

The Tabernacle: God's Blueprint for Relationship, Part 2

Exodus 25:8-9 And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may **dwelt** among them. According to all that I shew thee, after the **pattern** of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it.

The entire purpose of the Tabernacle was so that a holy God could have a relationship with sinful people. But this relationship would only function properly if the people put the tent together right; if they did, then God promised that He would show up with His power and provision!

The Tabernacle was God's **ORIGINAL BLUEPRINT** for relationship, and it foreshadows everything else that comes later in the Word of God. In other words, our relationship with God must follow the **same pattern!**

VERTICAL - God's Plan of SALVATION			
Brazen Altar	Blood	Death	Repentance
Brazen Laver	Water	Burial	Baptism
Ark of the Covenant	Spirit	Resurrection	Holy Ghost
HORIZONTAL - God's Plan of SANCTIFICATION			
Golden Candlestick	Witness	Light of World	Light in the World
Altar of Incense	Prayer	Intercessor	Thy Kingdom Come
Table of Shewbread	Word	Bread of Life	Word in Heart

(VIDEO CLIP FOR TEXT)

Exodus 27:1-8 ¹ And thou shalt make an altar of shittim wood, five cubits long, and five cubits broad; the altar shall be foursquare: and the height thereof shall be three cubits. ² And thou shalt make the horns of it upon the four corners thereof: his horns shall be of the same: and thou shalt overlay it with brass. ³ And thou shalt make his pans to receive his ashes, and his shovels, and his basons, and his fleshhooks, and his firepans: all the vessels thereof thou shalt make of brass. ⁴ And thou shalt make for it a grate of network of brass; and upon the net shalt thou make four brasen rings in the four corners thereof. ⁵ And thou shalt put it under the compass of the altar beneath, that the net may be even to the midst of the altar. ⁶ And thou shalt make staves for the altar, staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with brass. ⁷ And the staves shall be put into the rings, and the staves shall be upon the two sides of the altar, to bear it. ⁸ Hollow with boards shalt thou make it: as it was shewed thee in the mount, so shall they make it.

The Brazen Altar was not the only altar in the Bible, but it was the most important one in the Old Testament. Unlike the pagan altars that dotted the countryside, God's altars were to have no STEPS. Why? Because God didn't want FLESH to be exposed during worship!

Exodus 20:26 Neither shalt thou go up by steps unto mine altar, that thy nakedness be not discovered thereon.

The Brazen Altar was the very first piece of furniture that you came to upon entering the Tabernacle, and the blood that was shed there impacted every other ceremony. IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO ENTER WITHOUT BLOOD BEING SHED.

The Brazen Altar was made of BRASS, which is a symbol of JUDGMENT against sin ...

Deuteronomy 28:15, 23 But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee ... And thy heaven that is over thy head shall be **brass**, and the earth that is under thee shall be iron.

Numbers 21:8-9 And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. And Moses made a serpent of **brass**, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.

John 3:14-15 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

The FIRE on the Brazen Altar was never allowed to go out. The fire was supernaturally ignited by God, but it was man's responsibility to MAINTAIN it daily through the morning and evening sacrifices.

Leviticus 6:13 The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar; it shall never go out.

Leviticus 9:24 And there came a fire out from before the LORD, and consumed upon the altar the burnt offering and the fat: which when all the people saw, they shouted, and fell on their faces.

Hebrews 12:29 For our God is a consuming fire.

The MAIN MESSAGE of the Brazen Altar, however, had to do with BLOOD ATONEMENT. No other place was given by God for sacrifice, and no other place was acceptable to God. Yes, the altar was only the STARTING POINT, but without BLOOD nothing else mattered. (All the other furniture was sprinkled by blood when it was dedicated.)

Hebrews 9:21-22 Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry. And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

Hebrews 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

There was nothing beautiful about the slaughter of animals – the altar was an ugly, repulsive sight. It was not meant to be pretty, because it was a place of judgment. And it is this scene that points us to Calvary, and then to our own repentance. It is not attractive to the world, but it is the only thing that works when we want our sins forgiven!

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

There was one last feature of the Brazen Altar that was very important – God instructed that it was to have FOUR HORNS. Horns in Scripture are figurative of power and strength, since they are the chief source of attack and defense for animals that have them.

