

#1

## *The Tabernacle, Part 16: The Altar of Incense*

**Exodus 30:1-10 (NKJV)** “You shall make an altar to burn incense on; you shall make it of acacia wood. A cubit shall be its length and a cubit its width—it shall be square—and two cubits shall be its height. Its horns shall be of one piece with it. And you shall overlay its top, its sides all around, and its horns with pure gold; and you shall make for it a molding of gold all around. Two gold rings you shall make for it, under the molding on both its sides.

#2

You shall place them on its two sides, and they will be holders for the poles with which to bear it. You shall make the poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold. And you shall put it before the veil that is before the ark of the Testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the Testimony, where I will meet with you.

#3

***“Aaron shall burn on it sweet incense every morning; when he tends the lamps, he shall burn incense on it. And when Aaron lights the lamps at twilight, he shall burn incense on it, a perpetual incense before the Lord throughout your generations.***

#4

You shall not offer strange incense on it, or a burnt offering, or a grain offering; nor shall you pour a drink offering on it. And Aaron shall make atonement upon its horns once a year with the blood of the sin offering of atonement; once a year he shall make atonement upon it throughout your generations. It is most holy to the Lord.”

***When you enter the Holy Place, you are impressed with the sweet smell from the altar of incense.***

In the outer court, you would have smelled burning flesh.

Every day two lambs were burnt on the brazen altar.

#5

The fire on that altar was to never go out.  
 There was a constant fire and smoke on the brazen altar.  
 God wanted the people to know that He was ready to receive them and make atonement for sins.

***Leviticus 6:13 (NLT)*** Remember, the fire must be kept burning on the altar at all times. It must never go out.

The smoke from the altar was a constant reminder of sin.  
 Had it not been for the death of the sacrifice you would die.

#6

***Listen to Leviticus 1***

***Leviticus 1:1-4 (NKJV)*** Now the Lord called to Moses, and spoke to him from the tabernacle of meeting, saying, “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When any one of you brings an offering to the Lord, you shall bring your offering of the livestock—of the herd and of the flock. ‘If his offering is a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish; he shall offer it of his own free will at the door of the tabernacle of meeting before the Lord. Then he shall put his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it will be accepted on his behalf to make atonement for him.

#7

***When you come into the Holy Place, you walk from the smell of smoke and death into the sweet smell of incense.***

***God does not want the church to dwell in the smell of death.***

When you come into the Holy Place the judgment and sin have been dealt with.

The church is to be filled with the sweet smell of the worship of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The aroma of their prayer, praise, and supplication blocked out the smell of death and destruction.

***On the outside animals had to die to pay the price so you could enter into this grace wherein you dwell.***

We have access into the grace of God by the blood of Jesus Christ.

***The incense represents the worship and prayers of the saints.***

***The fire on the brazen altar made it possible for them to have the fire for the incense in the holy place.***

*They could not come near to God without the incense.*

*The Shekinah glory of God's presence could not be accessed without the atonement sacrifice.*

God wants to draw you away from the atmosphere and consciousness of sin.

He wants to draw you into an atmosphere of praise and consciousness of His Presence.

#8

***God wants the redeemed ones to dwell in an atmosphere of prayer and worship.***

***Luke 18:1*** “men always ought to pray and not faint,”  
***If you don't dwell in an atmosphere of prayer, the smell of death will take over.***

A lack of prayer hinders many in the church.

They are constantly exposed to the aroma of judgment and death.

Listen to them and you will know where they are dwelling.

***The only way to walk with God is through an active prayer and worship life.***

God's presence is always behind, through, or surrounded by prayer, praise, and worship.

God dwells in the midst of thanksgiving and praise.  
 The Angels are constantly singing: *Holy, Holy, Holy!*  
 If you don't develop a prayer life, you will never be able to dwell in His presence.  
 You will miss His glory.

***What God has for you requires a consistent prayer life.***

It's not enough to just come to church.  
 It's not enough to sing.  
 It's not enough to teach a class or serve as an usher.  
 It's not enough to do whatever you do.

***Whatever you are doing for God must be done in the smoke of prayer.***

If you don't serve in the smoke of prayer.  
 If you don't sing in the smoke of prayer.  
 If you don't work in the smoke of prayer.

You will not be able to stay in the presence of God.

***The only way you will be able to continue to do the work of the Lord is to dwell in the atmosphere of prayer.***

#9

***I would like you to draw a cross on a piece of paper.***

Where Christ was wounded there is a piece of furniture.  
 At the top of the cross write - the ***Ark of the Covenant***, that is where He had the ***Crown of Thorns***  
 At the foot of the cross write - the ***Brazen Altar***, that is where His ***feet were pierced***  
 On the right of the cross write - the ***table of Showbread***, that is where ***His right hand was pierced***.  
 The ***golden Candlestick*** is where they ***nailed his left hand***.  
 Halfway up the cross, write - the ***laver***, that is where his ***side was pierced***.  
 The ***altar of incense*** was where ***His heart*** is.

***When we are talking about the altar of incense, we are talking about the heart of God.***

We are talking about Jesus Christ operating as your priest and mediator.

***You were on His heart, when He was on the cross.***

***Exodus 40:5 (NASB95)*** “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 only thing to between the Ark of the Covenant and the Altar of Incense was the Veil of the Tabernacle.***

The Ark of the Covenant is on one side and the Altar Of Incense is on the other.

When Jesus died on the cross, the veil in the temple was rent in two.

