

The Altar



The Story of Abraham and Isaac:

When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. 11 But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven “Abraham! Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. 12 “Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.” 13 Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram[a] caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.”

What is an altar and what is its purpose?

An altar can be defined as a raised structure or place that is used for the purposes of sacrifice, worship or prayer.

The Altar

is where God is present



Revelation 8:1-3

When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.

3 Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all God's people, on the golden altar in front of the throne. 4 The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of God's people, went up before God from the angel's hand. 5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake."

The Altar

is a place of Sacrifice



God often speaks to
us the most at our
altars. He reveals more
of himself to us.

Lay an offering at the Altar:

- Take time to examine your life, your habits, your character
- When you in the process of examining it makes you aware of your sin, abnormalities, spots
- Awareness leads to sorrow, we exposed the sin that makes us feel ashamed
- And if we are bold enough we confess that sin and walk a journey of healing

This is how we sometimes feel:

“God, I am sorry. This is truly a sickly animal... deformed and ugly. I know it does not meet your expectation. It doesn’t even meet my expectations. I am ashamed of what I have brought. I am ashamed of myself for offering it to you. I know you want more... so do I. It wasn’t the best I could bring. I could have brought something much better, something much more acceptable. I forgot you... because I was only thinking of myself and what I wanted. But now, in this place, in your presence, seeing your holiness... your presence is like a dagger that pierces my conscience and my heart... your holiness is like a weight that crushes me until I cannot breathe. And my offering is a vile and disgusting thing. The stench is putrid in my nostrils and makes me sick... and ashamed.”

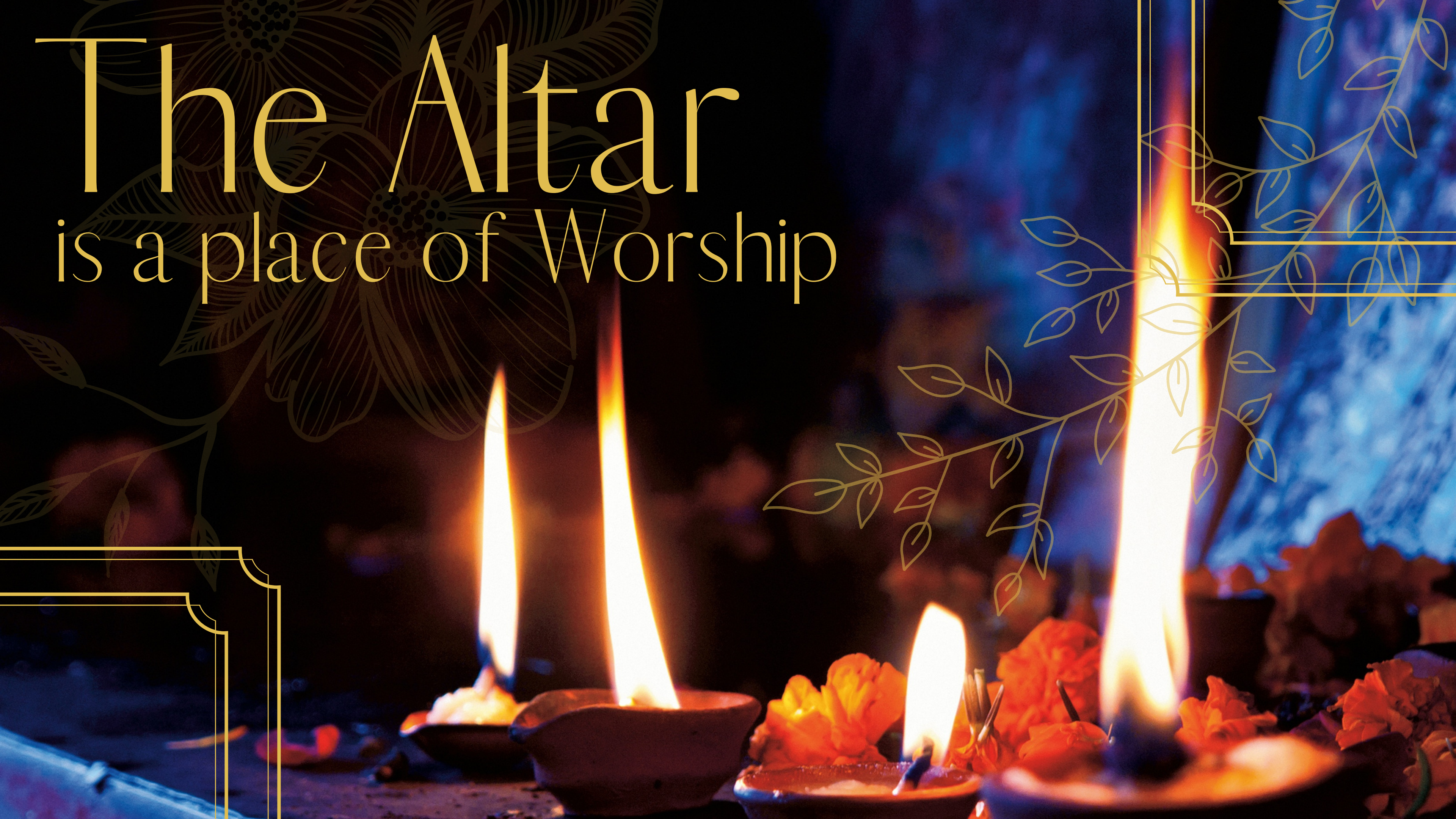
The Altar

is a place of Forgiveness



Once the sacrifice is
made, you are in the
journey of healing
You are forgiven!
God forgives!

The Altar is a place of Worship



“Some of us cannot
worship because we have
never been to the Altar”

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The Altar
is where God speaks



God provided for
Abraham at the Altar.