

~ALTAR (3061)

[Hebrew, *miz-be'ach* altar , Greek *thy-si-a-ste'ri-on*, altar]

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- Basically, a raised structure or place on which sacrifices are offered or incense is burned in worship of the true God or of another deity. The Hebrew *miz-be'ach*, or altar, comes from the root verb *za-vach'*, slaughter or sacrifice, and thus basically refers to a place of slaughtering or sacrificing.
- And Noah began to build an altar to Yehowah and to take some of all the clean beasts and of all the clean flying creatures and to offer burnt offerings upon the altar. ([Genesis 8:20](#))
- In case the place that Yehowah your God will choose to put his name there should be far away from you, you must then slaughter some of your herd or some of your flock that Yehowah has given you, just as I have commanded you, and you must eat inside your gates whenever your soul craves it. ([Deuteronomy 12:21](#))
- And you must sacrifice the Passover to Yehowah your God, of the flock and of the herd, in the place that Yehowah will choose to have his name reside there. ([Deuteronomy 16:2](#))
- Similarly, the Greek *thy-si-a-ste'ri-on*, or altar, comes from the root verb *thy'o*, also meaning slaughter, sacrifice.
- Again he sent forth other slaves, saying; Tell those invited; Look! I have prepared my dinner, my bulls and fattened animals are slaughtered, and all things are ready. Come to the marriage

feast. (**Matthew 22:4**)

- Now on the first day of unfermented cakes, when they customarily **sacrificed** the Passover victim, his disciples said to him, Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover? (**Mark 14:12**)
- The **Greek** word *bo-mos'* refers to the **altar** of a false god.
- For instance, while passing along and carefully observing your objects of veneration I also found an **altar** on which had been inscribed, **To an Unknown God**. Therefore what you are unknowingly giving godly devotion to, this I am publishing to you. (**Acts of Apostles 17:23**)
- The first mention of an **altar** occurs after the Flood when Noah began to build an altar to Yehowah and offered burnt offerings thereon.
- And Noah began to build an **altar** to Yehowah and to take some of all the clean beasts and of all the clean flying creatures and to offer burnt offerings upon the altar. (**Genesis 8:20**)
- The only offerings mentioned prior to the Flood were those of Cain and Abel, and though it is likely that they did so, it is not stated whether they used **altars** or not.
- And it came about at the expiration of some time that Cain proceeded to bring some fruits of the ground as an offering to Yehowah. (**Genesis 4:3**)
- But as for Abel, he too brought some firstlings of his flock, even their fatty pieces. Now while Yehowah was looking with favor upon Abel and his offering. (**Genesis 4:4**)
- **Abraham built an altar at Shechem;**
- Yehowah now appeared to Abram and said, To your seed I am going to give this land. After that he built an **altar** there to Yehowah, who had appeared to him. (**Genesis 12:7**)
- **At a point between Bethel and Ai;**
- **Later he moved from there to the mountainous region to the east**

- of Bethel and pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. Then he built an **altar** there to Yehowah and began to call on the name of Yehowah. (**Genesis 12:8**)
- And he made his way from encampment to encampment out of the Negeb and to Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at first between Bethel and Ai. (**Genesis 13:3**)
 - Then later at Hebron;
 - So Abram continued to live in tents. Later on he came and dwelt among the big trees of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and there he proceeded to build an **altar** to Yehowah. (**Genesis 13:18**)
 - And also evidently on Mount Moriah, where he sacrificed a ram given him by God in substitution for Isaac.
 - Finally they reached the place that the true God had designated to him, and Abraham built an **altar** there and set the wood in order and bound Isaac his son hand and foot and put him upon the **altar** on top of the wood. (**Genesis 22:9**)
 - Then Abraham put out his hand and took the slaughtering knife to kill his son. (**Genesis 22:10**)
 - But Yehowah's angel began calling to him out of the heavens and saying; Abraham, Abraham! To which he answered; Here I am! (**Genesis 22:11**)
 - And he went on to say; Do not put out your hand against the boy and do not do anything at all to him, for now I do know that you are God-fearing in that you have not withheld your son, your only one, from me. (**Genesis 22:12**)
 - At that Abraham raised his eyes and looked and there, deep in the foreground, there was a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. So Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up for a burnt offering in place of his son. (**Genesis 22:13**)
 - Only in this last case is a sacrifice specifically mentioned as being offered on these **altars** by Abraham. However, the basic meaning of the Hebrew word indicates that offerings were likely made in each case. Isaac later built an **altar** at Beer-sheba.

- Then he went up from there to Beersheba. ([Genesis 26:23](#))
- Accordingly he built an **altar** there and called on the name of Yehowah and pitched his tent there, and the servants of Isaac went excavating a well there. ([Genesis 26:25](#))
- And Jacob built **altars** at Shechem and at Bethel.
- In time Jacob came safe and sound to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, while he was coming from Paddanaram, and he pitched camp in front of the city. ([Genesis 33:18](#))
- After that he set up there an **altar**, and called it God, the God of Israel. ([Genesis 33:20](#))
- After that God said to Jacob; Rise, go up to Bethel and dwell there, and make an **altar** there to the true God who appeared to you when you were running away from Esau your brother. ([Genesis 35:1](#))
- And let us rise and go up to Bethel. And there I shall make an **altar** to the true God who answered me in the day of my distress in that he proved to be with me in the way that I have gone. ([Genesis 35:3](#))
- Then he built an **altar** there and began to call the place Elbethel, because there the true God had revealed himself to him at the time of his running away from his brother. ([Genesis 35:7](#))
- These **altars** made by the patriarchs were doubtless of the type later mentioned by God in the Law covenant, either mounds of earth or platforms consisting of natural, unhewn stones.
- An **altar** of ground you are to make for me, and you must sacrifice upon it your burnt offerings and your communion sacrifices, your flock and your herd. In every place where I shall cause my name to be remembered I shall come to you and shall certainly bless you. ([Exodus 20:24](#))
- And if you should make an **altar** of stones for me, you must not build them as hewn stones. In the event that you do wield your chisel upon it, then you will profane it. ([Exodus 20:25](#))

- **Moses constructed an altar following the victory over Amalek, naming it *Yehowah-nissi* meaning, **Yehowah Is My Signal Pole.****
- **And Moses proceeded to build an altar and to call its name Yehowah-nissi. (Exodus 17:15)**
- **Saying; Because a hand is against the throne of Yah, Yehowah will have war with Amalek from generation to generation. (Exodus 17:16)**
- **At the making of the Law covenant with Israel, an altar was built by Moses at the foot of Mount Sinai, and sacrifices were offered up on it. Blood from the sacrifices was sprinkled on the altar, on the book, and on the people, thereby validating and putting in force the covenant.**
- **Accordingly Moses wrote down all the words of Yehowah. Then he got up early in the morning and built at the foot of the mountain an altar and twelve pillars corresponding with the twelve tribes of Israel. (Exodus 24:4)**
- **After that he sent young men of the sons of Israel and they offered up burnt offerings and sacrificed bulls as sacrifices, as communion sacrifices to Yehowah. (Exodus 24:5)**
- **Then Moses took half the blood and put it in bowls, and half the blood he sprinkled upon the altar. (Exodus 24:6)**
- **Finally he took the book of the covenant and read it in the ears of the people. Then they said; All that Yehowah has spoken we are willing to do and be obedient. (Exodus 24:7)**
- **So Moses took the blood and sprinkled it upon the people and said; Here is the blood of the covenant that Yehowah has concluded with you as respects all these words. (Exodus 24:8)**
- **For a covenant is valid over dead victims, since it is not in force at any time while the human covenanter is living. (Hebrews 9:17)**
- **Consequently neither was the former covenant inaugurated without blood. (Hebrews 9:18)**
- **For when every commandment according to the Law had been spoken by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of the young**

bulls and of the goats with water and scarlet wool and hyssop and sprinkled the book itself and all the people. ([Hebrews 9:19](#))

- Saying; This is the blood of the covenant that God has laid as a charge upon you. ([Hebrews 9:20](#))

•• Tabernacle Altars

- With the setting up of the tabernacle, two **altars** were constructed according to divine pattern. The **altar** of burnt offering, also called the **altar of copper**
- The **altar of copper** and the grating of copper that belonged to it, its poles and all its utensils, the basin and its stand. ([Exodus 39:39](#))
- It was as made of acacia wood in the form of a hollow chest, apparently without top or bottom. It was 2.2 meters (7.3 feet) square and 1.3 meters (4.4 feet) high with horns projecting from the upper four corners. All its surfaces were overlaid with copper. A grating, or network, of copper was placed below the **altars** rim down within, toward the center. Four rings were placed at the four extremities near the grating, and these appear to be the same rings through which the two copper-sheathed acacia-wood poles were passed for carrying the **altar**.
- This might mean that a slot was cut through two sides of the **altar** allowing for a flat grating to be inserted, with the rings extending out on both sides. There is considerable difference of opinion among scholars on the subject, and many consider it likely that two sets of rings were involved, the second set, for insertion of the carrying poles, being attached directly to the outside of the **altar**.
- Copper equipment was made in the form of cans and shovels for the ashes, bowls for catching the blood of the animals, forks for handling the flesh, and fire holders.
- And you must make the **altar** of acacia wood, five cubits its length and five cubits its width. The **altar** should be foursquare, and its height three cubits. ([Exodus 27:1](#))
- And you must make its horns upon its four corners. Its horns will proceed out of it, and you must overlay it with copper. ([Exodus 27:2](#))

- **And you must make its cans for clearing away its fatty ashes, and its shovels, and its bowls, and its forks, and its fire holders, and you will make all its utensils of copper. (Exodus 27:3)**
- **And you must make a grating for it, a network of copper, and you must make upon the net four rings of copper at its four extremities. (Exodus 27:4)**
- **And you must put it under the altar's rim down within, and the net must be toward the center of the altar. (Exodus 27:5)**
- **And you must make poles for the altar, its poles being of acacia wood, and you must overlay them with copper. (Exodus 27:6)**
- **And its poles must be put into the rings, and the poles must be upon the two sides of the altar when carrying it. (Exodus 27:7)**
- **A hollow chest of planks you will make it. Just as he showed you in the mountain, so they will make it. (Exodus 27:8)**
- **And he went on to make the altar of burnt offering out of acacia wood. Five cubits was its length, and five cubits its width, it being foursquare, and three cubits was its height. (Exodus 38:1)**
- **Then he made its horns upon its four corners. Its horns proceeded out of it. Next he overlaid it with copper. (Exodus 38:2)**
- **After that he made all the utensils of the altar, the cans and the shovels and the bowls, the forks and the fire holders. All its utensils he made of copper. (Exodus 38:3)**
- **He further made for the altar a grating, a network of copper, under its rim, down toward its center. (Exodus 38:4)**
- **Then he cast four rings on the four extremities near the grating of copper, as supports for the poles. (Exodus 38:5)**
- **After that he made the poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with copper. (Exodus 38:6)**
- **Then he put the poles into the rings on the sides of the altar for carrying it with them. He made it a hollow chest of planks.**

(Exodus 38:7)

- **And with this he proceeded to make the socket pedestals of the entrance of the tent of meeting and the copper altar and the copper grating that belonged to it, and all the utensils of the altar. (Exodus 38:30)**
- **And they must put upon it all its utensils with which they regularly minister at it, the fire holders, the forks and the shovels and the bowls, all the utensils of the altar, and they must spread out over it a covering of sealskins and put in its poles. (Numbers 4:14)**
- **This copper altar for burnt offerings was placed before the entrance of the tabernacle.**
- **And you must put the altar of burnt offering before the entrance of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting. (Exodus 40:6)**
- **And he placed the altar of burnt offering at the entrance of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting, that he might offer up the burnt offering and the grain offering upon it, just as Yehowah had commanded Moses. (Exodus 40:29)**
- **While it was of relatively low height, thus not necessarily requiring a means of approach, for ease of handling the sacrifices placed within it the earth may have been raised around it or there may have been a ramp leading up to it.**
- **Then Aaron raised his hands toward the people and blessed them and came down from rendering the sin offering and the burnt offering and the communion sacrifices. (Leviticus 9:22)**
- **Which states that Aaron came down from making offerings. Since the animal was sacrificed at the side of the altar to the north.**
- **And it must be slaughtered at the side of the altar to the north before Yehowah, and the sons of Aaron, the priests, must sprinkle its blood round about upon the altar. (Leviticus 1:11)**
- **The place for the fatty ashes removed from the altar was to the East.**
- **And he must remove its crop with its feathers and throw it beside**

the **altar**, to the east, to the place for the fatty ashes. (**Leviticus 1:16**)

- **And the basin of copper for washing was located to the West.**
- **You must make a basin of copper and its stand of copper for washing, and you must put it between the tent of meeting and the **altar** and put water into it. (**Exodus 30:18**)**
- **This would logically leave the South as the open side on which such a means of approach might be placed.**

