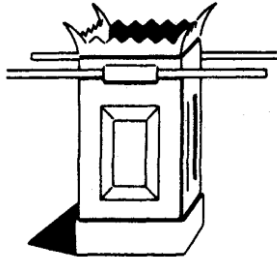


E) The Altar of Incense (Ex 30:1-10)



Exodus 30:1-10 “Moreover, you shall make an altar as a place for burning incense; you shall make it of acacia wood. ² “Its length *shall be* a cubit, and its width a cubit, it shall be square, and its height *shall be* two cubits; its horns *shall be* of one piece with it. ³ “You shall overlay it with pure gold, its top and its sides all around, and its horns; and you shall make a gold molding all around for it. ⁴ “You shall make two gold rings for it under its molding; you shall make *them* on its two side walls—on opposite sides—and they shall be holders for poles with which to carry it. ⁵ “You shall make the poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. ⁶ “You shall put this altar in front of the veil that is near the ark of the testimony, in front of the mercy seat that is over *the ark of* the testimony, where I will meet with you. ⁷ “Aaron shall burn fragrant incense on it; he shall burn it every morning when he trims the lamps. ⁸ “When Aaron trims the lamps at twilight, he shall burn incense. *There shall be* perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations. ⁹ “You shall not offer any strange incense on this altar, or burnt offering or meal offering; and you shall not pour out a drink offering on it. ¹⁰ “Aaron shall make atonement on its horns once a year; he shall make atonement on it with the blood of the sin offering of atonement once a year throughout your generations. It is most holy to the LORD.”

The Altar of Incense

- It was also made with Acacia wood and overlaid with gold, being called the “Golden Altar”.
- It was 2’ X 2’ X 3’ and was placed inside the Holy Place in front of the veil.
- It had four golden horns at each corner and four gold overlaid poles on the sides for transport.



The Altar of Incense is a copy and shadow of prayers of saints.

- Psalm 141:2 May my prayer be counted as incense before You; The lifting up of my hands as the evening offering.
- Luke 1:10 And the whole multitude of the people were in prayer outside at the hour of the incense offering.
- Even during King David’s and Jesus’ era there was a common practice of prayer associated with the Altar of Incense.

The Copy and Shadow: Incense was offered perpetually

- Exod 30:8 "And when Aaron trims the lamps at twilight, he shall burn incense. {There shall be} perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations."

The Reality: Prayers of the Christian are offered perpetually.

- 1Thes 5:17 pray without ceasing;
- Rev 5:8 And when He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, having each one a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

The Copy and Shadow: It was the closest to the Most Holy Place.

- Exod 40:5 "Moreover, you shall set the gold altar of incense before the ark of the testimony, and set up the veil for the doorway to the tabernacle.

The Reality: the Christians' prayers are the closest to God

- Acts 10:4 And fixing his gaze upon him and being much alarmed, he said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God.
- Revelation 8:3-4 Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne. ⁴ And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand.
- Psalm 141:2 May my prayer be counted as incense before You; The lifting up of my hands as the evening offering.

The Copy and Shadow: They had to offer incense in an orderly fashion.

- Lev 10:1-2 Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took their respective firepans, and after putting fire in them, placed incense on it and offered strange fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. ² And fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD.

Reality: We are to offer prayers with an orderly life.

- Matt 6:5 "And when you pray, you are not to be as the hypocrites... Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full."
- Col 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with {an attitude of} thanksgiving;

The Copy and Shadow: The horns were symbols of power.

- Exod 37:25 Then he made the altar of incense of acacia wood: a cubit long and a cubit wide, square, and two cubits high; its horns were {of one piece} with it.

The Reality: The Christians' prayers really do have power.

- Acts 12:5 So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God.

- 2 Cor 1:11 you also joining in helping us through your prayers, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed upon us through {the prayers of} many.
- James 5:16 “...The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.”

“Washington Will Succeed!”

You may read in your United States history how George Washington found rest and relief in prayer during the trying times he and his soldiers passed through at Valley Forge. With all the cares and anxieties of that time upon him, he used to have recourse to prayer. One day a farmer approaching the camp heard an earnest voice. On coming nearer, he saw George Washington on his knees, his cheeks wet with tears, praying to God.

The farmer returned home and said to his wife: “George Washington will succeed! George Washington will succeed! The Americans will secure their independence!”

“What makes you think so, Isaac?” asked his wife. The farmer replied: “I heard him pray, Hannah, out in the woods today, and the Lord will surely hear his prayer. He will, Hannah; thee may rest assured He will.”

The Copy and Shadow: God specified the recipe for the incense to be offered.

- Exodus 30:7 “Aaron shall burn fragrant incense on it; he shall burn it every morning when he trims the lamps.
- Exodus 30:9 “You shall not offer any strange incense on this altar...”
- Exodus 30:34 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Take for yourself spices, stacte and onycha and galbanum, spices with pure frankincense; there shall be an equal part of each.

The Reality: God has laid out a pattern of prayer to be followed.

- His disciples turned to Him for instruction. *Luke 11:1 “...His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray...”*
- Jesus spelled it out to them. *Matthew 6:9 “Pray, then, in this way...”*
- Pray for our leaders. *1 Timothy 2:1-2 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, ² for kings and all who are in authority...”*
- Pray for our enemies. *Matthew 5:44 “But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,*
- Pray for each other. *James 5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed.*
- Pray in submission to God. *Matthew 26:39 And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.”*

Hymn And Pill For Doomed Sub

The British Press Association reported this strange incident: A British submarine lay disabled on the ocean floor. After two days, hope of raising her was abandoned. The crew on orders of the commanding officer began singing:

“Abide with me!
Fast falls the eventide,
The darkness deepens—
Lord, with me abide!
When other helpers
Fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless,
Oh, abide with me!”

The officer explained to the men that they did not have long to live. There was no hope of outside aid, he said, because the surface searchers did not know the vessel’s position. Sedative pills were distributed to the men to quiet their nerves. One sailor was affected more quickly than the others, and he swooned. He fell against a piece of equipment and set in motion the submarine’s jammed surfacing mechanism. The submarine went to the surface and made port safely.