

*Christ In The Old Testament*  
*“The Altar Of God”*  
*Exodus 35:16; 27:1-8*

**Introduction:**

1. Let's Turn Back In Our Bibles Tonight:
  - To Exodus 35 - Where:
    - We Are Following The Outline:
      - Given By The Lord To Moses:
        - And Then By Moses:
          - To The Children Of Israel:
            - About The Construction Of The Tabernacle!
  - And - In Each Piece Of Furniture:
    - We Have Been Given:
      - A Glimpse Of Christ:
        - In Some Way Or Another!
          - Starting Back:
2. In 35:11:
  - Where We Are Told About:
    - “The tabernacle, his tent, and his covering, his taches, and his boards, his bars, his pillars, and his sockets!”
  - And - This Tabernacle Structure Itself:
    - Which Was Made To Be Both:
      - Sturdy & Beautiful:
        - Points Us To The Person Of Christ:
          - With His Two Natures:
            - As Both Man & God!
5. Then - In 35:12:
  - We Are Told About:
    - “The ark, and the staves thereof, with the mercy seat, and the vail of the covering!”
  - All Of These Articles:
    - Which Were Placed In The Holy Of Holies:
      - Point Us To Jesus Christ:
        - As The Greatest Treasure:
          - Of The World!
6. Next - In 35:13:
  - We Are Told About:
    - “The table, and his staves, and all his vessels, and the shewbread!”
  - The Table Of Shewbread:
    - Was Placed On The North Side Of:
      - The Holy Place - And:
        - Shows Us That Jesus Christ:
          - Is The Exclusive Connection:
            - Between Heaven & Earth!
7. While - In 35:14:
  - We Are Told About:
    - “The candlestick also for the light, and his furniture, and his lamps, with the oil for the light!”
  - This Menorah:
    - Was Placed On The South Side:
      - Of The Holy Place - And:
        - Reminds Us That:
          - Jesus & His People Are “The Light Of The World!”
8. In 35:15:
  - We Have Described For Us:
    - “The incense altar, and his staves, and the anointing oil, and the sweet incense, and the hanging for the door at the entering in of the tabernacle!”
  - The Incense Altar:
    - Was Placed In The Middle:

- Of The Holy Place - Right Up Against:
    - The Vail That Separated:
      - The Holy Place From The Holy Of Holies!
  - But - The Smoke & Scent:
    - That Came Off The Altar:
      - Every Morning & Every Evening:
        - Pointed To The Continual Intercession Of Christ:
          - Going On Right Now!
    - Because - He:
      - “Ever Liveth To Make Intercession” For Us! (Hebrews 7:25)
9. And Then - In The First Part Of 35:16:
- We Are Told About:
    - “The altar of burnt offering, with his brasen grate, his staves, and all his vessels!”
      - This Altar Was The First Object:
        - That You Would Come To:
          - If You Were Coming To The Tabernacle!
    - And - The Details About:
      - The Construction Of The Altar:
        - Also Called:
          - “The Brazen Altar” - Can Be Found:
            - In Exodus 27:1-8!
              - So - Let’s Turn There Next And Read Those Verses Together!
    - Where - The Lord Said To Moses:
      - 27:1-8 - “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. / And thou shalt make his pans to receive his ashes, and his shovels, and his basons, and his fleshhooks, and his firepans: all the vessels thereof thou shalt make of brass. / And thou shalt make for it a grate of network of brass; and upon the net shalt thou make four brasen rings in the four corners thereof. / And thou shalt put it under the compass of the altar beneath, that the net may be even to the midst of the altar. / And thou shalt make staves for the altar, staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with brass. / And the staves shall be put into the rings, and the staves shall be upon the two sides of the altar, to bear it. / Hollow with boards shalt thou make it: as it was shewed thee in the mount, so shall they make it!”
10. Now - This Brazen Altar:
- Is Mostly Known For:
    - What Was Done On It!
      - Sacrifice! Because:
        - There Were Burnt Offerings, Sin Offerings, Guilt Offerings, And Peace Offerings:
          - That Were To Be Made There!
    - And - Each Kind Of Sacrifice:
      - Teaches Us Something:
        - About The Sacrifice Of Christ:
          - Who Redeemed Us:
            - With His “Precious Blood” - “As Of A Lamb Without Blemish And Without Price!” (1 Peter 1:19)
      - And - Certainly - These Sacrifices:
        - Are Another Way For Us To:
          - Find Christ In The Old Testament!
11. But - I Believe - As We Will See Tonight:
- That The Brazen Altar Itself:
    - Is A Picture Of Christ!
      - In Hebrews 13:10 - We Are Told:
        - “We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle!”
    - And - That Altar Is Christ!
      - And - The First Thing We Can Learn:
        - From The Altar Is:

## 1. *The Sufficiency Of Christ!*

- In 27:1 - We Are Given The Dimensions:
  - Of The Altar! And:
    - Though We Were Also Given The Dimensions:
      - Of Most Of The Other Objects Of The Tabernacle:
        - The Size Of The Altar:
          - Is Significant!
- It Was 5 Cubits Long / 5 Cubits Broad / 3 Cubits High!
  - Which Translates To:
    - 7.5 Feet Square / 4.5 Feet High!
      - It Was The Largest Object:
        - Besides The Tabernacle Tent Itself!
  - It Has Been Said That:
    - All Of The Other Objects:
      - Could Have Fit Inside The Brazen Altar:
        - With Some Room To Spare!
- In 27:8 - We Are Told Expressly That:
  - The Altar Was Made To Be:
    - “Hollow” - So That:
      - It Could Hold Up To 253 Cubic Feet Of Sacrificial Material!
        - How Much Is That? 377 5-Gallon Bucket Loads!
- I Believe That:
  - The Size Of The Brazen Alter:
    - And Later - The Size Of:
      - The Altar Of The Temple:
        - Expressed The Sufficiency Of Christ - To Handle:
          - All Of The Necessary Sacrifice For The Sins:
            - Of Those Who Come To & Believe In Him!
- Because Christ Himself:
  - Is The Altar Of Sacrifice:
    - He Is Able To:
      - “Cleanse” All Of Us:
        - :From All Unrighteousness!”
    - And - This Is One Reason Why:
      - We Can “Run To Christ” - As We Sang Earlier!
        - Because Of The Sufficiency Of Christ!
          - Another Reason Is:

## 2. ***The Strength Of Christ!***

- In 27:2 - God Told Moses:
  - “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!”
    - There Are Two Symbols Of Strength:
      - In This Verse! Let’s Look At:
        - The Last One First!
  - The Strength Of Its Metal!
    - Here - In The King James - Called “Brass!”
      - Better Translated - “Bronze!”
        - “Brass” As We Know It:
          - Wasn’t Developed Until:
            - Around 500 BC!
      - However - Bronze:
        - Which Was An Alloy Of Copper & Tin:
          - Was Developed As Early As:
            - 3500 BC - Which Started The “Bronze Age!”
      - The Alter Was Overlaid With Bronze:
        - Which Was Just The Right Material:
          - To Be Able To Withstand:
            - Not Only The Heat:

- Of The Fire!
- But Also:
  - The Weather & Elements Of Both The Desert & The Promised Land!
- The Strength Of The Altar's Metal:
  - Points To The Inner Strength:
    - Of Christ Himself!
  - Who Was The Only Person Able:
    - To Withstand The Holy Fire Of God's Wrath:
      - For Our Sin - And Not Be Consumed!
- And Now - When You Believe In Christ:
  - His Inner Strength:
    - Is Made Available & Accessible:
      - To You! Which Is Seen Also In:
- The Strength Of Its Horns!
  - Like We Learned Last Week:
    - About The Incense Altar - And How:
      - The Horns On That Altar:
        - Connected The Interior Of The Tabernacle:
          - To The Exterior - And:
            - This Altar!
  - This Means That:
    - The Brazen Altar - And What Was Done On It:
      - Prepared The Way For:
        - The Incense Altar:
          - And What Could Be Done On It!
  - And - The Horns On Both Altars:
    - Were Symbols Of Strength!
      - The Mighty Strength Of Christ:
        - On Behalf Of His People!
    - In 2 Corinthians 12:9:
      - Jesus Himself Told Paul:
        - Who Was Dealing With His Own Weakness - "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness!"
          - And - So It Is For Us!
  - Another Use Of The Horns:
    - Of The Brazen Altar:
      - Was To Tie Up Animals:
        - While They Were Still Alive!
    - Psalm 118:27 Says:
      - "God is the LORD, which hath shewed us light: bind the sacrifice with cords, even unto the horns of the altar!"
    - This May Have Been:
      - What Paul Had In Mind When He Wrote:
        - Romans 12:1 - "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service!"
- And - Christ Himself - Because He Is:
  - The Altar Of Sacrifice:
    - Makes This Possible:
      - Through His Strength!
  - And - Now - You Can:
    - "Run To Christ" For:
      - His Strength - At Any Time:
        - To Serve & To Be A Living Sacrifice:
          - For The Lord!
  - But - Those Same Horns Of The Altar:
    - Also Reveal To Us:

### 3. *The Sanctuary Of Christ!*

- There Are Couple Of Times:
  - In The Old Testament:
    - When Men - Whose Lives Were At Stake:
      - Ran To The Altar:
        - To Take Hold Of One Of Its Horns!
  - Adonijah Did This:
    - In 1 Kings 1:50 - When:
      - He Feared For His Life:
        - Because Solomon, His Brother, Had Been Made King!
  - Joab Also Did This:
    - In 1 Kings 2:28 - When:
      - He Also Feared For His Life:
        - Because Of Solomon!
- Now - Even Though - For Both Men:
  - The Altar Was:
    - A Place Of Sanctuary!
      - Only One Of Those Men Was Spared!
        - Joab Was Actually Killed:
          - At The Altar!
    - But - This Is Not The Case:
      - With Christ!
- Since Jesus Himself:
  - Is The Altar Of Sacrifice:
    - He Is A Sanctuary:
      - For Everyone Who:
        - Lays Hold On Him By Faith:
          - For A Refuge From Their Sin & God's Wrath!
    - In Hebrews 6:18 - We Are Told That:
      - "We might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us!"
  - The Sacrifice Of Christ:
    - Was Able To "Put Away Sin" Because:
      - He Himself Is:
        - The Altar Of Sacrifice!
  - So - Run To Christ:
    - As Your Sanctuary!
      - Because - Once You Take Hold Of:
        - Christ - By Faith:
          - He Then Provides:

### 4. *The Service Of Christ!*

- Which Is What We See Next In:
  - The Instruments That Were Made:
    - To Attend To The Altar:
      - In 27:3 - "And thou shalt make his pans to receive his ashes, and his shovels, and his basons, and his fleshhooks, and his firepans: all the vessels thereof thou shalt make of brass!"
    - These Instruments:
      - Were The Priests Connection:
        - To The Brazen Altar!
- They Would Use:
  - The Pans / Pots & Shovels:
    - To Clean Out:
      - The Ashes Made:
        - From The Sacrifices!
- They Would Use:
  - The Basons:

- To Hold The Liquids Necessary:
    - To Tend To The Altar:
      - For Wine & For Blood!
  - They Would Use:
    - The Fleshhooks:
      - To Move The Offerings & Coals Around:
        - To Ensure That The Sacrifice:
          - Was Burned Up Entirely!
            - Much Like You Would Do At A Campfire!
  - They Would Use:
    - The Firepans - Or - Censers:
      - To Carry Coals From The Brazen Altar:
        - In Order To Offer Incense:
          - On The Incense Altar!
- All Of These Instruments:
  - Were Used By The Priests:
    - To Tend To The Altar:
      - In An Ongoing Way!
  - And - So It Is:
    - With The Altar Of Christ!
      - When You Find The Strength Of Christ:
        - To Be Your Sanctuary:
          - Then - You Have Continual Access To Him As Your Altar!
  - You Can Now Go To Him:
    - When You Need Cleansing:
      - From The Ashes Of Your Indwelling Sin!
        - Because - 1 John 1:9 - "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness!"
  - You Can Now Go To Jesus:
    - When You Need To Be Revived:
      - In Your Own Heart!
        - Stay Connected To The Altar Of Christ & His Sacrifice!
    - Because - 1 Corinthians 5:14-15:
      - "The Love Of Christ Constraineth Us!" / So That - "They which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again!"
  - Also - You Can Now Go Through Christ:
    - With The Coals From His Altar:
      - To "Come Boldly Unto The Throne Of Grace!" (Hebrews 4:16)
- Because Christ Himself:
  - *Is* The Altar Of Sacrifice:
    - His Sacrifice Has Enduring Significance & Service:
      - For You - Especially:
        - When You Need It Most!
  - But Then - We Can Also See:

## 5. *The Sanctification Of Christ!*

- In The Brazen Altar!
  - In Exodus 29:36-42 - We Are Told About:
    - The Consecration Of The Altar!
      - For Seven Days:
        - A Single Bullock Was Offered:
          - For A Sin Offering!
      - And Those Offerings:
        - Were To Cleanse The Altar!
    - And - After Being Anointed:
      - With The Holy Anointing Oil:
        - The Altar Was Made Fit For:
          - All The Sacrifices:

- That Were To Be Made There!
- But - In 29:37b - We Are Told This:
  - About The Altar:
    - “It shall be an altar most holy: whatsoever toucheth the altar shall be holy!”
    - Or - “Whatever touches the altar shall become holy!” (ESV)
- Jesus Himself Referred To This Principle:
  - In Matthew 23:19 - When He Said To The Scribes & Pharisees:
    - “Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift?”
- So - It Was The Altar:
  - That Sanctified & Set Apart:
    - The Gift Or Sacrifice:
      - Made To The Lord!
  - It Was The Altar:
    - That Made Whatever Touched It:
      - Holy & Consecrated Unto God!
- This Too Is True Of Christ!
  - It Was The Divine & Holy Nature:
    - Of Jesus Christ:
      - That Made His Sacrifice:
        - Holy & Acceptable:
          - To God The Father!
    - It Was His Infinite:
      - Sufficiency & Strength & Sanctuary & Service:
        - That Gave His Sacrifice:
          - Infinite & Eternal Significance & Value!
  - But - Since This Was True:
    - Of Christ - Now:
- This Is True Of Christians!
  - When You Lay Hold On Christ:
    - By Faith:
      - As The True Altar Of Sacrifice:
        - You Become “Washed” & “Sanctified” & “Justified” – All “In The Name Of The Lord Jesus!”

**Conclusion:**

1. When You Need:
  - Any Of These Things:
    - Run & Take Hold Of Christ:
      - So That You Can Experience:
        - The Fulness Of Christ:
          - As The Altar Of God!

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