•• **Altar Of Incense**

- **The **altar** of incense, also called **the altar of gold****
- **And the **altar of gold** and the anointing oil and the perfumed incense and the screen for the entrance of the tent. (**Exodus 39:38**)**
- **Was likewise made of acacia wood, the top and sides being overlaid with gold. A border of gold ran around the top. The **altar** measured 44.5 centimeters (17.5 inches) square and 89 centimeters (2.9 feet) high, and also had horns extending out from the four top corners. Two gold rings were made for the insertion of the carrying poles made of acacia overlaid with gold, and these rings were placed underneath the gold border on opposite sides of the altar.**
- **And you must make an **altar** as a place for burning incense, out of acacia wood you will make it. (**Exodus 30:1**)**
- **A cubit in length and a cubit in width, it should be foursquare, and its height two cubits. Its horns extend out of it. (**Exodus 30:2**)**
- **And you must overlay it with pure gold, its top surface and its sides round about and its horns, and you must make a border of gold round about for it. (**Exodus 30:3**)**
- **You will also make for it two rings of gold. Down below its border upon two of its sides you will make them, upon two opposite sides of it, as they must serve as supports for the poles with which to carry it. (**Exodus 30:4**)**

- **And you must make the poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. (Exodus 30:5)**
- **He now made the altar of incense out of acacia wood. A cubit was its length and a cubit its width, it being foursquare, and two cubits was its height. Its horns proceeded out of it. (Exodus 37:25)**
- **Then he overlaid it with pure gold, its top surface and its sides round about and its horns, and he made a border of gold round about for it. (Exodus 37:26)**
- **And he made for it two rings of gold down below its border upon two of its sides, upon two opposite sides of it, as supports for the poles with which to carry it. (Exodus 37:27)**
- **After that he made the poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold. (Exodus 37:28)**
- **A special incense was burned on this altar twice daily, in the morning and in the evening.**
- **And Aaron must make perfumed incense smoke upon it. Morning by morning, when he dresses the lamps, he will make it smoke. (Exodus 30:7)**
- **And when Aaron lights up the lamps between the two evenings, he will make it smoke. It is an incense constantly before Yehowah during your generations. (Exodus 30:8)**
- **You must not offer upon it illegitimate incense or a burnt offering or a grain offering, and you must not pour a drink offering upon it. (Exodus 30:9)**
- **And Yehowah went on to say to Moses; Take to yourself perfumes, stacte drops and onycha and perfumed galbanum and pure frankincense. There should be the same portion of each. (Exodus 30:34)**
- **And you must make it into an incense, a spice mixture, the work of an ointment maker, salted, pure, something holy. (Exodus 30:35)**
- **And you must pound some of it into fine powder and put some of**

- it before the Testimony in the tent of meeting, where I shall present myself to you. It should be most holy to you people. (**Exodus 30:36**)
- And the incense that you will make with this composition, you must not make for yourselves. For you it is to continue as something holy to Yehowah. (**Exodus 30:37**)
 - Whoever makes any like it to enjoy its smell must be cut off from his people. (**Exodus 30:38**)
 - The use of a censer, or a fire holder, is elsewhere mentioned for burning incense, and evidently such was employed also in connection with the **altar** of incense.
 - And he must take the fire holder full of burning coals of fire from off the **altar** before Yehowah, and the hollows of both his hands full of fine perfumed incense, and he must bring them inside the curtain. (**Leviticus 16:12**)
 - He must also put the incense upon the fire before Yehowah, and the cloud of the incense must overspread the Ark cover, which is upon the Testimony, that he may not die. (**Leviticus 16:13**)
 - This had a golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid all around with gold, in which were the golden jar having the manna and the rod of Aaron that budded and the tablets of the covenant. (**Hebrews 9:4**)
 - Outside are the dogs and those who practice spiritism and the fornicators and the murderers and the idolaters and everyone liking and carrying on a lie. (**Revelation 22:15**)
 - However, as soon as he was strong, his heart became haughty even to the point of causing ruin, so that he acted unfaithfully against Yehowah his God and came into the temple of Yehowah to burn incense upon the **altar** of incense. (**2 Chronicles 26:16**)
 - But Uzziah became enraged while in his hand there was a censer for burning incense, and, during his rage against the priests, leprosy itself flashed up in his forehead before the priests in the house of Yehowah beside the **altar** of incense. (**2 Chronicles 26:19**)

- The position of the **altar** of incense was within the tabernacle just before the curtain of the Most Holy so that it is spoken of as being before the ark of the testimony.
- And you must make an **altar** as a place for burning incense, out of acacia wood you will make it. (**Exodus 30:1**)
- And you must put it before the curtain that is near the ark of the testimony, before the cover that is over the Testimony, where I shall present myself to you. (**Exodus 30:6**)
- And you must put the golden **altar** for incense before the ark of the testimony and put the screen of the entrance for the tabernacle in place. (**Exodus 40:5**)
- He next placed the golden **altar** in the tent of meeting before the curtain. (**Exodus 40:26**)
- That he might make perfumed incense smoke upon it, just as Yehowah had commanded Moses. (**Exodus 40:27**)

•• Sanctification And Use Of Tabernacle Altars

- At the time of the installation ceremonies, both **altars** were anointed and sanctified.
- And you must take the anointing oil and anoint the tabernacle and all that is in it, and you must sanctify it and all its utensils, and so it must become something holy. (**Exodus 40:9**)
- And you must anoint the **altar** of burnt offering and all its utensils and sanctify the altar, and so it must become a most holy altar. (**Exodus 40:10**)
- At that time, as also in subsequent sacrifices of certain sin offerings, blood of the sacrificed animal was put upon the horns of the **altar** of burnt offering, and the rest was poured out at its base.
- And you must take some of the bull's blood and put it with your finger upon the horns of the **altar**, and all the rest of the blood you will pour out at the base of the **altar**. (**Exodus 29:12**)
- And Moses proceeded to slaughter it and take the blood and put it with his finger upon the horns of the **altar** round about and

- purify the altar from sin, but the rest of the blood he poured at the base of the **altar**, that he might sanctify it to make atonement upon it. (**Leviticus 8:15**)
- Aaron immediately went near to the **altar** and slaughtered the calf of the sin offering that was for him. (**Leviticus 9:8**)
 - Then Aaron's sons presented the blood to him and he dipped his finger in the blood and put it upon the horns of the **altar**, and the rest of the blood he poured at the base of the **altar**. (**Leviticus 9:9**)
 - Some of the anointing oil and blood on the **altar** was spattered upon Aaron and his sons and their garments to sanctify them toward the conclusion of the installation ceremony.
 - After that Moses took some of the anointing oil and some of the blood that was upon the **altar** and spattered it upon Aaron and his garments and upon his sons and the garments of his sons with him. Thus he sanctified Aaron and his garments and his sons and the garments of his sons with him. (**Leviticus 8:30**)
 - In all, seven days were required for the sanctification of the **altar** of burnt offering.
 - You will take seven days to make atonement over the **altar**, and you must sanctify it that it may indeed become a most holy altar. Anyone who touches the altar is to be holy. (**Exodus 29:37**)
 - In other burnt offerings, communion sacrifices, and guilt offerings, the blood was sprinkled about upon the **altar**, while the blood of fowls sacrificed was spattered or drained at the side of the altar.
 - Then the young bull must be slaughtered before Yehowah, and the sons of Aaron, the priests, must present the blood and sprinkle the blood round about upon the **altar**, which is at the entrance of the tent of meeting. (**Leviticus 1:5**)
 - And the burnt offering must be skinned and cut up into its parts. (**Leviticus 1:6**)
 - And the sons of Aaron, the priests, must put fire on the **altar** and set wood in order on the fire. (**Leviticus 1:7**)

- **And the sons of Aaron, the priests, must set the pieces in order with the head and the suet over the wood that is on the fire that is on the altar. (Leviticus 1:8)**
- **And its intestines and its shanks will be washed with water, and the priest must make all of it smoke on the altar as a burnt offering, an offering made by fire of a restful odor to Yehowah. (Leviticus 1:9)**
- **And if his offering for a burnt offering is from the flock, from the young rams or the goats, a male, a sound one, is what he will present. (Leviticus 1:10)**
- **And it must be slaughtered at the side of the altar to the north before Yehowah, and the sons of Aaron, the priests, must sprinkle its blood round about upon the altar. (Leviticus 1:11)**
- **And he must cut it up into its parts and its head and its suet, and the priest must set them in order over the wood that is on the fire that is on the altar. (Leviticus 1:12)**
- **And he will wash the intestines and the shanks with water, and the priest must present all of it and make it smoke on the altar. It is a burnt offering, an offering made by fire of a restful odor to Yehowah. (Leviticus 1:13)**
- **However, if his offering as a burnt offering to Yehowah is from the fowls, then he must present his offering from the turtledoves or the young pigeons. (Leviticus 1:14)**
- **And the priest must present it at the altar and nip off its head and make it smoke upon the altar, but its blood must be drained out upon the side of the altar. (Leviticus 1:15)**
- **And he must remove its crop with its feathers and throw it beside the altar, to the east, to the place for the fatty ashes. (Leviticus 1:16)**
- **And he must cleave it at its wings. He must not divide it. Then the priest must make it smoke on the altar over the wood that is on the fire. It is a burnt offering, an offering made by fire of a restful odor to Yehowah. (Leviticus 1:17)**

- **And he must lay his hand upon the head of his offering, and it must be slaughtered at the entrance of the tent of meeting, and Aaron's sons, the priests, must sprinkle the blood round about upon the altar. (Leviticus 3:2)**
- **And he must present some of the communion sacrifice as an offering made by fire to Yehowah, namely, the fat that covers the intestines, even all the fat that is over the intestines. (Leviticus 3:3)**
- **And the two kidneys and the fat that is upon them, the same as that upon the loins. And as for the appendage upon the liver, he will remove it along with the kidneys. (Leviticus 3:4)**
- **And Aaron's sons must make it smoke on the altar, upon the burnt offering that is over the wood that is on the fire, as an offering made by fire of a restful odor to Yehowah. (Leviticus 3:5)**
- **If, though, he cannot afford enough for a sheep, then he must bring as his guilt offering for the sin that he has committed two turtledoves or two young pigeons to Yehowah, one for a sin offering and one for a burnt offering. (Leviticus 5:7)**
- **And he must bring them to the priest, who must present first the one for the sin offering and nip off its head at the front of its neck, but he should not sever it. (Leviticus 5:8)**
- **And he must spatter some of the blood of the sin offering upon the side of the altar, but the remainder of the blood will be drained out at the base of the altar. It is a sin offering. (Leviticus 5:9)**
- **In the place where they regularly slaughter the burnt offering they will slaughter the guilt offering, and its blood one will sprinkle round about upon the altar. (Leviticus 7:2)**
- **Grain offerings were made to smoke upon the altar as a restful odor to Yehowah.**
- **And he must bring it to the sons of Aaron, the priests, and the priest must grasp from it his handful of its fine flour and its oil along with all its frankincense, and he must make it smoke as a remembrancer of it upon the altar, as an offering made by fire of**

- a restful odor to Yehowah. (**Leviticus 2:2**)
- And what is left of the grain offering belongs to Aaron and his sons, as something most holy from Yehowah's offerings made by fire. (**Leviticus 2:3**)
 - And in case you would present as an offering a grain offering in the way of something baked in the oven, it should be of fine flour, unfermented ring-shaped cakes moistened with oil or unfermented wafers smeared with oil. (**Leviticus 2:4**)
 - And if your offering is a grain offering from off the griddle, it should prove to be of fine flour moistened with oil, unfermented. (**Leviticus 2:5**)
 - There should be a breaking of it up into pieces, and you must pour oil upon it. It is a grain offering. (**Leviticus 2:6**)
 - And if your offering is a grain offering out of the deep-fat kettle, it should be made of fine flour with oil. (**Leviticus 2:7**)
 - And you must bring the grain offering that was made of these to Yehowah, and it must be presented to the priest and he must bring it near to the altar. (**Leviticus 2:8**)
 - And the priest must lift off some of the grain offering as a remembrancer of it and must make it smoke on the altar, as an offering made by fire of a restful odor to Yehowah. (**Leviticus 2:9**)
 - And what is left of the grain offering belongs to Aaron and his sons, as something most holy of Yehowah's offerings by fire. (**Leviticus 2:10**)
 - No grain offering that you will present to Yehowah should be made a leavened thing, because you must make no sourdough and no honey at all smoke as an offering made by fire to Yehowah. (**Leviticus 2:11**)
 - As an offering of the firstfruits, you will present them to Yehowah, and they must not come up onto the altar for a restful odor. (**Leviticus 2:12**)

