

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

This morning we our text is going to be Exodus 27

Once again, Moses is on top Mt. Sinai receiving instructions on how God wanted the Children of Israel to worship Him.

God didn't leave it up to the Children of Israel to choose for themselves how they were going to worship Him – it had to be done His way.

And for the past two chapters, God has given Moses precise instructions on how to construct the Ark of the Covenant, the table for the showbread, the Golden Lampstand and last week we studied the Tabernacle itself.

Show pics of Tabernacle and Mercy Seat

And as I have mentioned repeatedly in the studies – everything in the Tabernacle points to Jesus Christ.

All the furnishings, the colors, the materials, the qty's – all point to Christ.

This week, we are going to look at the biggest piece of furniture in the Tabernacle – and that is the bronze altar that stood in in the courtyard.

Show picture of the altar

In our study, we will see the significance of this altar – why was it positioned in that precise place and what was its purpose - but most importantly, we will see how it points to Jesus Christ.

Let's pray...

[Exo 27:1-21 NKJV] 1 "You shall make an altar of acacia wood, five cubits long and five cubits wide--the altar shall be square--and its height [shall be] three cubits.

Moses is up in Mt. Sinai – and God gives him the blue prints to build this altar.

The measurements – 5 cubits by 5 cubits by 3 cubits

That is 7.5' x 7.5' x 4.5'

Last week, I told you that the number five in scripture represents grace.

The number three represents completeness or fulfillment.

There is a reason that Jesus rose after the third day - In Jewish culture, three days past the time of death indicated that one was truly dead. Therefore, Jesus truly conquered death by not rising until the third day.

We can't examine the number three without talking about the Trinity – God is three in one: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

The Altar made of Acacia wood – the same as the Ark of the Covenant –

Wood is scripture points to humanity.

In previous studies – I pointed out that the Ark of the Covenant was made of Acacia wood overlaid with gold (gold represents deity) – pointing to Jesus Christ who was 100% man and 100% God at the same time.

The altar as we will see in a little bit - was overlaid in bronze – and as we saw last week – bronze represents judgment.

2 "You shall make its horns on its four corners; its horns shall be of one piece with it. And you shall overlay it with bronze.

In all four corners of the altar – there was a horn.

These four horns were there so that the animals would be bound to the altar before it was slain.

Jesus was bound to the cross – it wasn't the nails/spikes through His hands and feet that bound Him to the cross – He was bound to the cross by His love for me and you.

Those that mocked Jesus as He hung on the cross to save Himself – did not comprehend that if Jesus did save Himself from the cross – He couldn't save them.

3 "Also you shall make its pans to receive its ashes, and its shovels and its basins and its forks and its firepans; you shall make all its utensils of bronze. 4

"You shall make a grate for it, a network of bronze; and on the network you shall

make four bronze rings at its four corners. 5 "You shall put it under the rim of the altar beneath, that the network may be midway up the altar.

The utensils were there to pick up the ashes and move the sacrifices as it burned in the fire, the basins were used to capture the blood –

The altar had a grate where the sacrifice would sit –

I asked you to make a note of the position of it – halfway up the altar.

Verse one told us that the altar was 3 cubits high. That means that the grate was 1.5 cubits off the ground.

The distance from the ground to the top of the Mercy Seat on the Ark of the Covenant – remember, the mercy seat is where God was going to meet His people – it was 1.5 cubits off the ground as well.

So we see how mercy and judgment are equal in God's sight.

Yes we have a merciful God – but at the same time, we need to remember that He is just.

6 "And you shall make poles for the altar, poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with bronze. 7 "The poles shall be put in the rings, and the poles shall be on the two sides of the altar to bear it. 8 "You shall make it hollow with boards; as it was shown you on the mountain, so shall they make [it].

The altar – like the Ark of the Covenant and everything in the Tabernacle – it was to be made so that it could be transported – and God provided that design as well.

Notice at the end of verse 8 that once again, God tells Moses that he better follow the instructions that have been given to him regarding the altar.

Now, chapter 27 doesn't tell us the position of the altar but chapter 40 does – the altar is placed just inside the gate with the courtyard that surrounded the Tabernacle.

That means that anyone who entered the Tabernacle (courtyard) the first thing that they would see would be the altar.

And there was no way to go into the Tabernacle (presence of God) without first passing by the altar.

Church, this shows that we can only approach God by the shedding of blood.

