

SWORD MINISTRIES (Ephesians 6:17)

EXODUS 27:9-19 In our previous study we examined the Outer Court of the Tabernacle; the linen wall that set up the boundary was approximately 150 ft. long x 75 ft. wide with a 30-ft. gate to enter; and the curtains stood 7 ½ ft. high. Now we will begin to study the two pieces of furniture that were in the outer court.

THE BRAZEN ALTAR

EXODUS 27:1-8 this altar was the place where all animals were sacrificed and their bodies burned; this was the first thing the worshipers would see as they entered the Tabernacle.

In the Hebrew, the word ‘*altar*’ is מִזְבֵּחַ *miz-beach* – an altar, the place of sacrifice; lifted up, high, ascending. Jesus Christ was ‘*lifted up*’ on the cross, His altar, on which He personally was the atoning Victim.

JOHN 3:14-16 ‘*And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up*’ (cross reference **EXODUS 3:1-14**)

JOHN 8:21-30 ‘*I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am, ye shall die in your sins.*’ This is a stunning reference to the voice of the Burning Bush; Jesus clearly reveals that He is that Voice!

JOHN 12:23-33 ‘*And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me.*’ Jesus was lifted up on His altar, the cross, for the sins of the world.

HEBREWS 9:23-28; 10:1-14 this is God’s Divine commentary on why He ordained the sacrifices of the Tabernacle, every offering, every death, foreshadowed the work of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, Who has ‘*...by one offering He hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.*’

EXODUS 27:1,2 ‘*And thou shalt make an altar of shittim wood, five cubits long, and five cubits broad; the altar shall be foursquare: and the height thereof shall be three cubits. And thou shalt make the horns of it upon the four corners thereof: his horns shall be of the same: and thou shalt overlay it with brass.*’ The altar was made of shittim (acacia) wood speaking of Jesus’ sinless Humanity; overlaid with brass speaking of judgment, the metal that could withstand the heat of fire.

The Altar was approximately 7 ½ ft. x 7 ½ ft. square, and 4 ½ ft. high. The number ‘5’ speaks of grace in the Bible; the number ‘3’ speaks of the Trinity. We are saved by grace (**EPHESIANS 2:8**); and all Three Members of Trinity were instrumental in our salvation: **HEBREWS 9:14** ‘*How much more shall the blood of Christ, Who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*’ See also **ISAIAH 61:1; 1 PETER 3:18.**

THE TABERNACLE (Study #27)

The Brazen Altar also had four horns on it; horns represent power and authority for the animal which possesses them. The Bible uses the horn as an idiom for an individual’s or a nation’s power. **PSALMS 92:6-10; 132:13-18.**

THE BRAZEN ALTAR’S SYMBOLISM:

1. Horns on the Altar represent power **ROMANS 1:13-17; 1 CORINTHIANS 1:17-25** the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God
2. A Place of Refuge **EXODUS 21:12-14** if a man killed another accidentally, he could flee to the horns on the altar for refuge until the case could be settled. **HEBREWS 6:13-20** the cross of Jesus Christ is a place of refuge for all who flee there with repentant hearts
3. A Place of Mercy OR of Judgment as we contrast the outcome of two Old Testament cases of one fleeing to the horns on the Altar, we find one who found mercy and one who saw death (contrast **1 KINGS 1:50-53** and **2:28-34**). Likewise, the cross is a place of mercy for those who flee there repentantly, and a place of judgment for those who will not repent and receive God’s only provision for sin, Jesus Christ. **1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-24**

DEUTERONOMY 28:15-23 ‘*And thy heaven that is over thy head shall be brass...*’ God is telling Israel that because of sin they will not hear from Him, and is using brass as a symbolic idiom for judgement. **NUMBERS 21:1-9** the serpent of brass was symbolic of God’s judgment upon Israel’s sin. This ‘*...serpent of brass...upon a pole...*’ is an incredible type or foreshadow of Jesus Christ on the cross! **JOHN 3:14-16** Jesus Himself reveals that He is the One whom the serpent of brass spoke of. The serpent is a symbol for sin (**GENESIS 3**), and the Bible tells us that ‘*God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.*’ **2 CORINTHIANS 5:21**

One word of caution: God wants us to worship Him alone, not idols (**ISAIAH 48:11; 42:8**). About 900 years from the time of Moses erecting this pole, we read in **2 KINGS 18:1-4** that the Israelites were actually worshipping the pole. King Hezekiah smashed it to pieces and God was pleased! Worship God alone, not man-made idols.

Jesus Christ is our Brazen Altar, God must judge sin and Jesus has paid the entire price. Have you personally repented and asked Jesus to forgive you and enter into your life by faith? **MATTHEW 5:43-48** perfection only comes by receiving Jesus, praise Him today! **ISAIAH 61:10,11**