- Remaining portions of the grain offering were eaten by the High Priest and his sons alongside the **altar**.
- Then Moses spoke to Aaron and to Eleazar and Ithamar, his sons that were left. Take the grain offering that was left over from Yehowah's offerings made by fire and eat it unfermented near the **altar**, because it is something most holy. (**Leviticus 10:12**)
- Annually on Atonement Day the **altar** was cleansed and sanctified by the High Priests placing some of the sacrificial animals blood on the horns of the **altar** and by spattering it seven times upon the altar.
- And he must come out to the **altar**, which is before Yehowah, and make atonement for it, and he must take some of the bull's blood and some of the goat's blood and put it upon the horns of the **altar** round about. (**Leviticus 16:18**)
- He must also spatter some of the blood upon it with his finger seven times and cleanse it and sanctify it from the uncleannesses of the sons of Israel. (**Leviticus 16:19**)
- In all the animal sacrifices presented, portions of the animal were made to smoke upon the **altar**, and for this purpose a fire was maintained on the **altar** and was never allowed to go out.
- Command Aaron and his sons, saying; This is the Law of the burnt offering. The burnt offering will be on the hearth upon the **altar** all night long until the morning, and the fire of the altar will be kindled in it. (**Leviticus 6:9**)
- And the priest must clothe himself with his official dress of linen, and he will put the linen drawers on over his flesh. Then he must lift up the fatty ashes of the burnt offering that the fire regularly consumes upon the **altar**, and he must place them beside the **altar**. (**Leviticus 6:10**)
- And he must strip off his garments and put on other garments, and he must take the fatty ashes out to a clean place outside the camp. (**Leviticus 6:11**)
- And the fire on the **altar** will be kept burning on it. It must not go out. And the priest must burn wood on it morning by morning and set the burnt offering in order over it, and he must make the fatty pieces of the communion sacrifices smoke over it. (**Leviticus**

6:12)

- Fire will be kept constantly burning on the **altar**. It must not go out. (**Leviticus 6:13**)
- From here the fire was obtained for the burning of incense.
- After that Moses said to Aaron; Take the fire holder and put fire from upon the **altar** in it and put on incense and go to the assembly in a hurry and make atonement for them, because the indignation has gone out from the face of Yehowah. The plague has started! (**Numbers 16:46**)
- Only Aaron and those of his descendants who were free from defects were permitted to serve at the **altar**.
- Any man of the seed of Aaron the priest in whom there is a defect may not approach to present Yehowah's offerings made by fire. There is a defect in him. He may not approach to present the bread of his God. (**Leviticus 21:21**)
- He may eat the bread of his God from the most holy things and from the holy things. (**Leviticus 21:22**)
- However, he may not come in near the curtain, and he may not approach the **altar**, because there is a defect in him, and he should not profane my sanctuary, for I am Yehowah who is sanctifying them. (**Leviticus 21:23**)
- The other Levites were only assistants. Any man not of the seed of Aaron drawing near was to be put to death.
- As a memorial for the sons of Israel, to the end that no strange man who is not of the offspring of Aaron should come near to make incense smoke before Yehowah, and no one might become like Korah and his assembly, just as Yehowah had spoken to him by means of Moses. (**Numbers 16:40**)
- And Yehowah proceeded to say to Aaron; You and your sons and the house of your father with you will answer for error against the sanctuary, and you and your sons with you will answer for error against your priesthood. (**Numbers 18:1**)
- And bring near, also, your brothers of the tribe of Levi, the clan of

- your father, with you, that they may be joined to you and may minister to you, to both you and your sons with you, before the tent of the Testimony. (Numbers 18:2)**
- **And they must keep their obligation to you and their obligation to the entire tent. Only to the utensils of the holy place and to the altar they must not come near that they may not die, neither they nor you men. (Numbers 18:3)**
 - **And they must be joined to you and must keep their obligation to the tent of meeting as respects all the service of the tent, and no stranger may come near to you men. (Numbers 18:4)**
 - **And you must keep your obligation to the holy place and your obligation to the altar, that no further indignation may occur against the sons of Israel. (Numbers 18:5)**
 - **And I, look! I have taken your brothers, the Levites, from among the sons of Israel, as a gift for you, as those given to Yehowah to carry on the service of the tent of meeting. (Numbers 18:6)**
 - **And you and your sons with you should safeguard your priesthood as regards every concern of the altar and as regards what is inside the curtain, and you men must render service. As a service of gift I shall give your priesthood, and the stranger drawing near should be put to death. (Numbers 18:7)**
 - **Korah and his assembly were destroyed for failing to recognize this divine assignment, and the copper fire holders that they had taken were made into thin metal plates and overlaid on the altar as a sign that no one not of the offspring of Aaron should draw near.**
 - **And Korah the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, proceeded to get up, together with Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, the sons of Reuben. (Numbers 16:1)**
 - **And they proceeded to rise up before Moses, they and two hundred and fifty men of the sons of Israel, chieftains of the assembly, summoned one's of the meeting, men of fame. (Numbers 16:2)**
 - **So they congregated themselves against Moses and Aaron and said to them; That is enough of you, because the whole**

- assembly are all of them holy and Yehowah is in their midst. Why, then, should you lift yourselves up above the congregation of Yehowah? (**Numbers 16:3**)
- When Moses got to hear it he at once fell upon his face. (**Numbers 16:4**)
 - Then he spoke to Korah and to his entire assembly, saying; In the morning Yehowah will make known who belongs to him and who is holy and who must come near to him, and whoever he may choose will come near to him. (**Numbers 16:5**)
 - Do this. Take fire holders for yourselves, Korah and his entire assembly. (**Numbers 16:6**)
 - And put fire in them and place incense upon them before Yehowah tomorrow, and it must occur that the man whom Yehowah will choose, he is the holy one. That is enough of you, you sons of Levi! (**Numbers 16:7**)
 - And Moses went on to say to Korah; Listen, please, you sons of Levi. (**Numbers 16:8**)
 - Is it such a little thing for you men that the God of Israel has separated you men from the assembly of Israel to present you to himself to carry on the service of Yehowah's tabernacle and to stand before the assembly to minister to them. (**Numbers 16:9**)
 - And that he should bring you and all your brothers the sons of Levi with you near? So must you men also try to secure the priesthood? (**Numbers 16:10**)
 - For that reason you and all your assembly who are gathering together are against Yehowah. As for Aaron, what is he that you men should murmur against him? (**Numbers 16:11**)
 - Then Moses said to Korah; You and all your assembly, be present before Yehowah, you and they and Aaron, tomorrow. (**Numbers 16:16**)
 - And take each one his fire holder, and you men must put incense upon them and present each one his fire holder before Yehowah, two hundred and fifty fire holders, and you and Aaron each his fire holder. (**Numbers 16:17**)

- So they took each one his fire holder and put fire upon them and placed incense upon them and stood at the entrance of the tent of meeting together with Moses and Aaron. (**Numbers 16:18**)
- Yehowah now spoke to Moses, saying; (**Numbers 16:36**)
- Say to Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest that he should take up the fire holders from within the conflagration, And you scatter the fire over there, for they are holy. (**Numbers 16:37**)
- Even the fire holders of these men who sinned against their own souls. And they must make them into thin metal plates as an overlaying for the **altar**, because they presented them before Yehowah, so that they became holy, and they should serve as a sign to the sons of Israel. (**Numbers 16:38**)
- Accordingly Eleazar the priest took the copper fire holders, which those who had been burned up had presented, and they proceeded to beat them out into an overlaying for the **altar**. (**Numbers 16:39**)
- As a memorial for the sons of Israel, to the end that no strange man who is not of the offspring of Aaron should come near to make incense smoke before Yehowah, and no one might become like Korah and his assembly, just as Yehowah had spoken to him by means of Moses. (**Numbers 16:40**)
- Once a year the golden **altar** of incense was also atoned for by the placing of sacrificial blood upon its horns. Other occasions on which it was so treated were when the sin offerings were made for members of the priesthood.
- And Aaron must make atonement upon its horns once a year. With some of the blood of the sin offering of the atonement he will make atonement for it once a year during your generations. It is most holy to Yehowah. (**Exodus 30:10**)
- And the priest must put some of the blood upon the horns of the **altar** of perfumed incense before Yehowah, which is in the tent of meeting, and all the rest of the bull's blood he will pour at the base of the **altar** of burnt offering, which is at the entrance of the tent of meeting. (**Leviticus 4:7**)

- When being transported by the sons of Kohath both the **altar** of incense and the **altar** of burnt offerings were covered, the first with a blue cloth and sealskins, the second with a reddish-purple wool cloth and sealskins.
- And over the golden **altar** they will spread out a cloth of blue, and they must cover it with a covering of sealskins and put in its poles. (**Numbers 4:11**)
- And they must take all the utensils of the ministry with which they regularly minister in the holy place, and they must put them in a cloth of blue and cover them with a covering of sealskins and put them upon a bar. (**Numbers 4:12**)
- And they must clear away the fatty ashes of the **altar** and spread out a cloth of wool dyed reddish purple over it. (**Numbers 4:13**)
- And they must put upon it all its utensils with which they regularly minister at it, the fire holders, the forks and the shovels and the bowls, all the utensils of the **altar**, and they must spread out over it a covering of sealskins and put in its poles. (**Numbers 4:14**)

See Also TABERNACLE

· Temple Altars

- Prior to the dedication of Solomon's temple, the copper **altar** made in the wilderness served for Israel's sacrificial offerings at the high place in Gibeon.
- Accordingly the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. A thousand burnt sacrifices Solomon proceeded to offer upon that **altar**. (**1 Kings 3:4**)
- And Zadok the priest and his brothers the priests before the tabernacle of Yehowah on the high place that was at Gibeon. (**1 Chronicles 16:39**)
- To offer up burnt offerings to Yehowah on the **altar** of burnt offering constantly morning and evening and for all that is written in the Law of Yehowah that he laid in command upon Israel. (**1 Chronicles 16:40**)

- But the tabernacle of Yehowah that Moses had made in the wilderness and the **altar** of burnt offering were at that time on the high place at Gibeon. (**1 Chronicles 21:29**)
- And David had not been able to go before it to consult God, for he had been terrified because of the sword of Yehowah's angel. (**1 Chronicles 21:30**)
- Then Solomon and all the congregation with him went to the high place that was at Gibeon, for there was where the tent of meeting of the true God, which Moses the servant of Yehowah had made in the wilderness, happened to be. (**2 Chronicles 1:3**)
- However, the ark of the true God David had brought up from Kiriath-jearim to the place that David had prepared for it, for he had pitched a tent for it in Jerusalem. (**2 Chronicles 1:4**)
- And the copper **altar** that Bezalel the son of Uri the son of Hur had made had been put before the tabernacle of Yehowah, and Solomon and the congregation applied as usual to it. (**2 Chronicles 1:5**)
- Solomon now made offerings there before Yehowah upon the copper **altar** that belonged to the tent of meeting, and he proceeded to offer upon it a thousand burnt offerings. (**2 Chronicles 1:6**)
- The copper **altar** thereafter made for the temple covered an area 16 times as large as the one made for the tabernacle, measuring about 8.9 meters (29.2 feet) square and about 4.5 meters (14.6 feet) high.
- Then he made the copper **altar**, twenty cubits being its length, and twenty cubits its width, and ten cubits its height. (**2 Chronicles 4:1**)
- In view of its height, some means of approach was essential. God's Law prohibited the use of steps to the **altar** to prevent exposure of nakedness.
- And you must not go up by steps to my **altar**, that your private parts may not be exposed upon it. (**Exodus 20:26**)
- Some believe that the linen drawers worn by Aaron and his sons served to obviate this command and thus made steps allowable.

