

FAST 2026

DO YOU HAVE A STRONG ALTAR?

(Genesis 12:4-9; 13:1-4; 28:10-22)

I. DO YOU HAVE A STRONG ALTAR?

A. ABRAHAM'S ALTAR / WHAT IS AN ALTAR?

1. Abraham was called by God out of Ur of the Chaldeans & out of Haran to come to the land of Canaan.
2. **Gen 12:7**—God appears to him at Shechem & he responds by building an altar.
3. **Gen 12:8**—He moves onto Bethel / Ai. This time he builds an altar and seeks the Lord first.
4. **Gen 13:1-4**—When he returns from Egypt, he comes back to the place near Bethel. (“the place” mentioned 2 times.)

AN ALTAR

5. Word in Hebrew—“mizbeach”—(a place of sacrifice). Word in Greek—“bomos”—(high place for pagan worship).
6. Other words used of altar in the OT: high place, shrines, groves of trees, “under every green tree.”
7. AN ALTAR =
 - a) A place of worship.
 - b) A place of sacrifice.
 - c) A place of prayer
 - d) A place where divinity meets humanity.
 - e) A “place where the spiritual realm has the legal right to influence the physical realm.” (James Aladiran)
8. The spiritual realm is more important & powerful than the physical; the physical realm was born out of the spiritual realm.

B. DO WE HAVE ALTARS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT?

1. NO, not like the Old Testament. (Jewish temple was destroyed in AD 70. The last sacrifice happened at that time.)

2. YES, but it's a different kind of altar. The Lord spoke to their request! He gave them a promise!
3. **1 Cor. 6:19**—“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have from God...”
YOU ARE THE TEMPLE OF GOD (Holy Spirit)
4. **1 Peter 2:9**—“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own people...”
YOU ARE THE PREIST
5. **Romans 12:1**—“I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice...”
YOU ARE THE SACRIFICE
6. **Matt 6:6**—“But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father...”
(Consider the ministry of Jesus: Did He ever go into a room to pray? The room is really the secret place of the heart.)
YOUR HEART, YOUR MIND—YOU ARE THE ALTAR

C. THE STRENGTH OF ABRAHAM'S ALTAR: (Gen 28)

1. **Gen 28:10-11**—Jacob fled from Esau his brother. Notice the language of verse 11: “certain place” & “that place” x 2
2. Jacob had not been seeking the Lord. He was pursuing wealth and God's blessings but not God.
3. **Gen 28:16**—he wasn't even aware that God was present until after the dream.
4. **How** is it that, running for his life from Esau, Jacob just happens to stop that night at (near) the place where Abraham had met with God? And then while he slept, God met him and promised a blessing to him?

WHAT ABOUT YOUR ALTAR? Are there any sacrifices on it? Is the priest offering them holy or compromised?

THE GOOD NEWS! Just like Abraham, God comes to you offering you a promise.

New Vision Baptist Church

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