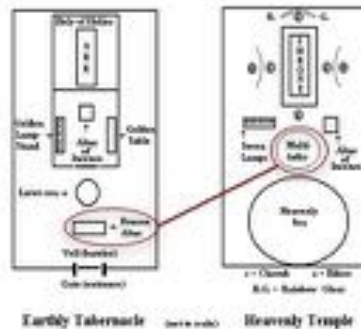


# Exodus 55: Altar of His Judgment for Our Sin

Exodus (Names) - Changing the World  
Dr. Leon L. Sanders Exodus 27:1-8

## Tabernacle of Testimony (Nu 9:15-16; He 9:5)

- Tabernacle of Testimony is Heaven containing:
  - God's Throne
  - Cherubim about throne
  - Altar of Sacrifice
  - Altar of Incense
  - Bronze Laver (Basin)



## Bronze (Brazen) Altar

- The top frame and poles were wood covered with bronze, metal of judgment
- The grating, utensils, and rings were solid bronze
- Everything about the altar spoke of judgment for sin

### The Bronze Altar

The bronze altar for burnt offerings (Ex. 27:1-8; 28:1-7) stood in the outer courtyard with its poles removed. It was a hollow wooden box, overlaid with bronze, measuring 4.5 feet high and 7.5 feet long and wide (1.4 m x 2.3 m x 2.3 m). There was a bronze grating on the top and on the sides of the altar.



## Practicality with a Purpose

- Grates - top and sides allowed draft for fire
- Placed on raised dais for ash removal *and* attention
- God warned Moses to make this exactly as he had been shown



## Ascending Offering and Shekinah

- God's Shekinah was fire (*night*) and cloud (*day*)
- Ascending offering was both fire and smoke
- God on Horeb was fire and smoke - spoke of judgment for sin



## The Tabernacle



Eastern "Gate"  
Rising Sun

- Between eastern gate of outer curtains and curtain of Tabernacle
- People saw only this pointing always to the need for sacrificial atonement personal for sin as revealed by the Law


## Look at Obvious Meanings

- We must look at several obvious but less well known aspects of biblical hermeneutics
  - We must stay within the confines of Scripture (exegesis)
  - We must avoid temptation of eisegetical interpretations
  - Gnosticism has borrowed heavily from and distorted the symbolism of Bible influencing man's understanding
  - We do not want exegetical hermeneutics confused with Gnosticism destroying the truth of Christ's Gospel

## Symbolism of the Altar

- Numerical symbolism runs throughout the Tabernacle
  - I do not agree with everything these authors wrote but
  - More obvious meanings and examples I do agree with
  - There is a fine line between biblical belief and superstition - I encourage the former, not the latter
- We will study the numbers four and five

## What's in a Number?

- Five is the number of Grace
  - Abram's and Sari's names changed by adding a 5  Hey
  - Daniel's "fifth" kingdom was an everlasting kingdom
  - Tabernacle measurements were multiples of 5
- Grace present in the Tabernacle with the sacrifice - pointing to Messiah *of grace* to die for sin; hidden from the Law except by faith (vs 51, 56-57)

## Four – God’s Work with Creation

- Four has several meanings but primarily represents God’s working with His creation for its redemption
- Four is the first nonprime number (1, 2, 4) – Division
  - Creation finished in day 4 then God populated earth
  - Four points of direction {N, E, S, W (news)}
  - Four seasons {spring, summer, fall, winter}
  - Daniels’s dream has four divisions throughout (Dn 7:1-8)

## Four Square – Complete Justice

- The square enclosure represents the completeness of the justice of God emphasizing the purpose of the altar
- Throughout history the term “four-square” has meant truth, rightness or impeccable morality
- Today, being *square*, is a derogatory term meaning one who opposes the latest “modern” immorality trend

## Horns of the Altar

- Horns were fashioned at the four corners of altar
- They signify the “power” of God to fulfill justice
- They do not correspond to animal horns but point to source of one’s power

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## Scriptural References to Horns

- All persons have access to power: God or Satan
  - God will cut off the power of sinners (Isa 75:10)
  - Antichrist's "small" horn allowed some power (Dan 7:8)
  - God, the "Horn of our salvation" [power to save] (Isa 16:12)
  - God will exalt His people in due time (Isa 92:10)
  - People could find shelter in the horns of the altar (1Ki 1:49-51)
  - Unrighteous find only judgment at the altar (1Ki 2:28-30)

## Altar of Grace and Judgement

- The Bronze Altar undergirded with grace was:
  - Protection for those who sought God's salvation
  - Judgment for those who sought their own righteousness
- Altar's grace and judgment covered the entire earth
- The horns of the altar conveyed God's power to judge and to give salvation solely by His own will (Isa 9:15-20)

## Altar in Heaven

- Grace of the Altar
  - Souls of righteous preserved under the altar receiving Christ's righteousness who died for their testimony (Isa 6:6)
- Judgment of the Altar
  - Voice of angel calling for judgment of those who resist the grace of God (Isa 9:11-16, 14:18-20)
  - Cherubim of the altar agree with Christ's judgments (Isa 36:47)

## The Altar - Where Christ Died

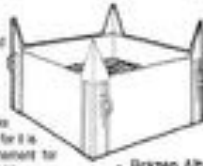
- Altar represents Christ's atonement for sin
- Altar doorway to the Tabernacle of Grace
- Without the altar there is no entering the Holy or Holiest places with Jesus

### The Altar of Sacrifice

The Priest approached the Tabernacle by way of the brazen altar, where he offered the sacrifice for sin.

"For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul." Leviticus 17:11

Jesus Christ Became our perfect sacrifice  
 "The next day John saith Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29



▲ Brazen Altar

The place of Sacrifice, Death Shed Blood

## Because of the Altar - Righteousness

- Without the altar there is no grace for sinners
- Christ's exalts our horn sharing His righteousness with us (It's His horn)
- Repentance is seeing our sin and His death for sin



## Question of Righteousness

- It is not about sins but sin
- All stand before Christ
- The saved are in His grace
- Lost, without the altar, in their own righteousness that condemns them