- **And make drawers of linen for them to cover the naked flesh. From the hips and to the thighs they are to extend. (Exodus 28:42)**
- **And they must be upon Aaron and his sons when they come into the tent of meeting or when they go near to the altar to minister in the holy place, that they may not incur error and certainly die. It is a statute to time indefinite for him and his offspring after him. (Exodus 28:43)**
- **However, it seems likely that an inclined ramp was used to approach the top of the altar of burnt offering. Josephus [The Jewish War, V, 225 v, 6] indicates that such an approach was used for the temple altar later built by Herod.**
- **If the arrangement of the altar of the temple followed that of the tabernacle, the ramp was probably on the South side of the altar. The molten sea, where the priests washed, would thus be convenient, as it also lay toward the south.**
- **And he proceeded to make the molten sea ten cubits from its one brim to its other brim, circular all around, and its height was five cubits, and it took a line of thirty cubits to circle all around it. (2 Chronicles 4:2)**
- **And there was the likeness of gourd-shaped ornaments under it clear around, surrounding it, ten in a cubit, enclosing the sea all around. The gourd-shaped ornaments were in two rows, being cast in its casting. (2 Chronicles 4:3)**
- **It was standing upon twelve bulls, three facing the north and three facing the west and three facing the south and three facing the east, and the sea was above upon them, and all their hind parts were inward. (2 Chronicles 4:4)**
- **And its thickness was a handbreadth. And its brim was like the workmanship of the brim of a cup, a lily blossom. As a receptacle, three thousand bath measures were what it could contain. (2 Chronicles 4:5)**
- **Then he made the courtyard of the priests and the great enclosure and the doors belonging to the enclosure, and their doors he overlaid with copper. (2 Chronicles 4:9)**

- **And the sea he placed at the right side, to the east, toward the south. (2 Chronicles 4:10)**
- **In other respects the altar constructed for the temple apparently was modeled after that of the tabernacle, and no detailed description of it is given.**
- **It was located where David had earlier built his temporary altar on Mount Moriah.**
- **Then Araunah said; Why has my lord the king come to his servant? At that David said; To buy from you the threshing floor for building an altar to Yehowah, that the scourge may be halted from upon the people. (2 Samuel 24:21)**
- **And David proceeded to build there an altar to Yehowah and offer up burnt sacrifices and communion sacrifices, and Yehowah began letting himself be entreated for the land, so that the scourge was halted from upon Israel. (2 Samuel 24:25)**
- **Then David built there an altar to Yehowah and offered up burnt sacrifices and communion sacrifices, and he proceeded to call upon Yehowah, who now answered him with fire from the heavens upon the altar of burnt offering. (1 Chronicles 21:26)**
- **It was then that Solomon offered up burnt sacrifices to Yehowah upon the altar of Yehowah that he had built before the porch. (2 Chronicles 8:12)**
- **And as soon as Asa heard these words and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage and proceeded to cause the disgusting things to vanish from all the land of Judah and Benjamin and from the cities that he had captured from the mountainous region of Ephraim, and to renew Yehowah's altar that was before the porch of Yehowah. (2 Chronicles 15:8)**
- **This is also traditionally held to have been the location where Abraham had attempted to offer up Isaac.**
- **And he went on to say; Take, please, your son, your only son whom you so love, Isaac, and make a trip to the land of Moriah and there offer him up as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall designate to you. (Genesis 22:2)**

- The blood of sacrificial animals was poured out at the **altars** base, and it is likely that some kind of conduit existed for carrying the blood away from the temple area. Herod's temple is reported to have had such a conduit connected with the Southwest horn of the **altar**, and in the rock of the temple area, an opening has been found that leads to an underground channel going out to the Kidron Valley.
- The **altar** of incense for the temple was made of cedarwood, but this seems to have been the only difference between it and that of the tabernacle. It was likewise overlaid with gold.
- And the innermost room was twenty cubits in length, and twenty cubits in width, and twenty cubits in its height, and he proceeded to overlay it with pure gold, and to overlay the **altar** with cedarwood. ([1 Kings 6:20](#))
- And the whole house he overlaid with gold, until all the house was completed, and all the **altar** that was toward the innermost room he overlaid with gold. ([1 Kings 6:22](#))
- And Solomon gradually made all the utensils that pertained to the house of Yehowah, the **altar** of gold and the table on which was the showbread, of gold. ([1 Kings 7:48](#))
- And for the incense **altar** refined gold by weight and for the representation of the chariot, namely, the cherubs of gold for spreading their wings out and screening over the ark of the covenant of Yehowah. ([1 Chronicles 28:18](#))
- And Solomon proceeded to make all the utensils that were at the house of the true God and the golden **altar** and the tables with the showbread upon them. ([2 Chronicles 4:19](#))
- At the inauguration of the temple Solomon's prayer was offered before the **altar** of burnt offering, and at its conclusion fire came down from the heavens and consumed the sacrifices on the altar.
- And he began standing before the **altar** of Yehowah in front of all the congregation of Israel, and he now spread out his palms. ([2 Chronicles 6:12](#))
- For Solomon had made a platform of copper and then put it in the middle of the enclosure. Its length was five cubits, and its width

- five cubits, and its height three cubits, and he kept standing upon it. And he proceeded to kneel upon his knees in front of all the congregation of Israel and to spread his palms out to the heavens. ([2 Chronicles 6:13](#))
- Now as soon as Solomon finished praying, the fire itself came down from the heavens and proceeded to consume the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and Yehowah's glory itself filled the house. ([2 Chronicles 7:1](#))
 - And the priests were unable to enter into the house of Yehowah because Yehowah's glory had filled the house of Yehowah. ([2 Chronicles 7:2](#))
 - And all the sons of Israel were spectators when the fire came down and the glory of Yehowah was upon the house, and they immediately bowed low with their faces to the earth upon the pavement and prostrated themselves and thanked Yehowah, for he is good, for his loving-kindness is to time indefinite. ([2 Chronicles 7:3](#))
 - **Despite the fact that it covered an area of over 79 square meters (850 square feet), this copper altar proved too small for the immense quantity of sacrifices made then, and so a portion of the courtyard was sanctified for that purpose.**
 - And the king and all Israel with him were offering a grand sacrifice before Yehowah. ([1 Kings 8:62](#))
 - And Solomon proceeded to offer the communion sacrifices that he had to offer to Yehowah, twenty-two thousand cattle and a hundred and twenty thousand sheep, that the king and all the sons of Israel might inaugurate the house of Yehowah. ([1 Kings 8:63](#))
 - On that day the king had to sanctify the middle of the courtyard that is before the house of Yehowah, because there he had to render up the burnt sacrifice and the grain offering and the fat pieces of the communion sacrifices, for the copper altar that is before Yehowah was too small to contain the burnt sacrifice and the grain offering and the fat pieces of the communion sacrifices. ([1 Kings 8:64](#))

- In the latter part of Solomon's reign, and in the reigns of Rehoboam and Abijam, the **altar** of burnt offerings came into neglect so that King Asa found it necessary to renew it.
- And as soon as Asa heard these words and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage and proceeded to cause the disgusting things to vanish from all the land of Judah and Benjamin and from the cities that he had captured from the mountainous region of Ephraim, and to renew Yehowah's **altar** that was before the porch of Yehowah. (2 Chronicles 15:8)
- King Uzziah was stricken with leprosy for attempting to burn incense on the golden **altar** of incense.
- However, as soon as he was strong, his heart became haughty even to the point of causing ruin, so that he acted unfaithfully against Yehowah his God and came into the temple of Yehowah to burn incense upon the **altar** of incense. (2 Chronicles 26:16)
- Immediately Azariah the priest and with him priests of Yehowah, eighty valiant men, came in after him. (2 Chronicles 26:17)
- Then they stood up against Uzziah the king and said to him, It is not your business, O Uzziah, to burn incense to Yehowah, but it is the business of the priests the sons of Aaron, the one's sanctified, to burn incense. Go out from the sanctuary, for you have acted unfaithfully, and it is not for any glory to you on the part of Yehowah God. (2 Chronicles 26:18)
- But Uzziah became enraged while in his hand there was a censer for burning incense, and, during his rage against the priests, leprosy itself flashed up in his forehead before the priests in the house of Yehowah beside the **altar** of incense. (2 Chronicles 26:19)
- King Ahaz moved the copper **altar** of burnt offering to one side and put a pagan **altar** in its place.
- And the copper **altar** that was before Yehowah he now brought near from in front of the house, from between his **altar** and the house of Yehowah, and put it at the north side of his **altar**. (2 Kings 16:14)

- His son Hezekiah, however, had the copper **altar** and its utensils cleansed, sanctified, and restored to service.
- After that they came inside to Hezekiah the king and said, We have cleansed the whole house of Yehowah, the **altar** of burnt offering and all its utensils, and the table of the layer bread and all its utensils. (2 Chronicles 29:18)
- And all the utensils that King Ahaz removed from employment during his reign in his unfaithfulness we have prepared, and have sanctified them, and there they are before the **altar** of Yehowah. (2 Chronicles 29:19)
- And Hezekiah the king proceeded to get up early and gather the princes of the city together and go up to the house of Yehowah. (2 Chronicles 29:20)
- And they came bringing seven bulls and seven rams and seven male lambs and seven male goats as a sin offering for the kingdom and for the sanctuary and for Judah. So he said to the sons of Aaron the priests to offer them up upon the **altar** of Yehowah. (2 Chronicles 29:21)
- Accordingly they slaughtered the cattle and the priests received the blood and sprinkled it upon the **altar**, after which they slaughtered the rams and sprinkled the blood upon the **altar**, and they slaughtered the male lambs and sprinkled the blood upon the **altar**. (2 Chronicles 29:22)
- Then they brought the male goats of the sin offering near before the king and the congregation and laid their hands upon them. (2 Chronicles 29:23)
- The priests now slaughtered them and made a sin offering with their blood upon the **altar**, to make atonement for all Israel, because it was for all Israel that the king said the burnt offering and the sin offering should be. (2 Chronicles 29:24)
- Then Hezekiah said to offer up the burnt sacrifice on the altar, and at the time that the burnt offering started, the song of Yehowah started and also the trumpets, even under the direction of the instruments of David the king of Israel. (2 Chronicles 29:27)

See Also TEMPLE

· Altars Made After The Exile To Babylon

- The first thing built in Jerusalem by the returning exiles under Zerubbabel and High Priest Jeshua was the **altar** for burnt offerings.
- And Jeshua the son of Jehozadak and his brothers the priests and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and his brothers proceeded to rise up and build the **altar** of the God of Israel, to offer up burnt sacrifices upon it, according to what is written in the Law of Moses the man of the true God. ([Ezra 3:2](#))
- So they established the **altar** firmly upon its own site, for fright came upon them because of the peoples of the lands, and they began offering up burnt sacrifices to Yehowah upon it, the burnt sacrifices of the morning and of the evening. ([Ezra 3:3](#))
- Then they held the festival of booths according to what is written, with the burnt sacrifices day by day in number according to the rule of what was due each day. ([Ezra 3:4](#))
- And afterward there was the constant burnt offering and that for the new moons and for all the sanctified festival seasons of Yehowah and for everyone that willingly offered a voluntary offering to Yehowah. ([Ezra 3:5](#))
- From the first day of the seventh month on they started to offer up burnt sacrifices to Yehowah, when the foundation of Yehowah's temple itself had not yet been laid. ([Ezra 3:6](#))
- In due time a new **altar** of incense was also made.
- The Syrian king Antiochus Epiphanes carried off the golden **altar** of incense, and two years later, [circa 168 B.C.E](#), he built an **altar** over the great **altar** of Yehowah, and offered up a sacrifice to Zeus thereon. [[1 Maccabees 1:20-64](#)] Judas Maccabaeus thereafter built a new altar of unhewn stones and also restored the altar of incense. [[1 Maccabees 4:44-49](#)]
- The **altar** of burnt offerings of Herod's temple was made of unhewn stones and, according to Josephus [[The Jewish War, V, 225 \[v, 6\]](#)], was 50 cubits square and 15 cubits high, though the Jewish Mishnah

[Middot 3:1] gives smaller dimensions for it. It was to this **altar**, therefore, that Jesus made reference in his day.

- If, then, you are bringing your gift to the **altar** and you there remember that your brother has something against you. (**Matthew 5:23**)
- Leave your gift there in front of the **altar**, and go away, first make your peace with your brother, and then, when you have come back, offer up your gift. (**Matthew 5:24**)
- Also, if anyone swears by the **altar**, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gift on it, he is under obligation. (**Matthew 23:18**)
- Blind ones! Which, in fact, is greater, the gift or the **altar** that sanctifies the gift? (**Matthew 23:19**)
- Therefore he that swears by the **altar** is swearing by it and by all the things on it. (**Matthew 23:20**)
- The **altar** of incense of that temple is not described, but;
- To him Yehowah's angel appeared, standing at the right side of the **incense altar**. (**Luke 1:11**)
- Shows that an angel was standing to the right of it when he appeared to John's father Zechariah.

·· **Altar Of Ezekiel's Visionary Temple**

- In the visionary temple seen by Ezekiel, the **altar** for burnt offerings was similarly positioned before the temple
- And he went measuring the inner courtyard. The length was a hundred cubits, and the width a hundred cubits, foursquare. And the **altar** was before the house. (**Ezekiel 40:47**)
- But it had a different design from that of the previous **altars**. The **altar** consisted of several sections successively indented or recessed. Its dimensions are given in measurements of the long cubit, 51.8 centimeters (20.4 inches). The base of the altar was one cubit thick and had a lip of one span perhaps 26 centimeters (10 inches) as a border around the top, thus forming a sort of gutter or channel, perhaps for receiving blood poured out.

