

#1

The Tabernacle, Part 9: The Brazen Altar

When you begin to approach the Tabernacle, the first piece of furniture that you see is the Brazen Altar.

It was a square form, which was 5 cubits long, 5 cubits broad and 3 high (Exodus 27:1). (A Cubit is 18")

(7½ ft X 7½ ft X 4½ ft)

It was made of acacia wood and overlaid with brass.

At each corner was a horn (v. 2).

Animals were bound to the horns and sacrificed.

#2

Psalms 118:27 "Bind the sacrifice with cords, even unto the horns of the altar"

Leviticus 8:15 tells us the altar was the place for the atonement and reconciliation between God and His sinful people.

The priests sprinkled the blood of the atoning victims on the altar.

The carcasses would be put on the fire to be consumed.

Day by day, animals were slain, and fresh blood was poured out.

The blood that was shed and poured out was atonement, for the sins of the people.

The death of the sacrifice signified that there was reason to die.

Transgressions and sins had made him guilty.

This life was offered in substitution.

#3

First, the Altar is a type of the cross.

It was on a Cross the Prince of Glory, the Lamb of God died.

He was offered up on the Cross.

Reconciliation was made upon the altar.

#4

The end of all sacrifices was attained on Christ's Cross. The blood that was shed and sprinkled upon the altar testifies of the blood that cleanses from sin.

Second, the altar was sometimes used as a place of sanctuary.

Transgressors were shielded by divine authority, from punishment, at the horns of the altar.

They held to the horns of the altar seeking mercy and pardon.

Those not protected by the law -- fled to the altar in vain.

Adonijah fled from the wrath of Solomon, and held on to the horns of the altar.

He continued to cling to them until he was pardoned, 1 Kings 1:50-53.

Joab held on the same horns, but he was killed while clinging to them.

We have an altar.

Jesus has never failed sinners who have fled to Him.

In Christ's Cross, the wrath of God is satisfied and sins are forgiven.

If you are guilty, you may find a shelter and refuge in the cross of Jesus Christ.

#5

Third, the altar stood in the center of the court.

When worshippers entered it was the first thing they saw.

They could not fail to see the blood-stained exterior.

They could see the fire blazing.

They could see the sacrifice.

The crucified Christ must be the center of the New Testament church.

Jesus Christ must be our greatest attraction.

The Blood and sacrifice of Jesus is the central focus of the redeemed.

We must turn our attention from everything else that distracts to Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

Our plea and safety is found in the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

#6

When God instructed them to build the tabernacle, God was leading them to Christ.

The tabernacle is a place of meeting, where divinity and humanity meet.

The tabernacle is a where blood is shed and redemption is procured.

#7

God wants us to understand John 3:16.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

It cost the Lord of glory everything.

When the tabernacle was built and put in the center of their lives it cost each person.

Every man and woman contributed to this place.

It was there because the people freely gave.

God wants us to understand that if we don't give nothing will be built.

This works in the church, but it also applies to your marriage.

This works in your life.

This works with your children.

This works.

Giving is an integral part of life.

God is trying to break them from the slave, welfare mentality.

This is not a hand me down, rummage sale, church.

The tabernacle is going to be filled with the glory and presence of God.

The glory and presence of God comes with great personal sacrifice. It is going to cost you something.

It cost Israel to build the tabernacle.

Each socket around the base of the Tabernacle required 93¾ pounds of silver.

There were 100 silver sockets. (9,375 pounds of silver)

Numbers 1:46 said: they gave 603,350 silver coins that weighed ½ shekel each to supply the silver.

This was ransom money.

It was the amount of money needed to redeem each man.

The gold to cover the 48 boards and 4 pillars of the tabernacle required 43,856 ounces. (2,741 pounds of gold)

The necessary silver for the remainder of the construction equaled 150,887 ½ ounces.

(9,430.5 pounds of silver)

They needed 106,200 ounces of brass.

(6,637.5 pounds)

They gave precious gems, fine linen, and precious items.

The women gave their bronze mirrors to make the laver.

The tabernacle became the focal point of their lives.

It was in the center of everything that they did.

#8

#9

This is one of the problems today.

The work of the Lord must be in the center of our lives.

You cannot put God over in the basement or on the fringe.

Everywhere they went they ran into this place where they met with God.

God must be in the center of our lives.

God cannot be put off into the corner somewhere.

God does not want to be on the outskirts of your life.

He must dwell in the center of your life.

#10

When Christ becomes the center of your life, giving is natural.

God told Moses to ask them for everything that it took to build the tabernacle.

It only becomes yours when you invest in it.

Your giving opens up the glory.

*"The people had the offering
but God had the plan."*

In many churches, we have the plan and we ask God to give us what we need to do it.

They were building what God initiated for them.

They could not build what they wanted to.

To meet with God, they had to follow His plan.

When our sacrifice comes into God's design, we will run into the glory of God.

These people wanted to see the glory of God.

The glory was so important that they were willing to make a personal sacrifice.

Nothing meant as much to them as being able to walk up into that glory like Moses.

They were willing to pay the price.
These people could not go back to their past.
All they could count on was the Glory of God.
Nothing was as important as the Glory of God.
They could not go forward in life without the Glory and presence of God.

I want to go where Moses goes.

I want to do what Moses does.

I want to experience what Moses experiences.

#1 ***Exodus 25:8*** God said: "let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them."

Everything they were asked to do worked out for their benefit.

They were preparing for the presence of God.

When the Priest went into the Tabernacle, he represented the people.

When Moses came down from the presence of God, he represented God to the people.

Everything they did was a representation of Christ.

Everything was done according to what God showed them. ***Exodus 25:9***

They could not just build anything they wanted to.

They heard from God and had to follow the pattern.

Every little measure was exact.

Every article had to fit the pattern.

Every part is etching a design of Christ.

If it was to represent Christ, it had to meet God's design.

If we are going to be like Jesus Christ, we must live the way God designs.

We must hear from Him and follow His lead.

We are building something with our lives.
It is not about your sacrifice.
It is not about what you want.
It is not about what you like.

We are working toward something here.

We are workers together with God.

It must look like Jesus Christ.
It must represent the Lord.

When the tabernacle was erected, all 12 tribes could look out and see God's glory.

It was in the midst of them all.
Everyone had access to God.

All tribes and people need access to God.

Red, Yellow, black and White...

Rich, poor, skinny, and fat...

Everybody should see God in you.

Exodus 25:10-22 God continues to tell them what they have to do to construct this place of meeting.

When they finish, God says:

Exodus 25:22 *And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony,* about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.

There I will meet with you.

God has prepared a place to meet with them.

He wants to show them His mercy.

He wants to show them His grace.
He wants to pardon and reconcile.
He wants to redeem and justify.

He wants to come down.
He wants to meet with them.

The pillar of cloud represented the residing Shekinah Glory of God.

Nothing was on fire.
The Glory of God was in the house.
The Cloud was a sign of the glory and presence of God.
There was so much of the glory of God that you could see it.

#13

The world around us needs to know God is in the house.

They will see the difference.
The presence of God is in the midst of them.
There was never a question when God was in their midst.
When Christ died on the Cross He went into the heavenly holies.

The veil of the temple was rent.
He put His own blood on the Mercy Seat.

On the day of Pentecost, the Glory of God descended on the Church.

There was no doubt their sins were forgiven
There was no doubt that God was in the House
There was no doubt that their lives had been changed.