Psalms 18:1-2 I will love thee, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

Luke 1:68-69 (*Zacharias' prophecy*) Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;

The horns were the place where the BLOOD was applied. Hence, **POWER LIES WHERE THE BLOOD LIES.**

Leviticus 4:34 And the priest shall take of the blood of the sin offering with his finger, and put it upon the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and shall pour out all the blood thereof at the bottom of the altar:

That is why the Jews had an ancient “law of sanctuary.” A criminal, if his crime was accidental, could flee to the sanctuary and HOLD ON TO THE HORNS OF THE ALTAR for safety. The Bible has only two incidents regarding this law, both at the time Solomon takes the throne of Israel.

Exodus 21:13-14 And if a man lie not in wait, but God deliver him into his hand; then I will appoint thee a place whither he shall flee. But if a man come presumptuously upon his neighbour, to slay him with guile; thou shalt take him from mine altar, that he may die.

THE LAW OF SANCTUARY IN FIRST KINGS:

David is now old and feeble, almost at the time of his death; Adonijah (his son) and Joab (his nephew) plot to set themselves up as the next rulers of the kingdom.

ADONIJAH:

- heir to the throne after the deaths of Ammon and Absalom
- he had been set aside in favor of Solomon
- he claimed the throne as David lay on his deathbed
- Solomon's mother Bathsheba and Nathan defeated his plot
- Solomon was crowned king and Adonijah fled to the altar

JOAB:

- nephew of David (son of his sister Zeruiah), captain of David's army
- he was a deceitful and totally ruthless man
- in battle with Abner, Joab's brother Asahel was killed
- later in peace time Joab killed Abner with a dagger under his rib
- he secured the death of Uriah the Hittite for King David
- he killed Absalom in a brutal way, against King David's orders
- David put Amasa (Absalom's supporter) over his army to pacify him
- this offended Joab so he killed Amasa with a dagger under his rib
- Joab supported Adonijah in his bid for the throne
- when he heard of the failure of their plot, he fled to the altar also

NOTICE THE DIFFERENCE! Adonijah is spared, but Joab is killed right in the Tabernacle. **WHY?** Joab's crimes of murder were premeditated; this negated the Law of Sanctuary. There is a **LEGAL** difference between these two men, but there is also a **SPIRITUAL** difference!

Joab is found merely BY the altar, and he DIES there!
Adonijah is found ON the altar, and he is SAVED there!

IT IS POSSIBLE TO DIE WITHIN SIGHT OF THE ALTAR! To be on the altar would mean enduring the blood, the remains of the sacrifices, and the continual heat from the coals ... **but it was worth it to be saved!**

MY FLESH REBELS AGAINST THE ALTAR! But Adonijah had the spirit which said, “My hope is built on nothing less ... than the BLOOD!”

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Paul is saying, “I beg you brethren, STAY ON THE ALTAR!”

REFERENCES FOR STORY:

1 Kings 1:50-53 And Adonijah feared because of Solomon, and arose, and went, and caught hold on the horns of the altar. And it was told Solomon, saying, Behold, Adonijah feareth king Solomon: for, lo, he hath caught hold on the horns of the altar, saying, Let king Solomon swear unto me to day that he will not slay his servant with the sword. And Solomon said, If he will shew himself a worthy man, there shall not an hair of him fall to the earth: but if wickedness shall be found in him, he shall die. So king Solomon sent, and they brought him down from the altar. And he came and bowed himself to king Solomon: and Solomon said unto him, Go to thine house.

1 Kings 2:28-31 Then tidings came to Joab: for Joab had turned after Adonijah, though he turned not after Absalom. And Joab fled unto the tabernacle of the LORD, and caught hold on the horns of the altar. And it was told king Solomon that Joab was fled unto the tabernacle of the LORD; and, behold, he is by the altar. Then Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, saying, Go, fall upon him. And Benaiah came to the tabernacle of the LORD, and said unto him, Thus saith the king, Come forth. And he said, Nay; but I will die here. And Benaiah brought the king word again, saying, Thus said Joab, and thus he answered me. And the king said unto him, Do as he hath said, and fall upon him, and bury him; that thou mayest take away the innocent blood, which Joab shed, from me, and from the house of my father.