- And these are the measurements of the **altar** in cubits, a cubit being a cubit and a handbreadth. And its bottom is a cubit. And a cubit is the width. And its border is upon its lip round about, one span. And this is the base of the **altar**. (**Ezekiel 43:13**)
- And from the bottom on the floor to the lower surrounding ledge there are two cubits, and the width is one cubit. And from the small surrounding ledge to the big surrounding ledge there are four cubits, and its width is a cubit. (**Ezekiel 43:14**)
- Resting on the base itself, but set in one cubit from its outer edge, was another section, and it measured two cubits, 104 centimeters (41 inches) in height. A third section was stepped in one cubit and was four cubits, 207 centimeters (82 inches) in height.
- It also had a border surrounding it of a half cubit, 26 centimeters (10 inches), perhaps forming a second channel or a protective ledge. Finally, the **altar** hearth extended up yet another four cubits and was also stepped in one cubit from the preceding section, out from it extended four horns. Stairs from the East provided approach to the altar hearth.
- And from the bottom on the floor to the lower surrounding ledge there are two cubits, and the width is one cubit. And from the small surrounding ledge to the big surrounding ledge there are four cubits, and its width is a cubit. (**Ezekiel 43:14**)
- And the **altar** hearth is four cubits, and out from the altar hearth and upward there are the four horns. (**Ezekiel 43:15**)
- And the **altar** hearth is twelve cubits in length, with twelve cubits of width, squared on its four sides. (**Ezekiel 43:16**)
- And the surrounding ledge is fourteen cubits in length, with fourteen cubits of width, on its four sides, and the border surrounding it is half a cubit, and its bottom is a cubit round about. And its steps are facing east. (**Ezekiel 43:17**)
- As with the **altar** built in the wilderness, a seven-day period of atonement and installation was to be observed.
- And you must give to the Levitical priests, who are of the offspring of Zadok, the one's approaching me, is the utterance of

- the Sovereign Lord Yehowah, to minister to me, a young bull, the son of the herd, as a sin offering. ([Ezekiel 43:19](#))
- And you must take some of its blood and put it upon its four horns and upon the four corners of the surrounding ledge and upon the border round about and purify it from sin and make atonement for it. ([Ezekiel 43:20](#))
 - And you must take the young bull, the sin offering, and one must burn it in the appointed place of the House, outside the sanctuary. ([Ezekiel 43:21](#))
 - And on the second day you will bring near a buck of the goats, a sound one, as a sin offering, and they must purify the **altar** from sin the same as they purified it from sin with the young bull. ([Ezekiel 43:22](#))
 - On your making an end of the purifying from sin you will bring near a young bull, the son of the herd, a sound one, and a ram from the flock, a sound one. ([Ezekiel 43:23](#))
 - And you must bring them near before Yehowah, and the priests must throw salt upon them and offer them up as a whole burnt offering to Yehowah. ([Ezekiel 43:24](#))
 - For seven days you will render up a he-goat as a sin offering for the day, and a young bull, the son of the herd, and a ram out of the flock, perfect ones, they will render up. ([Ezekiel 43:25](#))
 - For seven days they will make atonement for the **altar**, and they must cleanse it and install it. ([Ezekiel 43:26](#))
 - **Annual atonement was to be made for the **altar** along with the rest of the sanctuary on the first day of Nisan.**
 - This is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said; In the first month, on the first day of the month, you should take a young bull, a son of the herd, a sound one, and you must purify the sanctuary from sin. ([Ezekiel 45:18](#))
 - And the priest must take some of the blood of the sin offering and put it upon the doorpost of the House and upon the four corners of the surrounding ledge belonging to the **altar** and upon the doorpost of the gate of the inner courtyard. ([Ezekiel 45:19](#))

- The river of healing waters seen by Ezekiel flowed eastward from the temple and passed South of the **altar**.
- And gradually he brought me back to the entrance of the House, and, look! There was water going forth from under the threshold of the House eastward, for the front of the House was east. And the water was going down from under, from the right-hand side of the House, south of the **altar**. ([Ezekiel 47:1](#))
- The **altar** of incense is not mentioned by name in the vision. However, the description of **the wooden altar** at;
- The **wooden altar** was three cubits high, and its length was two cubits, and it had its corner posts. And its length and its walls were of wood. And he proceeded to speak to me; This is the table that is before Yehowah. ([Ezekiel 41:22](#))
- Particularly the reference to it as the table that is before Yehowah, indicates that this corresponded to the **altar of incense** rather than to the table of showbread.
- And you must put it before the curtain that is near the ark of the testimony, before the cover that is over the Testimony, where I shall present myself to you. ([Exodus 30:6](#))
- And when Aaron lights up the lamps between the two evenings, he will make it smoke. It is an incense constantly before Yehowah during your generations. ([Exodus 30:8](#))
- And you must put the golden **altar for incense** before the ark of the testimony and put the screen of the entrance for the tabernacle in place. ([Exodus 40:5](#))
- And another angel arrived and stood at the **altar**, having a golden incense vessel, and a large quantity of incense was given him to offer it with the prayers of all the holy one's upon the golden **altar** that was before the throne. ([Revelation 8:3](#))
- This **altar** was three cubits, 155 centimeters (61 inches) high and evidently two cubits, 104 centimeters (41 inches) square.

· Other Altars

- Since the post-Flood population did not continue with Noah in pure worship, it follows that many **altars** for false worship were produced, and excavations in Canaan, Mesopotamia, and other sites indicate that these existed from the earliest periods. Balaam had seven **altars** erected successively at three different sites in his vain attempts at calling down a curse on Israel.
- And Balak proceeded to sacrifice cattle and sheep and to send some to Balaam and the princes who were with him. (**Numbers 22:40**)
- And it came about in the morning that Balak went taking Balaam and bringing him up to Bamoth-baal, that he might see from there the whole of the people. (**Numbers 22:41**)
- When God got in touch with Balaam, he then said to Him; I set the seven **altars** in rows, and I proceeded to offer up a bull and a ram on each **altar**. (**Numbers 23:4**)
- So he took him to the field of Zophim, to the top of Pisgah, and proceeded to build seven **altars** and to offer up a bull and a ram on each **altar**. (**Numbers 23:14**)
- Then Balaam said to Balak; Build for me on this spot seven **altars** and make ready for me on this spot seven bulls and seven rams. (**Numbers 23:29**)
- So Balak did just as Balaam had said; And he went offering up a bull and a ram on each **altar**. (**Numbers 23:30**)
- The Israelites were instructed to tear down all pagan **altars** and **destroy the sacred pillars and poles** customarily built alongside them.
- But their **altars** you people are to pull down, and their sacred pillars you are to shatter, and their sacred poles you are to cut down. (**Exodus 34:13**)
- On the other hand, this is what you should do to them; Their **altars** you should pull down, and their sacred pillars you should break down, and their sacred poles you should cut down, and their graven images you should burn with fire. (**Deuteronomy 7:5**)
- For you are a holy people to Yehowah your God. It is you

- Yehowah your God has chosen to become his people, a special property, out of all the peoples that are on the surface of the ground. (**Deuteronomy 7:6**)
- These are the regulations and the judicial decisions that you should be careful to carry out in the land that Yehowah the God of your forefathers will certainly allow you to take possession of, all the days that you are alive on the soil. (**Deuteronomy 12:1**)
 - You should absolutely destroy all the places where the nations whom you are dispossessing have served their gods, on the tall mountains and the hills and under every luxuriant tree. (**Deuteronomy 12:2**)
 - And you must pull down their **altars** and shatter their sacred pillars, and you should burn their sacred poles in the fire and cut down the graven images of their gods, and you must destroy their names from that place. (**Deuteronomy 12:3**)
 - They were never to imitate these nor offer up their children by fire as did the Canaanites.
 - Watch out for yourself for fear you may be entrapped after them, after they have been annihilated from before you, and for fear you may inquire respecting their gods, saying; How was it these nations used to serve their gods? And I, yes, I, will do the same way. (**Deuteronomy 12:30**)
 - You must not do that way to Yehowah your God, for everything detestable to Yehowah that he does hate they have done to their gods, for even their sons and their daughters they regularly burn in the fire to their gods. (**Deuteronomy 12:31**)
 - You must not plant for yourself any sort of tree as a sacred pole near the **altar** of Yehowah your God that you will make for yourself. (**Deuteronomy 16:21**)
 - Instead of a multiplicity of **altars**, Israel was to have just **one altar** for the worship of the one true God, and this would be located at the place Yehowah would choose.
 - You should absolutely destroy all the places where the nations whom you are dispossessing have served their gods, on the tall mountains and the hills and under every luxuriant tree.

(Deuteronomy 12:2)

- **And you must pull down their altars and shatter their sacred pillars, and you should burn their sacred poles in the fire and cut down the graven images of their gods, and you must destroy their names from that place. (Deuteronomy 12:3)**
- **You must not do that way to Yehowah your God. (Deuteronomy 12:4)**
- **But to the place that Yehowah your God will choose out of all your tribes to place his name there, to have it reside, you will seek, and there you must come. (Deuteronomy 12:5)**
- **And there you must bring your burnt offerings and your sacrifices and your tenth parts and the contribution of your hand and your vow offerings and your voluntary offerings and the firstborn one's of your herd and of your flock. (Deuteronomy 12:6)**
- **Watch out for yourself for fear you may offer up your burnt offerings in any other place you may see. (Deuteronomy 12:13)**
- **But in the place that Yehowah will choose in one of your tribes is where you should offer up your burnt offerings, and there you should do all that I am commanding you. (Deuteronomy 12:14)**
- **And you must render up your burnt offerings, the flesh and the blood, upon the altar of Yehowah your God, and the blood of your sacrifices should be poured out against the altar of Yehowah your God, but the flesh you may eat. (Deuteronomy 12:27)**
- **Contrast this with Babylon, where there were 180 altars to the goddess Ishtar alone. They were at first instructed to make an altar of unhewn stones following the crossing of the Jordan River.**
- **And it must occur that when you have crossed the Jordan, you should set up these stones, just as I am commanding you today, in Mount Ebal, and you must whitewash them with lime. (Deuteronomy 27:4)**
- **You must also build an altar there to Yehowah your God, an altar of stones. You must not wield an iron tool upon them. (Deuteronomy 27:5)**

- With whole stones you should build the **altar** of Yehowah your God, and you must offer burnt offerings to Yehowah your God on it. (**Deuteronomy 27:6**)
- And you must sacrifice communion sacrifices and eat them there, and you must rejoice before Yehowah your God. (**Deuteronomy 27:7**)
- And you must write on the stones all the words of this Law, making them quite clear. (**Deuteronomy 27:8**)
- **And this was built by Joshua on Mount Ebal.**
- It was then that Joshua proceeded to build an **altar** to Yehowah the God of Israel, in Mount Ebal. (**Joshua 8:30**)
- Just as Moses the servant of Yehowah had commanded the sons of Israel, as it is written in the book of the Law of Moses. An **altar** of whole stones, upon which no iron tool has been wielded, and they went offering up burnt offerings upon it to Yehowah and sacrificing communion sacrifices. (**Joshua 8:31**)
- Then he wrote there upon the stones a copy of the Law of Moses that he had written before the sons of Israel. (**Joshua 8:32**)
- **Following the division of the conquered land, the tribes of Reuben and Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh built a conspicuous altar by the Jordan, which provoked a temporary crisis among the other tribes until it was determined that the altar was no sign of apostasy but only a memorial of faithfulness to Yehowah as the true God.**
- When they came to the regions of the Jordan that were in the land of Canaan, then the sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh built there an **altar** by the Jordan, an **altar** great in conspicuousness. (**Joshua 22:10**)
- Later on the other sons of Israel heard it said; Look! The sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh have built an **altar** on the frontier of the land of Canaan in the regions of the Jordan on the side belonging to the sons of Israel. (**Joshua 22:11**)
- When the sons of Israel got to hear of it, the whole assembly of

the sons of Israel were then congregated at Shiloh to go up for military action against them. (Joshua 22:12)

- Then the sons of Israel sent to the sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh in the land of Gilead Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest. (Joshua 22:13)
- And ten chieftains with him, one chieftain of each paternal house of all the tribes of Israel, and they were each a head of the house of their fathers of the thousands of Israel. (Joshua 22:14)
- In time they came to the sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh in the land of Gilead and began to speak with them, saying; (Joshua 22:15)
- This is what all the assembly of Yehowah have said; What is this act of unfaithfulness that you have perpetrated against the God of Israel in turning back today from following Yehowah by your building for yourselves an altar, that you may rebel today against Yehowah? (Joshua 22:16)
- Was the error of Peor too small for us, from which we have not cleansed ourselves down to this day, although the plague came to be upon the assembly of Yehowah? (Joshua 22:17)
- And you, you would turn back today from following Yehowah, and it must occur that should you, for your part, rebel today against Yehowah, then tomorrow it will be against the entire assembly of Israel that he will be indignant. (Joshua 22:18)
- Now if it is indeed that the land of your possession is unclean, make your way across to the land of Yehowah's possession where the tabernacle of Yehowah has resided, and get settled in our midst, and against Yehowah do not you rebel and do not make us the one's to rebel by your building for yourselves an altar in addition to the altar of Yehowah our God. (Joshua 22:19)
- Was it not Achan the son of Zerah that perpetrated an act of unfaithfulness in the thing devoted to destruction, and was it not against all the assembly of Israel that there came indignation? And he was not the only man to expire in his error. (Joshua 22:20)
- At this the sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad and the half tribe

of Manasseh answered and spoke with the heads of the thousands of Israel. (Joshua 22:21)

