in the order of his division, (9) according to the custom of the priesthood, his lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. (10) And the whole multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of incense.

So, incense is a symbol of prayer and a praying heart. The wood that was used was impervious to rot and bugs, and symbolizes the strength we receive when we are in prayer; it is the strength that meets the demands of living in a sin-filled world.

Gold is symbolic of purity – a pure heart in prayer. This is achieved by making confession in prayer:

1 John 1:8-9 NKJV If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (9) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Being honest with God since He knows everything anyway!

Prayer also takes us into the very Throne Room as we have read in Hebrews:

Hebrews 4:16 NKJV Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

But prayer does more: Through it we can obtain God's mercy and grace! Think of that as you pray!

The 4 horns at the corners are symbolic of the power that prayer has. Horns are symbolic of power all through Scripture. And the Golden Altar from which the earthly copy was made also has the horns:

Revelation 9:13 NKJV Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God

Also, the incense must be pure and dedicated solely for the worship of God. Heathens used incense but God called theirs "strange incense". Their incense was used in rituals which involved idolatry and sexual immorality. Therefore, our prayers must be pure, honest and meaningful.

As the incense was kept burning day and night, we should always be in an attitude of prayer.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-19 NKJV (16) Rejoice always, (17) **pray without ceasing,** (18) in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (19) Do not quench the Spirit.

Paul isn't expecting you to be on your knees 24x7. Prayer is simply talking with God. We are to do this with an attitude of humility, and it will become a joyful thing to praise Him, talk with Him, seek Him, and listen to Him all through the day!

As the Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto the path, it can be best a blessing to pray God's Word back to Him. It's also a blessing to take the time to mediate on it, seeking God's heart in the Word. This seeking is praying!

James 1:5-8 NKJV If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. (6) But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. (7) For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; (8) he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

If the incense simply sat on the Altar without burning, we can liken it to cold-prayer that sinks to the earth instead of rising to heaven. Cold prayer is liturgical prayer that is uttered over and over. Would God listen to such a prayer? In our repetition we simply mouth the words without thinking of them or believing them. Would God listen to such praying?

Prayer is a privilege that brings you into the presence of God and our Savior who ever lives to make intercession for YOU! Talk with Him! Only the High Priest was allowed to meet with God and to present the required sacrifices for purity. But because of Jesus, the Heavenly Tabernacle is our place to meet with God. And until we see Him face to face, prayer is our means.

We began by saying that this Altar was NOT a place where atonement was made. That was at the Bronze Altar. Our "altar of prayer is the place sacrificial atonement is enjoyed. We don't save ourselves through prayer; we pray because of Jesus' saving work on the cross.