We are all sinners

Our sin separates us from God

The remedy for sin is sacrifice

And that is what Jesus Christ did when He died for you and me.

**[1Co 15:3 NKJV] 3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received:
that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,**

The shedding of His blood allows us to approach our Heavenly Father.

So we see how the altar points to Jesus' sacrifice upon the cross –

I want to show you now, how the altar points to Jesus Christ Himself.

Turn with me to the book of Isaiah -

[Isa 6:1-5 NKJV] 1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His [robe] filled the temple. 2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy [is] the LORD of hosts; The whole earth [is] full of His glory!" 4 And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. 5 So I said: **"Woe [is] me, for I am undone! Because I [am] a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts."**

Isaiah has a vision that he is standing in the presence of God.

And as he sees the holiness of God and the righteousness of His throne, he begins to realize how sinful he was – he realizes that he is unworthy to be in His presence that is why he cries out – “woe is me for I am undone”

[Isa 6:6-7 NKJV] 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal [which] he had taken with the tongs from **the altar. 7 And he touched my**

mouth [with it], and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged."

The "altar" is Jesus Christ: the sacrifice consumed on it by the live coal speaks of His work on the cross for us sinners.

The "live coal" is a figure of God's holiness consuming that which offends Him.

And that "live coal" lies now upon the Altar, waiting for the sinner to take the place Isaiah took, and pass judgment on himself, realize that he is a sinner, as he did; and the moment he does so his iniquity is taken away and his sin is purged.

9 "You shall also make the court of the tabernacle. For the south side [there shall be] hangings for the court [made of] fine woven linen, one hundred cubits long for one side. 10 "And its twenty pillars and their twenty sockets [shall be] bronze. The hooks of the pillars and their bands [shall be] silver. 11 "Likewise along the length of the north side [there shall be] hangings one hundred [cubits] long, with its twenty pillars and their twenty sockets of bronze, and the hooks of the pillars and their bands of silver. 12 "And along the width of the court on the west side [shall be] hangings of fifty cubits, with their ten pillars and their ten sockets. 13 "The width of the court on the east side [shall be] fifty cubits. 14 "The hangings on [one] side [of the gate shall be] fifteen cubits, [with] their three

pillars and their three sockets. 15 "And on the other side [shall be] hangings of fifteen [cubits, with] their three pillars and their three sockets.

The Tabernacle and the bronze altar were not visible to the Children of Israel that camped around it – and the reason that they couldn't see it was because it was surrounded by a white linen fence 7.5' tall.

The courtyard was 150' long by 75' wide.

This white linen fence was held up by a system of "pillars", which we might call "fence posts".

60 pillars in all.

The pillars had a base made of bronze, were connected at the top with silver rods and hooks, and were also apparently supported with bronze stakes and cords.

I had mentioned last week that silver symbolizes redemption in scripture.

Fine white linen in the Bible is often an illustration of the righteousness of God that is a free gift when a sinner trusts Jesus for salvation.

To help us understand our need for salvation, God describes it to us in terms of clothing.

In our natural state, born in trespasses and sin, the Bible, in Isaiah 64:6, describes us as wearing "filthy rags."

Why is that a problem?

Think of it this way: Heaven has a dress code, and people in filthy rags are turned away.

We need a new spiritual wardrobe.

Specifically, we need a robe of righteousness. In Isaiah 61:10 we read,

[Isa 61:10 NKJV] 10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks [himself] with ornaments, And as a bride adorns [herself] with her jewels.

Now – turn with me to Rev 19

[Rev 19:7-8 NKJV] 7 "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." 8 And to her it **was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.**

The bride, of course, is the church –

This “fine linen” robe, the garment we need to enter Heaven, is “granted.”

It is a gift. It can't be earned or deserved.

It's available to everyone; but like any gift, one must receive it.

When you were “in” the Court of the Tabernacle, you were surrounded by the righteousness of God, symbolized by the fine white linen fence.

And that meant no power, no principality, no ruler of the darkness of this world, could touch you.

So, too, with us.

Once you’ve been declared righteous by God, you are kept by His power unto the day of your final salvation.

Amen.

Now, let’s talk about the entrance to the courtyard.

16 "For the gate of the court [there shall be] a screen twenty cubits long, [woven of] blue, purple, and scarlet [thread], and fine woven linen, made by a weaver. It [shall have] four pillars and four sockets.

Access into the courtyard was through one gate.