- Divine One, God, Yehowah, Divine One, God, Yehowah, he is knowing, and Israel, he too will know. If it is in rebellion and if it is in unfaithfulness against Yehowah, do not save us this day. (Joshua 22:22)
- If it was to build for ourselves an altar so as to turn back from following Yehowah, and if it was to offer up burnt offerings and grain offerings on it, and if it was to render up communion sacrifices on it, Yehowah himself will search out. (Joshua 22:23)
- Or if it was not rather out of anxious care for something else that we did this, saying; In a future day your sons will say to our sons; What do you have to do with Yehowah the God of Israel? (Joshua 22:24)
- And there is a boundary that Yehowah has put between us and you, the sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad, namely, the Jordan. You have no share in Yehowah. And your sons will certainly make our sons desist from fearing Yehowah. (Joshua 22:25)
- Hence we said; Let us take action in our behalf, please, by building the altar, not for burnt offering nor for sacrifice. (Joshua 22:26)
- But that it may be a witness between us and you and our generations after us that we shall render the service of Yehowah before him with our burnt offerings and our sacrifices and our communion sacrifices, that your sons may not say in a future day to our sons. You have no share in Yehowah. (Joshua 22:27)
- So we said; And it must occur that in case they should say that to us and to our generations in a future day, we must also say; See the representation of Yehowah's altar that our fathers made, not for burnt offering nor for sacrifice, but it is a witness between us and you. (Joshua 22:28)
- It is unthinkable, on our part, to rebel of our own accord against Yehowah and to turn back today from following Yehowah by building an altar for burnt offering, grain offering and sacrifice besides the altar of Yehowah our God that is before his tabernacle! (Joshua 22:29)

- **Now when Phinehas the priest and the chieftains of the assembly and the heads of the thousands of Israel who were with him heard the words that the sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad and the sons of Manasseh spoke, it came to be good in their eyes. (Joshua 22:30)**
- **So Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest said to the sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad and the sons of Manasseh; Today we do know that Yehowah is in our midst, because you have not perpetrated against Yehowah this act of unfaithfulness. Now you have delivered the sons of Israel out of the hand of Yehowah. (Joshua 22:31)**
- **With that Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest and the chieftains returned from the sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad in the land of Gilead to the land of Canaan to the other sons of Israel and brought back word to them. (Joshua 22:32)**
- **And the word came to be good in the eyes of the sons of Israel, and the sons of Israel proceeded to bless God, and they did not talk of going up for army service against them to ruin the land in which the sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad were dwelling. (Joshua 22:33)**
- **And the sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad began to name the altar, because it is a witness between us that Yehowah is the true God. (Joshua 22:34)**

•• **Altars Constructed For Specific Purposes**

- **Other altars were constructed, but these appear to have been built for specific occasions, not for continual use, and they were usually built in connection with angelic appearances or at angelic instruction. The one at Bochim and those of Gideon and Manoah were such.**
- **Then Yehowah's angel went up from Gilgal to Bochim and said; I proceeded to bring you up out of Egypt and to bring you into the land about which I swore to your forefathers. Furthermore, I said; Never shall I break my covenant with you. (Judges 2:1)**
- **And for your part, you must not conclude a covenant with the inhabitants of this land. Their altars you should pull down. But you have not listened to my voice. Why have you done this?**

(Judges 2:2)

- **So I, in turn, have said; I shall not drive them away from before you, and they must become snares to you, and their gods will serve as a lure to you. (Judges 2:3)**
- **And it came about that as soon as Yehowah's angel had spoken these words to all the sons of Israel, the people began to raise their voices and weep. (Judges 2:4)**
- **Hence they called the name of that place Bochim. And they proceeded to sacrifice there to Yehowah. (Judges 2:5)**
- **So Gideon built an altar there to Yehowah, and it continues to be called Yehowah-shalom down to this day. It is yet in Ophrah of the Abi-ezrites. (Judges 6:24)**
- **And it came about during that night that Yehowah went on to say to him; Take the young bull, the bull that belongs to your father, that is, the second young bull of seven years, and you must tear down the altar of Baal that is your fathers, and the sacred pole that is by it you should cut down. (Judges 6:25)**
- **And you must build an altar to Yehowah your God at the head of this stronghold, with the row of stones, and you must take the second young bull and offer it up as a burnt offering on the pieces of wood of the sacred pole that you will cut down. (Judges 6:26)**
- **Accordingly Gideon took ten men of his servants and went doing just as Yehowah had spoken to him, but it came about that, as he feared the household of his father and the men of the city too much to do it by day, he went doing it by night. (Judges 6:27)**
- **When the men of the city got up early in the morning as usual, why, look! The altar of Baal had been pulled down and the sacred pole that was beside it had been cut down, and the second young bull had been offered up on the altar that had been built. (Judges 6:28)**
- **And they began to say one to another; Who has done this thing? And they went inquiring and seeking. Finally they said; Gideon the son of Joash is the one that has done this thing. (Judges 6:29)**

- So the men of the city said to Joash; Bring your son out that he may die, because he has pulled down the **altar** of Baal, and because he has cut down the sacred pole that was by it. (**Judges 6:30**)
- At this Joash said to all those who stood against him; Will you be the ones to make a legal defense for Baal to see whether you yourselves may save him? Whoever makes a legal defense for him ought to be put to death even this morning. If he is God, let him make a legal defense for himself, because someone has pulled down his **altar**. (**Judges 6:31**)
- And he began to call him Jerubbaal on that day, saying; Let Baal make a legal defense in his own behalf, because someone has pulled down his **altar**. (**Judges 6:32**)
- Manoah now said to Yehowah's angel; Let us, please, detain you and fix up a kid of the goats before you. (**Judges 13:15**)
- But Yehowah's angel said to Manoah: If you detain me, I shall not feed myself on your bread, but if you will render up a burnt offering to Yehowah, you may offer it up. For Manoah did not know that he was Yehowah's angel. (**Judges 13:16**)
- Then Manoah said to Yehowah's angel; What is your name, that when your word comes true we shall certainly do you honor? (**Judges 13:17**)
- However, Yehowah's angel said to him; Just why should you ask about my name, when it is a wonderful one? (**Judges 13:18**)
- And Manoah proceeded to take the kid of the goats and the grain offering and to offer it upon the rock to Yehowah. And He was doing something in a wonderful way while Manoah and his wife were looking on. (**Judges 13:19**)
- So it came about that, as the flame ascended from off the **altar** heavenward, then Yehowah's angel ascended in the flame of the **altar** while Manoah and his wife were looking on. At once they fell upon their faces to the earth. (**Judges 13:20**)
- And Yehowah's angel did not repeat appearing to Manoah and his wife anymore. Then it was that Manoah knew that he had been

Yehowah's angel. (**Judges 13:21**)

- **Consequently Manoah said to his wife; We shall positively die, because it is God that we have seen. (**Judges 13:22**)**
- **But his wife said to him; If Yehowah had been delighted only to put us to death, he would not have accepted a burnt offering and grain offering from our hand, and he would not have shown us all these things, and he would not as now have let us hear anything like this. (**Judges 13:23**)**
- **The record concerning the altar set up at Bethel by the people when considering how to prevent the disappearance of the tribe of Benjamin does not indicate whether such had divine approval or was simply a case of their doing what was right in their own eyes.**
- **And it came about the next day that the people proceeded to get up early and to build an altar there and to offer up burnt offerings and communion offerings. (**Judges 21:4**)**
- **In those days there was no king in Israel. What was right in his own eyes was what each one was accustomed to do. (**Judges 21:25**)**
- **As God's representative, Samuel offered sacrifice at Mizpah and also built an altar at Ramah.**
- **Then Samuel said; Collect all Israel together at Mizpah, that I may pray in your behalf to Yehowah. (**1 Samuel 7:5**)**
- **Then Samuel took a sucking lamb and offered it up as a burnt offering, a whole offering, to Yehowah, and Samuel began calling to Yehowah for aid in behalf of Israel, and Yehowah proceeded to answer him. (**1 Samuel 7:9**)**
- **And it came about that while Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines themselves drew near for battle against Israel. And Yehowah now caused it to thunder with a loud noise on that day against the Philistines, that he might throw them into confusion, and they got defeated before Israel. (**1 Samuel 7:10**)**
- **But his return was to Ramah, because there was where his house was, and there he judged Israel. And he proceeded to build an**

altar there to Yehowah. (1 Samuel 7:17)

- This may have been due to the fact that Yehowah's presence was no longer in evidence at the tabernacle in Shiloh, following the removal of the Ark.
- So the people sent to Shiloh and carried from there the ark of the covenant of Yehowah of armies, who is sitting upon the cherubs. And the two sons of Eli were there with the ark of the covenant of the true God, namely, Hophni and Phinehas. (1 Samuel 4:4)
- And the ark of God itself was captured, and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died. (1 Samuel 4:11)
- And he went striking down the men of Beth-shemesh, because they had looked upon the ark of Yehowah. So he struck down among the people seventy men, fifty thousand men, and the people began mourning because Yehowah had struck down the people with a great slaughter. (1 Samuel 6:19)
- Further, the men of Beth-shemesh said; Who will be able to stand before Yehowah this holy God, and to whom will he withdraw from off us? (1 Samuel 6:20)
- Finally they sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kiriath-jearim, saying; The Philistines have returned the ark of Yehowah. Come down. Take it up to yourselves. (1 Samuel 6:21)
- Accordingly the men of Kiriath-jearim came and brought the ark of Yehowah up and took it into the house of Abinadab on the hill, and Eleazar his son was the one whom they sanctified to guard the ark of Yehowah. (1 Samuel 7:1)
- And it came about that from the day of the Ark's dwelling in Kiriath-jearim the days kept multiplying, so that they amounted to twenty years, and all the house of Israel went lamenting after Yehowah. (1 Samuel 7:2)
- God heard and got to be furious, and so he contemned Israel very much. (Psalms 78:59)
- And he finally forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh, the tent in which he resided among earthling men. (Psalms 78:60)

- And he proceeded to give his strength even to captivity and his beauty into the hand of the adversary. (**Psalms 78:61**)
- And he kept handing over his people to the sword itself, and against his inheritance he became furious. (**Psalms 78:62**)
- His young men a fire ate up, and his virgins were not praised. (**Psalms 78:63**)
- As for his priests, they fell by the very sword, and their own widows did not give way to weeping. (**Psalms 78:64**)

••Use Of Temporary Altars

- On a number of occasions temporary **altars** were constructed. For example, Saul offered sacrifice at Gilgal and built an **altar** at Aijalon.
- Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. But Saul himself was yet in Gilgal, and all the people trembled while following him. (**1 Samuel 13:7**)
- And he continued waiting for seven days to the appointed time that Samuel had said, and Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and the people were scattering from him. (**1 Samuel 13:8**)
- Finally Saul said; Bring near to me the burnt sacrifice and the communion sacrifices. With that he went offering up the burnt sacrifice. (**1 Samuel 13:9**)
- And it came about that as soon as he had finished offering up the burnt sacrifice, why, there was Samuel coming in. So Saul went out to meet him and bless him. (**1 Samuel 13:10**)
- Then Samuel said; What is it you have done? To this Saul said; I saw that the people had been dispersed from me, and you, you did not come within the appointed days, and the Philistines were being collected together at Michmash. (**1 Samuel 13:11**)
- So I said to myself; Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and the face of Yehowah I have not softened. So I compelled myself and went offering up the burnt sacrifice. (**1 Samuel 13:12**)

