

The Golden Incense Altar

Overview of Exodus	The Tabernacle Sketch
1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.	

Exodus 30:1, 6 “And you shall make an altar on which to burn incense; you shall make it of acacia wood. ...And you shall put it before the veil that is over the Ark of the Testimony, before the expiation cover that is over the testimony, where I will meet with you.”

Hebrews 9:3-4 “And after the second veil, a tabernacle, which is called the Holy of Holies, having a golden altar and the Ark of the Covenant covered about everywhere with gold...”

Romans 8:34 “Who is he who condemns? It is Christ Jesus who died and, rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.”

Psalms 141:2 “Let my prayer be set before You as incense.”

Revelation 8:3-4 “And another Angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer, and much incense was given to Him to offer with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense went up with the prayers of the saints out of the hand of the Angel before God.”

Luke 1:10 “And all the multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of the burning of incense.”

Luke 15:15a, 17, 18 “And he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country...but when he came to himself, he said...I will rise up and go to my father...”

Luke 22:31-32 “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has asked to have you all to sift you as wheat. But I have made petition concerning you that your faith would not fail; and you, once you have turned again, establish your brothers.”

Luke 22:40, 46 “He said to them, Pray that you do not enter temptation.”...46 “And He said to them, Why are you sleeping? Rise up and pray that you many not enter into temptation.”

A Closer Look:

The Bible first shows us the altar, the cross of Christ, and then the laver, the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit. Following this, we have Christ as the life supply, as the light, and in the Holy of Holies as the ark. Finally, in the book of Revelation, a book of God's executing, we see that the divine administration, the divine executing, is always carried out by the incense altar.

As those who are seeking the Lord, we both individually and corporately must learn one thing—to pray. We need a praying life. The real praying life is always a life of interceding. Genuine prayer is not mainly to pray for ourselves; it is continually to pray for others. Praying for ourselves is not intercession. But to pray for others is to intercede for them. Thus, prayer for others is intercession.

To burn the incense is to pray Christ, to pray in Christ and with Christ as the incense. This kind of prayer is intercessory prayer, not prayer for ourselves but prayer for the carrying out of the divine administration, for the dispensing of God's supplying grace, and for the churches and the saints. Such prayer is a fragrant incense to God—it fulfills His purpose, satisfies His desire, and delights His heart.

The proper prayer life is a life of praying for others, of interceding for them. We need to pray for the churches throughout the earth and for all the saints. We need to pray for the older ones, the younger ones, and the opposers. Day by day we need to pray not mainly for ourselves, but for others. We need such an interceding life. The intercession offered at the incense altar should daily be increasing.