***When you pray it is like incense going up before God as a sweet smell.***

#10

***Psalms 141:1-2 (NKJV)*** LORD, I cry out to You; Make haste to me! Give ear to my voice when I cry out to You. Let my prayer be set before You *as* incense, The lifting up of my hands *as* the evening sacrifice.

#11

***Revelation 8:2-4 (NIV)*** And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all the saints, on the golden altar before the throne. The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel’s hand.

***You can bring your petition as far as the veil.***

***You cannot go beyond the veil.***

*When you pray in the Name of Jesus, Jesus takes your prayer where you cannot go.*

We have an intercessor in heaven.

#12

**John 16:23** “And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.”

#13

**Hebrews 7:24-26 (NKJV)** But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. *Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.* For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;

*Jesus Christ our High Priest is able to take our prayers beyond the veil into the presence of God.*

You pray in the name of Jesus.

Jesus now takes your prayers and goes where you cannot go.

*Whatever you ask the Father in My Name, He will give you.*

#14

**Hebrews 7:25(NKJV)** Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

*He takes our prayers beyond the veil; into the presence of God, so that we may have our petitions granted.*

#15

**1 John 5:14-15(NKJV)** Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

***In Jesus Name our prayers are going to get through.***

We have someone who is taking them into the presence of the Father.

This is why you need to pray in the name of Jesus.

He knows how to go into the presence of the Father.

He opens up the way so you can enter in and have access to the Father.

He is the one who gives grace to help in the time of need.

***The last thing that you prayed about, He took it all the way into the presence of the Father.***

The Devil said your prayer did not go anywhere.

He said your words fell to the floor.

The Devil is a liar.

***Jesus took your petition on into the presence of the Father.***

Your prayer has reached the throne because you have a mediator.

This fact will change your prayer life.

You have been dwelling in the smell of death.

***You need to come into incense of consecrated, anointed, Holy Ghost prayer.***

This will change the way you act to situations in your life.

#16

***We must live in the atmosphere of a prayerful spirit.***

***When you dwell in a prayerful spirit, you have confidence that your prayers are making it through to the Father.***

When you are dwelling in a prayerful spirit, you know there are certain things that cannot break in.

Demonic powers cannot break in, because you are covered on every side, and you dwell in a prayerful spirit.

***The altar of incense is all about intercessory prayer and knowing that you are in the room with the Lord.***

You don't have to wonder if you are in His presence.

*The Bible says: "in Him we live, in Him we move, and have our being."*

To you can dwell in a consecrated atmosphere.

*The reason some are defeated is because they are not dwelling in an atmosphere of incense and a consecrated life.*

*Just a little bit prayer will affect a huge problem.*

It doesn't matter how big the problem is, if you will start praying things will change.

It doesn't matter how long the problem has been going.

It doesn't matter how deep the problem is.

Just a little bit prayer will change things.

*You need to talk to Jesus about the problem.*

*The elements of the incense reflect the various aspects of prayer, praise, and worship.*

Your whole atmosphere will change when you start praying and worshipping God.

Prayer, praise, and worship put off incense that changes your surroundings.

Satan knows when you have been praying.

There is an aroma of prayer, praise, and worship.

No wonder the scriptures say: *"Enter into His presence with thanksgiving in your heart, Enter into His courts with praise."*

*Prayer and worship will change the atmosphere in your house.*

Stop dwelling on the problems and start praying and worshipping God.

In the atmosphere of prayer and worship you will come into the presence of God.

You have to live in there.

You need to consecrate your atmosphere with prayer.

You can't dwell in the midst of dead things.

You are a Priest unto God.

You can't dwell just anywhere.

***You have to create an atmosphere so you can live and have peace of mind.***

Don't let Satan control your atmosphere.

***God put you where you are to change the atmosphere.***

The Bible said one of you could put a thousand to flight.

Don't lose sight of the power of the Church.

#18

***Psalm 141:1-2 (KJV)*** LORD, I cry unto thee: make haste unto me; give ear unto my voice, when I cry unto thee. Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

He is saying Lord: *Let my prayer go up before you like incense.*

You literally change the atmosphere when you go to prayer.

***You need understand that your prayers are getting through.***

#19

***Revelation 8:2-4 (NKJV)*** And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.

When your prayer gets through, you know that the answer is on the way.

No Devil in hell can take your petition out of the Lord's hand.

You need to learn to put it all in His hand.

You can't deal with it.

You can't carry it.

Put it all in his hand.

He knows how to carry it.

The Levitical priesthood could come to the altar of incense.

Only the High Priest was able to go into the Holy of Holies.

You are part of the Priesthood.

The only way your prayer can go up to the Father is in the Name of Jesus.

*Are you glad you have an intercessor between God and man?*

*Are you glad that Jesus is your mediator?*

#20

**1 Peter 2:9-10 (NKJV)** But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

***You are a royal priesthood unto God.***

No Priest is allowed to come to God empty handed.

Priests serve God.

You have been allowed to come in to serve God.

This is a place of service to God.

Worship and prayer is about God.

Everybody that went into that place was busy.

I'm talking about falling on our face in prayer before God.

I'm talking about worshipping in the Spirit.

I'm talking about speaking in tongues.

I'm talking about moving into worship and service before him.

***You are a holy nation and a peculiar people that you should show forth praises of Him who called you out of darkness.***

We must not act like everyone else.

***We are a chosen generation to show forth praises of Him who called us out of darkness.***

*It is time to separate ourselves from the world.*

It is time to return to the Lord.

It is time to rekindle the fire and lift up your prayer and praises unto God.

It is time to return to the Lord with weeping.

It is time...