- So they told Saul, saying; Look! The people are sinning against Yehowah by eating along with the blood. At this he said; You have dealt treacherously. First of all, roll a great stone to me. (**1 Samuel 14:33**)
- After that Saul said; Scatter among the people, and you must say to them, Bring near to me, each one of you, his bull and, each one, his sheep, and you must do the slaughtering in this place and the eating, and you must not sin against Yehowah by eating along with the blood. Accordingly all the people brought near each one his bull that was in his hand that night and did the slaughtering there. (**1 Samuel 14:34**)
- And Saul proceeded to build an **altar** to Yehowah. With it he started **altar** building to Yehowah. (**1 Samuel 14:35**)
- In the first case he was condemned for not waiting for Samuel to do the sacrificing, but the propriety of the locations as places for sacrificing was not considered.
- David instructed Jonathan to explain his absence at Saul's table on the day of the new moon by saying that David was attending an annual family sacrifice at Bethlehem, however, since this was a subterfuge, it cannot definitely be known whether such was really celebrated.
- If your father should miss me at all, then you must say; David earnestly asked leave of absence of me to run to Bethlehem his city, because there is a yearly sacrifice there for all the family. (**1 Samuel 20:6**)
- So Jonathan answered Saul; David earnestly asked leave of absence from me to go to Bethlehem. (**1 Samuel 20:28**)
- And he went on to say; Send me away, please, because we have a family sacrifice in the city, and it was my own brother that commanded me. So now, if I have found favor in your eyes, let me slip away, please, that I may see my brothers. That is why he has not come to the kings table. (**1 Samuel 20:29**)
- Later, as king, David built an **altar** on the threshing floor of Araunah, or Ornan, and this was at divine command.
- Later Gad came in to David on that day and said to him; Go up,

- set up for Yehowah an **altar** on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. (**2 Samuel 24:18**)
- **And David began to go up in accord with the word of Gad, according to what Yehowah had commanded. (2 Samuel 24:19)**
 - **When Araunah looked down and saw the king and his servants passing along toward him, Araunah at once went out and bowed down to the king with his face to the earth. (2 Samuel 24:20)**
 - **Then Araunah said; Why has my lord the king come to his servant? At that David said; To buy from you the threshing floor for building an **altar** to Yehowah, that the scourge may be halted from upon the people. (2 Samuel 24:21)**
 - **But Araunah said to David; Let my lord the king take it and offer up what is good in his eyes. See the cattle for the burnt offering and the threshing sledge and the implements of the cattle for the wood. (2 Samuel 24:22)**
 - **Everything Araunah, O king, does give to the king. And Araunah went on to say to the king; May Yehowah your God show pleasure in you. (2 Samuel 24:23)**
 - **However, the king said to Araunah; No, but without fail I shall buy it from you for a price, and I shall not offer up to Yehowah my God burnt sacrifices without cost. Accordingly David bought the threshing floor and the cattle for fifty silver shekels. (2 Samuel 24:24)**
 - **And David proceeded to build there an **altar** to Yehowah and offer up burnt sacrifices and communion sacrifices, and Yehowah began letting himself be entreated for the land, so that the scourge was halted from upon Israel. (2 Samuel 24:25)**
 - **And Yehowah's angel, for his part, said to Gad to say to David that David should go up to erect an **altar** to Yehowah on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. (1 Chronicles 21:18)**
 - **Accordingly David went up at the word of Gad that he had spoken in the name of Yehowah. (1 Chronicles 21:19)**
 - **Meantime, Ornan turned back and saw the angel, and his four sons with him were hiding themselves. Now Ornan had been**

- threshing wheat. (1 Chronicles 21:20)
- So David came as far as Ornan. When Ornan looked and saw David, he immediately went out of the threshing floor and bowed down to David with his face to the earth. (1 Chronicles 21:21)
 - Then David said to Ornan; Do give me the place of the threshing floor, that I may build in it an altar to Yehowah. For the money in full give it to me, that the scourge may be halted from upon the people. (1 Chronicles 21:22)
 - But Ornan said to David; Take it as your own, and let my lord the king do what is good in his own eyes. See, I do give the cattle for burnt offerings and the threshing sledge for the wood and the wheat as a grain offering. The whole I do give. (1 Chronicles 21:23)
 - However, King David said to Ornan; No, but without fail I shall make the purchase for the money in full, because I shall not carry what is yours to Yehowah to offer up burnt sacrifices without cost. (1 Chronicles 21:24)
 - So David gave Ornan for the place gold shekels to the weight of six hundred. (1 Chronicles 21:25)
 - Then David built there an altar to Yehowah and offered up burnt sacrifices and communion sacrifices, and he proceeded to call upon Yehowah, who now answered him with fire from the heavens upon the altar of burnt offering. (1 Chronicles 21:26)
 - Then David said; This is the house of Yehowah the true God, and this is an altar for burnt offering for Israel. (1 Chronicles 22:1)
 - The statement at;
 - And Solomon continued three times in the year to offer up burnt sacrifices and communion sacrifices upon the altar that he had built for Yehowah, and there was a making of sacrificial smoke on the altar, which was before Yehowah, and he completed the house. (1 Kings 9:25)
 - With regard to Solomon's offering up sacrifices on the altar clearly refers to his causing such to be done through the authorized priesthood.

- **It was then that Solomon offered up burnt sacrifices to Yehowah upon the altar of Yehowah that he had built before the porch. (2 Chronicles 8:12)**
- **Even as a daily matter of course to make offerings according to the commandment of Moses for the Sabbaths and for the new moons and for the appointed festivals three times in the year, at the festival of unfermented cakes and at the festival of the weeks and at the festival of the booths. (2 Chronicles 8:13)**
- **Further, he set the divisions of the priests over their services according to the rule of David his father, and the Levites at their posts of duty, to praise and to minister in front of the priests as a daily matter of course, and the gatekeepers in their divisions for the different gates, for such was the commandment of David the man of the true God. (2 Chronicles 8:14)**
- **And they did not turn aside from the kings commandment to the priests and the Levites concerning any matter and concerning the supplies. (2 Chronicles 8:15)**
- **With the setting up of the temple at Jerusalem, it appears that the altar was now definitely at the place that Yehowah your God will choose, and there you must come.**
- **But to the place that Yehowah your God will choose out of all your tribes to place his name there, to have it reside, you will seek, and there you must come. (Deuteronomy 12:5)**
- **Aside from the altar used by Elijah on Mount Carmel in the fire test with the Baal priests.**
- **Accordingly they took the young bull that he gave them. Then they dressed it, and they kept calling upon the name of Baal from morning till noon, saying; O Baal, answer us! But there was no voice, and there was no one answering. And they kept limping around the altar that they had made. (1 Kings 18:26)**
- **And it came about at noon that Elijah began to mock them and say; Call at the top of your voice, for he is a god, for he must be concerned with a matter, and he has excrement and has to go to the privy. Or maybe he is asleep and ought to wake up! (1 Kings 18:27)**

- **And they began calling at the top of their voice and cutting themselves according to their custom with daggers and with lances, until they caused blood to flow out upon them. (1 Kings 18:28)**
- **And it came about that, as soon as noon was past and they continued behaving as prophets until the going up of the grain offering, there was no voice, and there was no one answering, and there was no paying of attention. (1 Kings 18:29)**
- **At length Elijah said to all the people; Approach me. So all the people approached him. Then he proceeded to mend the altar of Yehowah that was torn down. (1 Kings 18:30)**
- **So Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom Yehowah's word had come, saying, Israel is what your name will become. (1 Kings 18:31)**
- **And he went on to build the stones into an altar in the name of Yehowah and to make a trench, of about the area sowed with two seah measures of seed, all around the altar. (1 Kings 18:32)**
- **After that he put the pieces of wood in order and cut the young bull in pieces and placed it upon the pieces of wood. He now said; Fill four large jars with water and pour it upon the burnt offering and upon the pieces of wood. (1 Kings 18:33)**
- **Then he said; Do it again. So they did it again. But he said; Do it a third time. So they did it a third time. (1 Kings 18:34)**
- **Thus the water went all around the altar, and the trench also he filled with water. (1 Kings 18:35)**
- **Only apostasy now caused the setting up of other altars. Solomon himself was the first to be guilty of such apostasy, because of the influence of his foreign wives.**
- **And he came to have seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines, and his wives gradually inclined his heart. (1 Kings 11:3)**
- **And it came about in the time of Solomon's growing old that his wives themselves had inclined his heart to follow other gods, and**

- his heart did not prove to be complete with Yehowah his God like the heart of David his father. (**1 Kings 11:4**)
- And Solomon began going after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and after Milcom the disgusting thing of the Ammonites. (**1 Kings 11:5**)
 - And Solomon began to do what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah, and he did not follow Yehowah fully like David his father. (**1 Kings 11:6**)
 - It was then that Solomon proceeded to build a high place to Chemosh the disgusting thing of Moab on the mountain that was in front of Jerusalem, and to Molech the disgusting thing of the sons of Ammon. (**1 Kings 11:7**)
 - And that was the way he did for all his foreign wives who were making sacrificial smoke and sacrificing to their gods. (**1 Kings 11:8**)
 - Jeroboam of the newly formed northern kingdom endeavored to divert his subjects from going to the temple in Jerusalem by setting up altars at Bethel and Dan.
 - Consequently the king took counsel and made two golden calves and said to the people; It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here is your God, O Israel, that brought you up out of the land of Egypt. (**1 Kings 12:28**)
 - Then he placed the one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. (**1 Kings 12:29**)
 - And this thing came to be a cause for sin, and the people began to go before the one as far as Dan. (**1 Kings 12:30**)
 - And he began to make a house of high places and to make priests from the people in general, who did not happen to be of the sons of Levi. (**1 Kings 12:31**)
 - And Jeroboam went on to make a festival in the eighth month on the fifteenth day of the month, like the festival that was in Judah, that he might make offerings upon the altar that he had made in Bethel, to sacrifice to the calves that he had made, and he put in attendance at Bethel the priests of the high places that

he had made. (1 Kings 12:32)

- And he began to make offerings upon the **altar** that he had made in Bethel on the fifteenth day in the eighth month, in the month that he had invented by himself, and he proceeded to make a festival for the sons of Israel and to make offerings upon the altar to make sacrificial smoke. (1 Kings 12:33)
- A prophet then foretold that in the reign of King Josiah of Judah priests officiating at the **altar** in Bethel would be slaughtered and that the bones of dead men would be burned on the **altar**. The **altar** was ripped apart as a sign, and the prophecy was later completely fulfilled.
- And here there was a man of God that had come out of Judah by the word of Yehowah to Bethel, while Jeroboam was standing by the **altar** to make sacrificial smoke. (1 Kings 13:1)
- Then he called out against the **altar** by the word of Yehowah and said, O **altar, altar**, this is what Yehowah has said; Look! A son born to the house of David, whose name is Josiah! And he will certainly sacrifice upon you the priests of the high places that are making sacrificial smoke upon you, and men's bones he will burn upon you. (1 Kings 13:2)
- And he gave a portent on that day, saying; This is the portent of which Yehowah has spoken; Look! The **altar** is ripped apart, and the fatty ashes that are upon it will certainly be spilled out. (1 Kings 13:3)
- And it came about that, as soon as the king heard the word of the man of the true God that he had called out against the **altar** in Bethel, Jeroboam at once thrust out his hand from off the altar, saying; You men, grab hold of him! Immediately his hand that he had thrust out against him became dried up, and he was not able to draw it back to himself. (1 Kings 13:4)
- And the **altar** itself was ripped apart so that the fatty ashes were spilled out from the **altar**, according to the portent that the man of the true God had given by the word of Yehowah. (1 Kings 13:5)
- And also the **altar** that was in Bethel, the high place that Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who caused Israel to sin, had made, even that **altar** and the high place he pulled down. Then he

burned the high place, he ground it to dust and burned the sacred pole. (2 Kings 23:15)

- When Josiah turned, he got to see the burial places that were there in the mountain. So he sent and took the bones from the burial places and burned them upon the **altar**, that he might make it unfit for worship, according to Yehowah's word that the man of the true God had proclaimed, who proclaimed these things. (2 Kings 23:16)
- Then he said; What is the gravestone over there that I am seeing? At this the men of the city said to him; It is the burial place of the man of the true God that came from Judah and proceeded to proclaim these things that you have done against the **altar** of Bethel. (2 Kings 23:17)
- So he said; Let him rest. Do not let anyone disturb his bones. Consequently they let his bones alone along with the bones of the prophet that had come from Samaria. (2 Kings 23:18)
- And also all the houses of the high places that were in the cities of Samaria that the kings of Israel had built to cause offense Josiah removed, and he went on to do to them according to all the doings that he had done at Bethel. (2 Kings 23:19)
- Accordingly he sacrificed all the priests of the high places that were there upon the **altars** and burned human bones upon them. After that he returned to Jerusalem. (2 Kings 23:20)
- For, in the day of my holding an accounting for the revolts of Israel against him, I will also hold an accounting against the **altars** of Bethel, and the horns of the **altar** will certainly be cut off and must fall to the earth. (Amos 3:14)
- During King Ahab's rule in Israel, pagan **altars** flourished.
- And it came about that, as if it were the most trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, he now took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal the king of the Sidonians and began to go and serve Baal and to bow down to him. (1 Kings 16:31)
- Further, he set up an **altar** to Baal at the house of Baal that he built in Samaria. (1 Kings 16:32)

