

Exodus 30 The Great Worship Chapter

No forgiveness without blood

- **Holy Place:** Place of Worship containing 3 Articles of Furniture
 1. Golden Lampstand
 2. Table of Showbread
 3. **Altar of Incense**

**Only one Altar in the Holy Place of Worship
Not an Altar of Sacrifice but an Altar of Incense speaking of Prayer**

I. Altar of Incense: Finite Man connecting with the Infinite God

1 "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—square—and two cubits shall be its height. Its horns shall be of gold, and you shall overlay it with gold. 3 And you shall overlay its top, its sides all around with pure gold; and you shall make for it a molding of gold around it.



- **Altar of Incense**
 1. Acacia Wood
 2. 1.5 Feet Squared. 3.0 Feet High
 3. Horns on each corner
 4. Wood overlaid with **Gold:** Jesus Humanity/Deity

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 [the Altar of Incense] 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.

- **Rings/Poles to carry:** Arc of Covenant, Table of Showbread, and Brazen Altar
- Altar set in the Holy Place—outside the curtain—behind which is Ark and Mercy Seat

Notice: Proximity of Altar of Incense to the presence of God yet still separated until Jesus

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.

- **Aaron:** High Priest morning service...
 1. **Tends Golden Lampstand:** Fills/Trims
 2. **Tends Altar of Incense:** Burned Sweet Incense

Incense speaks of Prayer

Psalm 141:2 [Previously] Let my prayer be set before You **as incense**

Revelation 5:8 ...when [Jesus] had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and **golden bowls full of incense**, which are the **prayers of the saints**. 9 And they sang a new song...

- **Perpetual Incense:** Speaks of Continuous Prayer...

1 Thessalonians 5:16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

- **Only one type of Incense:** Holy Recipe created by God Himself described later

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.

- **Only God's recipe:** Do NOT offer Strange Incense?
- Strange: heb. **Zür**: As in "strange" woman, or adulterous

Our Prayers should be Spirit Led

Colossians 1:9 [Read][Because of your love for us we...] do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

- **I don't know what to pray?**

Romans 8:26 ...the Spirit also **helps in our weaknesses**. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Spirit of God searches our heart, knows our need, and helps us pray

- **No** "strange incense" to be offered on Altar of Incense
- **No** animal/sacrifice to be offered on Altar of Incense
- **No** drink offering...only **God ordained** incense on His Altar of Incense

Prayer is not the place sacrificial atonement is made; it is the place sacrificial atonement is enjoyed. We don't save ourselves through prayer; we pray because of Jesus' saving work on the cross. [Guzic]

...there were two altars. The Burnt Altar is where God deals with a sinner. It speaks of the earth and the sin on man. The Altar of Incense speaks of heaven and holiness. The burnt altar speaks of what Christ did for us on earth. The Incense Altar speaks of what Christ is doing for us in heaven...There is no sacrifice [on the Altar of Incense] because the sin question was settled outside [on the Burnt Altar]. [Before] we [can] worship God the sin question has to be settled [first]. [JV McGee]

- John the Baptist father Zechariah given responsibility for burning Incense in Temple...

Luke 1:9 ...according to the custom of the priesthood, [Zechariah's] lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. [Pray for a son?]

- At that point and on that day at the Altar of Incense...

God broke a 400 year silence to prophesy John ushering in Jesus the Messiah

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."**

- **Atonement Once a year with blood;** i.e. Day of Atonement
 1. High Priest anoints horns of Altar of Incense
 2. Anointed with the Blood of Sin Offering

Blood Atonement: Most Holy to the Lord

- **OT** heb. Atonement: *kä·far'*. Lit. to purge away/reconcile/forgive/pardon/cleanse

To coat or cover with pitch

- **NT** gr. Atonement *kä-täl-lä-gā'*. **Exchange;** i.e. the **Great Exchange**

Exchanging my ugly sin for Jesus perfect righteousness

2 Corinthians 5:21 For [God the Father] made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- Not simply "cover over" as in OT but now made righteous by faith in Jesus

The blood stained horns of the altar... were a constant reminder of the work of atoning blood. [Guzic]

- **Book of Hebrews**
- Altar of Incense is not in the Holy Place but now found in the **Holy of Holies?**

Hebrews 9:2b ...the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, 4 which had the **golden censer** and the ark of the covenant

- **Q.** Why is the Golden Censer; i.e. the Altar of Incense in the Holy of Holies now?
- **A.** Veil to the Holy of Holies was torn in two at Jesus death
 1. **True Altar of Incense** is now in heaven

Hebrews 8:5 [Priests of the OT] who serve the **copy and shadow of the heavenly things**, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle.

2. **True High Priest** is in heaven always interceding in prayer for us

Hebrews 7:24 ... [Jesus]... 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.

