

The Tent of Meeting

The Bronze Altar

"Build an altar of acacia wood, three cubits high; it is to be square, five cubits long and five cubits wide. Make a horn at each of the four corners, so that the horns and the altar are of one piece, and overlay the altar with bronze. Make all its utensils of bronze — its pots to remove the ashes, and its shovels, sprinkling bowls, meat forks and firepans. Make a grating for it, a bronze network, and make a bronze ring at each of the four corners of the network. Put it under the ledge of the altar so that it is halfway up the altar. Make poles of acacia wood for the altar and overlay them with bronze. The poles are to be inserted into the rings so they will be on two sides of the altar when it is carried. Make the altar hollow, out of boards. It is to be made just as you were shown on the mountain."

- Exodus 27:1-8

The Bronze Altar (Altar of Burnt Offering)

The Design

Made of bronze and wood. (Judgment and mankind)

It was 7.5 feet square and 4.5 feet high

The grating allowed for complete burning

The horns were a reminder of power.

"Take some of the bull's blood and put it on the horns of the altar with your finger, and pour out the rest of it at the base of the altar."

- Exodus 29:12

The Placement

1. It stood at the entrance and therefore was the place that had to pass. (It was the only place of pardon)

2. It was at the extreme end of the Tabernacle.

"...as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us."

- Psalm 103:12

The Fire

1. The fire was lit by God Himself.

"Fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the fat portions on the altar. And when all the people saw it, they shouted for joy and fell facedown."

- Leviticus 9:24

2. The fire was always kept burning.

"The fire on the altar must be kept burning; it must not go out. Every morning the priest is to add firewood and arrange the burnt offering on the fire and burn the fat of the fellowship offerings on it. The fire must be kept burning on the altar continuously; it must not go out."

- Leviticus 6:12,13

3. Sacrifices were consumed whole; nothing was spared.

The Offerings

For all of Israel or for a Priest — Young bull

For a ruler — A male goat or lamb

For a common person — A female goat or lamb

The Process for Atonement — A Sin Offering – Leviticus 4:27-35

1. The father would represent his family at the altar.

2. A lamb was chosen to represent the sinner(s).

3. The lamb was taken to the altar.

4. The “sinner” would place his hands (his sin) on the head of the lamb.

5. The lamb was killed by the “sinner.”

6. The lamb’s blood was placed on the horns and on the ground.

7. The sacrifice was burned completely by the priest on the altar.

Lessons We Learn

1. No one comes to God without a payment for sin.

Worship begins with confession and repentance.

2. Our sin is repulsive to God and should be to each of us.

3. Our sin is always before us. (Eternal fire)

4. Forgiveness and cleansing from sin come at a steep price.

We should never become complacent about sin.

5. God has the power to remove the judgment of sin!

*"The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and **the horn of my salvation**, my stronghold."*

- Psalm 18:2

6. When God forgives us of our sin, we are truly cleansed!

Your thoughts?

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