There was no back gate or side gate.

The only way one could come in was through this gate.

Whether he is a priest going to carry out his duties or a repentant sinner seeking forgiveness, a man had to enter by that one way.

The one way into the Court of the Tabernacle is, of course, telling us that Jesus is the exclusive means for salvation.

Jesus is the entrance gate into the Tabernacle.

There is power in His name, and in no other.

He is “the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to salvation except through Him (John 14:6).

Now, the gate to the courtyard was more like a veil.

It did not resemble the white linen fence that surrounded the Tabernacle courtyard.

And at the end of last week’s study we saw the description of the two other veils in the tabernacle.

There was one veil that separated the Most Holy place from the holy place.

And another veil that separated the courtyard from the holy place.

The colors of all three veils are identical – the only difference in the veil that acts as the gate is that there are no cherubims on it.

17 "All the pillars around the court shall have bands of silver; their hooks [shall be] of silver and their sockets of bronze. 18 "The length of the court [shall be] one hundred cubits, the width fifty throughout, and the height five cubits, [made of] fine woven linen, and its sockets of bronze. 19 "All the utensils of the

tabernacle for all its service, all its pegs, and all the pegs of the court, [shall be] of bronze.

Once again, we are reminded of judgment and redemption by the materials used throughout the Tabernacle.

Even the pegs – these are the spikes that helped hold the pillars that were holding the linen curtains upright – Moses had to make sure that they were made of bronze.

20 "And you shall command the children of Israel that they bring you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to cause the lamp to burn continually. 21 "In the tabernacle of meeting, outside the veil which [is] before the Testimony, Aaron and his sons shall tend it from evening until morning before the LORD. [It shall be] a statute forever to their generations on behalf of the children of Israel.

Turn back to Exodus 25

[Exo 25:31-40 NKJV] 31 "You shall also make a lampstand of pure gold; the lampstand shall be of hammered work. Its shaft, its branches, its bowls, its [ornamental] knobs, and flowers shall be [of one piece]. 32 "And six branches shall come out of its sides: three branches of the lampstand out of one side, and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side. 33 "Three bowls [shall be] made like almond [blossoms] on one branch, [with] an [ornamental] knob and a flower, and three bowls made like almond [blossoms] on the other branch, [with]

an [ornamental] knob and a flower--and so for the six branches that come out of the lampstand. 34 "On the lampstand itself four bowls [shall be] made like almond [blossoms, each with] its [ornamental] knob and flower. 35 "And [there shall be] a knob under the [first] two branches of the same, a knob under the [second] two branches of the same, and a knob under the [third] two branches of the same, according to the six branches that extend from the lampstand. 36 "Their knobs and their branches [shall be of one piece]; all of it [shall be] one hammered piece of pure gold. 37 "You shall make seven lamps for it, and they shall arrange its lamps so that they give light in front of it. 38 "And its wick-trimmers and their trays [shall be] of pure gold. 39 "It shall be made of a talent of pure gold, with all these utensils. 40 "And see to it that you make [them] according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.

As you looked at the artist renditions of the tabernacle – one of the things that you might have noticed was that there were no windows in the Tabernacle.

The only light source was the lampstand.

The lampstand was made of the one main stem and six branches.

The main stem represents Jesus Christ as He said in the Gospel of John – “I am the light of the world”

And the six branches – represents us –

Jesus said -

(Mat 5:14-16 NKJV) "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. {15} "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. {16} "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Now, oil in scripture is used to symbolize the work of the Holy Spirit – so the only way we are able to fulfill our function as the light of the world is through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Turn with me to 2 Cor 1

[2Co 1:3-4 NKJV] 3 Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

The Greek word for tribulation – is the word for pressing.

So as we are pressed, the Holy Spirit comforts us and that is when we shine.

Now, getting back to the tabernacle -

One of the duties of the priests was to be certain that the Menorah in the Holy Place “burn[ed] continually,” - “from evening until morning.”

They had to make sure that they trimmed the wick so that the light of the lamp would continue to be bright.

However, they depended on a steady supply of oil from the worshippers who visited the Tabernacle.

Without the priests, who were the only ones allowed in the Holy Place, there would be no light.

But without the people bringing their offerings of oil, there would be no light, either.

And this demonstrates how all of us have our part serving God.

Together we reveal Him to those who are living in spiritual darkness.

Amen

Let's pray...

CALVARY
Santa Cruz