- **Altar of Incense:** Picture of Worshipful Prayer to the God who atoned for our sins

SUMMARY Altar of Incense: Recipe described below. Spending time in prayer leaves us with the sweet smell of Jesus because we have spent real time with Him.

II. Ransom Money: Only the Ransomed can Worship

11 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 12 "When you take the census of the children of Israel for their number, then every man shall give a ransom for himself to the Lord, when you number them, that there may be no plague among them when you number them.

- **Census:**
 1. Two census taken in Book of Numbers
 2. **Why plagues?** Census; i.e. counting of people *signified ownership*
 3. We belong to God
- David numbered "his" men when in actuality they belonged to God...thus plague

**Every individual must be obedient and pay ransom or all will suffer
A plague will break out among the whole because of one**

Galatians 5:9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump. 10 I have confidence in you, in the Lord, that you will have no other mind; but he who troubles you shall bear his judgment, whoever he is.

- **Troublemakers:** Those disobedient to Lord/causing trouble to the rest of His people
- **Direction for census...**

13 This is what everyone among those who are numbered shall give: half a shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary (a shekel is twenty gerahs). The half-shekel shall be an offering to the Lord. 14 Everyone included among those who are numbered, from twenty years old and above, shall give an offering to the Lord. 15 The rich shall not give more and the poor shall not give less than half a shekel, when you give an offering to the Lord, to make atonement for yourselves.

- Every man over 20 years old
- **Rich same as poor:** Ground is level at the foot of Calvary; i.e. **Flat Tax**

**All souls are equally precious in God's sight.
God has no pleasure in souls dying without Him**

Ezekiel 18:23 Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?" says the Lord God, "and not that he should turn from his ways and live?"

Ezekiel 33:11 'As I live,' says the Lord God, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways!

- **Flat Tax:** Picture of Ransom paid for redemption of our souls. **Only the ransomed can truly worship.**

16 And you shall take the atonement money of the children of Israel, and shall appoint it for the service of the tabernacle of meeting, that it may be a memorial for the children of Israel before the Lord, to make atonement for yourselves.”

- Money given by the Lord/Money given back to the Lord.
- **Silver:** Metal of Redemption and used in the building of the Temple
- **Jesus was our ransom**

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

SUMMARY Ransom Money: Only the ransomed can worship

III. Bronze Laver: Only the Cleansed may Worship

17 **Then the Lord spoke to Moses,** saying: 18 “You shall make a laver of bronze, with its base also of bronze, for washing. You shall place it between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar. And you shall pour water from it, 19 for Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet from it.



- **Bronze [Brazen] Laver:**
 1. Metal of Judgment
 2. No dimensions given
 3. Placed between Brazen Altar and Tabernacle
 4. Priests wash hands and feet
 5. Bronze later provided from women’s mirrors [Ex. 38:8]

Intentionally sacrificing self-interests/wants and giving to God is pleasant smell to the Lord

20 When they go into the tabernacle of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister, to burn an offering made by fire to the Lord, they shall wash with water, lest they die. 21 So they shall wash their hands and feet, lest they die. And it shall be a statute forever to them—to their descendants throughout their generations.”



- Before sacrifice they are to wash...**or die**
- **Bronze Laver:** Speaks of washing necessary to meet with God

Psalm 24:3 Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place?
4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart

- **We are cleansed when we are saved**

1 Corinthians 6:11 [You were dirty rotten sinners...] But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Ephesians 5:26: [We are] cleansed by the washing of the Word

John 15:3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

- **Newsflash:** Saints still sin!

To dwell above with saints in love O that will be the glory!
To stay below with saints I know well that's another story!

- **John 13:** Jesus washes His disciple's feet...

**We are clean at Salvation but daily re-polluted by walking in "dirt" of this world
Christian Bar of Soap**

1 John 1:8 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. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

If we think we have a relationship with God but living a dirty life we are deceived

- **Bronze Laver:** The washing necessary to meet/fellowship with God

SUMMARY Bronze Laver: Only the Ransomed can/only the cleansed may worship

IV. Holy Anointing Oil: Only the Anointed will Worship

22 Moreover the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 23 "Also take for yourself quality spices—five hundred shekels of liquid myrrh, half as much sweet-smelling cinnamon (two hundred and fifty shekels), two hundred and fifty shekels of sweet-smelling cane, 24 five hundred shekels of cassia, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, and a hin of olive oil.

- Previously commanded for consecration of Priests

Exodus 29:7 ...you shall take the anointing oil, pour it on his head, and anoint him.

- **Holy Recipe created by God Himself**

1. Myrrh
2. Cinnamon
3. Sweet smelling can
4. Cassia
5. Olive Oil base

25 And you shall make from these a holy anointing oil, an ointment compounded according to the art of the perfumer. It shall be a holy anointing oil.

- **Holy Anointing Oil:** Set apart to the Lord and for His work
- Made by Spirit-filled perfumers

26 With it you shall anoint the tabernacle of meeting and the ark of the

Testimony; 27 the table and all its utensils, the lampstand and its utensils, and the altar of incense; 28 the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the laver and its base.

- **What to anoint:**

1. Tabernacle; i.e. the Tent of Meeting
2. Ark inside the Holy of Holies
3. Table and utensils
4. Lampstand and utensils
5. Altar of Incense
6. Altar of Burnt Offering
7. Bronze Laver and Base...

...That the Holy Spirit's omnipresence might be recognized in tangible way

- **Omnipresence:** Everywhere all the time

John 16:7 [I know you don't want Me to go but] ... I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

- **Omnipresence:** Everywhere all the time

Psalms 139:7 [Read] Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? 8 If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. 9 If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, 10 Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me. 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me; 12 Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You.

- **Omnipresence:** Everywhere all the time should cause fear of God

29 You shall consecrate them [with the Anointing Oil], that they may be most holy; whatever touches them must be holy. 30 And you shall anoint Aaron and his sons, and consecrate them, that they may minister to Me as priests.

- Anoint the priests that they may be "most holy"
- Whatever touches the priests after they are anointed must also be Holy

No special power in the Oil but what it represents...Holy Spirit

James 5:14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up.

- **Anointing Oil treated as Precious...**

31 "And you shall speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'This shall be a holy anointing oil to Me throughout your generations. 32 It shall not be

poured on man's flesh; nor shall you make any other like it, according to its composition.

- Not poured on man's flesh apart from High Priests head

Holy Spirit's work is to glorify Jesus not our flesh

- **No knock-offs or imitations:**
 1. Practice speaking in tongues?
 2. Barking like dog?
 3. Let it bubble out you belly?

32b...It is holy, and it shall be holy to you.

Its Holy to Me... it should be Holy to you

- **Mind of Christ:** What He calls right we call right. What He calls good we call good...

1 Peter 1:15 ...as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, "**Be holy, for I am holy.**"

- God painting a picture Gentiles would be saved
- God showed Peter unclean animals/told Peter to eat what was once unclean to him...

Acts 10:14 But Peter said, "**Not so, Lord!** For I have never eaten anything common or unclean." 15 And a voice spoke to him again the second time, "What God has cleansed you must not call common."

What He calls right we call right. What He calls good we call good...

33 Whoever compounds any like it, or whoever puts any of it on an outsider, shall be cut off from his people."

- No substitutes/quackery for the Holy Spirit of God

Only Spirit opens our eyes/hearts to God's Word, God's Wisdom, and God's will for our life

John 4:23 ...the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will **worship the Father in spirit and truth**; for the **Father is seeking such** to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him **must worship in spirit and truth.**"

SUMMARY Holy Anointing Oil: Only Ransomed can/only Cleansed may /only Anointed will truly worship God.

V. Incense: Prayer

34 And the Lord said to Moses: "Take sweet spices, stacte and onycha and galbanum, and pure frankincense with these sweet spices; there shall be equal amounts of each. 35 You shall make of these an incense, a compound according to the art of the perfumer, salted, pure, and holy.

God still speaking to Moses...

- Holy Recipe for the Incense Altar created by God himself
- **Sweet spices of equal amounts:**
 1. **Stacte:** Resin gum that oozed from trees on Mt. Gilead; lit. Balm of Gilead
 2. **Onycha:** From a species of shellfish resembling a crab
 3. **Gabanum:** Leaves of a Syrian Plant...all blended with pure frankincense
- Holy Incense made by a Holy-Spirit filled perfumer...

...Salted, Pure, and Holy.

- **Salted:** Purifies/Preserves

Matthew 5:13 "You are the **salt of the earth**; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

- **Salted:** Promotes craving for pure water...

Colossians 4:5 Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. 6 Let your speech always be with grace, **seasoned with salt**, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

- **Salted Pure and Holy:** Incense speaks of prayer

36 And you shall beat some of it very fine, and put some of it before the Testimony in the tabernacle of meeting where I will meet with you. It shall be most holy to you.

- Fine incense/prayer found closest to the Arc; i.e. closest to God's heart
- Bring honest words to God...

Hosea 14:1 O Israel, return to the Lord your God, For you have stumbled because of your iniquity; 2 **Take words with you**, And return to the Lord. Say to Him, "Take away all iniquity; Receive us graciously, For we will offer the sacrifices of our lips.

37 But as for the incense which you shall make, you shall **not make any for yourselves**, according to its composition. It shall be to you **holy for the Lord**. 38 Whoever makes any like it, to smell it, he shall be **cut off from his people.**"

- Don't make extra for yourself. This incense shall be **"to you" as Holy**

Do we treat prayer as Holy to the Lord or do we just speak extra/empty words

- **Altar of Incense:** Smell of communion with Jesus is to be cherished

This unique scent is found where finite man connects with the infinite God through prayer