- **And Ahab went on to make the sacred pole, and Ahab came to do more to offend Yehowah the God of Israel than all the kings of Israel that happened to be prior to him. (1 Kings 16:33)**
- **In the time of King Ahaz of Judah, there were altars at every corner in Jerusalem, as well as many high places.**
- **Furthermore, Ahaz gathered together the utensils of the house of the true God and cut to pieces the utensils of the house of the true God, and closed the doors of the house of Yehowah, and made altars for himself at every corner in Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 28:24)**
- **And in all cities, even the cities of Judah, he made high places for making sacrificial smoke to other gods, so that he offended Yehowah the God of his forefathers. (2 Chronicles 28:25)**
- **Manasseh went so far as to build altars within the house of Yehowah and altars for worshiping the army of the heavens in the temple courtyard.**
- **So he built again the high places that Hezekiah his father had destroyed, and set up altars to Baal and made a sacred pole, just as Ahab the king of Israel had done, and he began to bow down to all the army of the heavens and to serve them. (2 Kings 21:3)**
- **And he built altars in the house of Yehowah, respecting which Yehowah had said; In Jerusalem I shall put my name. (2 Kings 21:4)**
- **And he went on to build altars to all the army of the heavens in two courtyards of the house of Yehowah. (2 Kings 21:5)**
- **Though faithful kings periodically destroyed these idolatrous altars**
- **After that all the people of the land came to the house of Baal and pulled down his altars, and his images they broke up thoroughly, and Mattan the priest of Baal they killed before the altars. And the priest proceeded to put overseers over the house of Yehowah. (2 Kings 11:18)**
- **And the altars that were upon the roof of the roof chamber of**

- Ahaz that the kings of Judah had made, and the **altars** that Manasseh had made in two courtyards of the house of Yehowah, the king pulled down, after which he crushed them there, and he cast their dust into the torrent valley of Kidron. (**2 Kings 23:12**)
- Accordingly he sacrificed all the priests of the high places that were there upon the **altars** and burned human bones upon them. After that he returned to Jerusalem. (**2 Kings 23:20**)
 - So he removed the foreign **altars** and the high places and broke up the sacred pillars and cut down the sacred poles. (**2 Chronicles 14:3**)
 - Then they rose up and removed the **altars** that were in Jerusalem, and all the incense **altars** they removed and then threw them into the torrent valley of Kidron. (**2 Chronicles 30:14**)
 - And as soon as they finished all this, all the Israelites that were found there went out to the cities of Judah, and they proceeded to break up the sacred pillars and cut down the sacred poles and pull down the high places and the **altars** out of all Judah and Benjamin and in Ephraim and Manasseh until they had finished, after which all the sons of Israel returned to their cities, each one to his own possession. (**2 Chronicles 31:1**)
 - Further, they pulled down before him the **altars** of the Baals, and the incense stands that were up above he cut down from off them, and the sacred poles and the graven images and the molten statues he broke in pieces and reduced to powder, and then sprinkled it upon the surface of the burial places of those that used to sacrifice to them. (**2 Chronicles 34:4**)
 - And the bones of priests he burned upon their **altars**. Thus he cleansed Judah and Jerusalem. (**2 Chronicles 34:5**)
 - Also, in the cities of Manasseh and Ephraim and Simeon and clear to Naphtali, in their devastated places all around. (**2 Chronicles 34:6**)
 - He even went pulling down the **altars** and the sacred poles, and the graven images he crushed and reduced to powder, and all the incense stands he cut down in all the land of Israel, after which he returned to Jerusalem. (**2 Chronicles 34:7**)

- Prior to Jerusalem's fall Jeremiah could still say,
- Your gods have become as many as your cities, O Judah, and as many **altars** as the streets of Jerusalem you people have placed for the shameful thing, altars to make sacrificial smoke to Baal. (**Jeremiah 11:13**)

· During Exile And In Apostolic Period

- During the period of the exile, the Jews who fled to Elephantine in Upper Egypt set up a temple and an **altar**, according to the **Elephantine Papyri**, and some centuries later the Jews near Leontopolis did likewise. [**Jewish Antiquities, XIII, 62-68 [iii, 1], The Jewish War, VII, 420-432, x, 2,3**] This latter temple and altar were built by Priest Onias in an attempt to fulfill;

- In that day there will prove to be an altar to Yehowah in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar to Yehowah beside its boundary. (**Isaiah 19:19**)
- And it must prove to be for a sign and for a witness to Yehowah of armies in the land of Egypt, for they will cry out to Yehowah because of the oppressors, and he will send them a savior, even a grand one, who will actually deliver them. (**Isaiah 19:20**)
- In the Common Era, the apostle Paul in speaking to the Athenians referred to an **altar** inscribed, **To an Unknown God**.
- For instance, while passing along and carefully observing your objects of veneration I also found an **altar** on which had been inscribed, **To an Unknown God**. Therefore what you are unknowingly giving godly devotion to, this I am publishing to you. (**Acts of Apostles 17:23**)
- Ample historical information is available to corroborate this. Apollonius of Tyana, who visited Athens sometime after Paul, is reported to have said; **It is a much greater proof of wisdom and sobriety to speak well of all the gods, especially at Athens, where altars are set up in honor even of unknown gods.** [**Philostratus, The Life of Apollonius of Tyana, VI, III**]
- Geographer Pausanias in the **Second Century C.E.** reported that on the road from the Phaleron Bay harbor to the city of Athens he had observed **altars** of the gods named Unknown, and of heroes. He also

spoke of an **altar** of Unknown God's at Olympia. [Description of Greece, Attica, I, 4, Elis I, XIV, 8] A similar **altar** was discovered in 1909 C.E. at Pergamum in the precincts of the temple of Demeter.

·· Significance Of Altars

· In (Hebrews Chapters 8,9) the apostle Paul clearly shows that all the things related to the tabernacle and temple service were typical.

· But which men are rendering sacred service in a typical representation and a shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses, when about to make the tent in completion, was given the divine command: For says he; See that you make all things after their pattern that was shown to you in the mountain. (Hebrews 8:5)

· Therefore it was necessary that the typical representations of the things in the heavens should be cleansed by these means, but the heavenly things themselves with sacrifices that are better than such sacrifices. (Hebrews 9:23)

· The significance of the two **altars** is made evident by information in the Christian Greek Scriptures. The **altar** of burnt offerings represented God's will, that is, his willingness to accept the perfect human sacrifice of his only-begotten Son and therefore there was to be only one acceptable place for his approved **altar**, the temple in Jerusalem.

· Hence when he comes into the world he says; Sacrifice and offering you did not want, but you prepared a body for me. (Hebrews 10:5)

· You did not approve of whole burnt offerings and sin offering. (Hebrews 10:6)

· Then I said; Look! I am come, in the roll of the book it is written about me, to do your will, O God. (Hebrews 10:7)

· After first saying; You did not want nor did you approve of sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings and sin offering, sacrifices that are offered according to the Law. (Hebrews 10:8)

· Then he actually says; Look! I am come to do your will. He does away with what is first that he may establish what is second.

(Hebrews 10:9)

- **By the said will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all time. (Hebrews 10:10)**
- **Its location in front of the entrance to the sanctuary emphasizes the requirement of faith in that ransom sacrifice as a prerequisite for acceptance by God.**
- **For God loved the world so much that he gave his only-begotten Son, in order, that everyone exercising faith in him might not be destroyed but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)**
- **For God sent forth his Son into the world, not for him to judge the world, but for the world to be saved through him. (John 3:17)**
- **He that exercises faith in him is not to be judged. He that does not exercise faith has been judged already, because he has not exercised faith in the name of the only-begotten Son of God. (John 3:18)**
- **The insistence upon a single altar of sacrifice is in harmony with Christ's declaration; I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me, as well as with the many texts declaring the unity to be manifest in the Christian faith. The way into the tent of meeting was a way of sacrifice closely following that of Christ.**
- **Jesus said to him; I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)**
- **Go in through the narrow gate, because broad and spacious is the road leading off into destruction, and many are the one's going in through it. (Matthew 7:13)**
- **Whereas narrow is the gate and cramped the road leading off into life, and few are the one's finding it. (Matthew 7:14)**
- **Now I exhort you, brothers, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that you should all speak in agreement, and that there should not be divisions among you, but that you may be fitly united in the same mind and in the same line of thought. (1 Corinthians 1:10)**

- For the disclosure was made to me about you, my brothers, by those of the house of Chloe, that dissensions exist among you. (**1 Corinthians 1:11**)
- What I mean is this, that each one of you says; I belong to Paul, But I to Apollos, But I to Cephas, But I to Christ. (**1 Corinthians 1:12**)
- The Christ exists divided. Paul was not impaled for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? (**1 Corinthians 1:13**)
- Earnestly endeavoring to observe the oneness of the spirit in the uniting bond of peace. (**Ephesians 4:3**)
- One body there is, and one spirit, even as you were called in the one hope to which you were called. (**Ephesians 4:4**)
- One Lord, one faith, one baptism. (**Ephesians 4:5**)
- One God and Father of all persons, who is over all and through all and in all. (**Ephesians 4:6**)
- Note also Isaiah's prophecy, that people of all nations would come to God's **altar**.
- All the flocks of Kedar, they will be collected together to you. The rams of Nebaioth, they will minister to you. With approval they will come up upon my **altar**, and I shall beautify my own house of beauty. (**Isaiah 60:7**)
- It is notable that, though some individuals fled to the **altar**, taking hold of its horns, in hope of gaining protection, God's Law prescribed that the willful murderer was to be taken even from being at my **altar** to die.
- And in case a man becomes heated against his fellow to the point of killing him with craftiness, you are to take him even from being at my **altar** to die. (**Exodus 21:14**)
- And Adonijah himself was afraid because of Solomon. So he rose up and went away and grabbed hold of the horns of the **altar**. (**1 Kings 1:50**)
- In time the report was made to Solomon, saying; Here Adonijah

- himself has become afraid of King Solomon, and here he has taken hold on the horns of the **altar**, saying; Let King Solomon first of all swear to me that he will not put his servant to death by the sword. (**1 Kings 1:51**)
- To this Solomon said; If he will become a valiant man, there will not fall a single hair of his to the earth, but if what is bad should be found in him, he will also have to die. (**1 Kings 1:52**)
 - So King Solomon sent and they brought him down from off the **altar**. Then he came in and bowed down to King Solomon, after which Solomon said to him; Go to your own house. (**1 Kings 1:53**)
 - And the report itself came clear to Joab, for Joab himself had inclined to follow Adonijah, although Absalom he had not inclined to follow, and Joab went fleeing to the tent of Yehowah and began to hold fast to the horns of the **altar**. (**1 Kings 2:28**)
 - Then King Solomon was told; Joab has fled to the tent of Yehowah, and there he is beside the **altar**. So Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, saying; Go, fall upon him! (**1 Kings 2:29**)
 - Accordingly Benaiah came to the tent of Yehowah and said to him; This is what the king has said; Come on out! But he said, No! For here is where I shall die. At that Benaiah brought word back to the king, saying; This is what Joab spoke, and this is what he answered me. (**1 Kings 2:30**)
 - Then the king said to him; Do just as he has spoken and fall upon him, and you must bury him and remove from off me and from off the house of my father the blood undeservedly shed that Joab spilled. (**1 Kings 2:31**)
 - And Yehowah will certainly bring back his blood upon his own head, because he fell upon two men more righteous and better than he was, and he proceeded to kill them with the sword, when my father David himself had not known of it, namely, Abner the son of Ner the chief of the army of Israel and Amasa the son of Jether the chief of the army of Judah. (**1 Kings 2:32**)
 - And their blood must come back upon the head of Joab and upon the head of his offspring to time indefinite, but for David and for

- his offspring and for his house and for his throne there will come to be peace to time indefinite from Yehowah. (**1 Kings 2:33**)
- Then Benaiah the son of Jehoiada went on up and fell upon him and put him to death, and he got to be buried at his own house in the wilderness. (**1 Kings 2:34**)
 - **The psalmist sang,**
 - I shall wash my hands in innocency itself, and I will march around your **altar**, O Yehowah. (**Psalms 26:6**)
 - We have an **altar** from which those who do sacred service at the tent have no authority to eat. (**Hebrews 13:10**)
 - Has been used as basis for erection of literal **altars** by professed Christians, the context shows that the **altar** spoken of by Paul is not literal but symbolic.
 - We have an **altar** from which those who do sacred service at the tent have no authority to eat. (**Hebrews 13:10**)
 - For the bodies of those animals whose blood is taken into the holy place by the High Priest for sin are burned up outside the camp. (**Hebrews 13:11**)
 - Hence Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered outside the gate. (**Hebrews 13:12**)
 - Let us, then, go forth to him outside the camp, bearing the reproach he bore. (**Hebrews 13:13**)
 - For we do not have here a city that continues, but we are earnestly seeking the one to come. (**Hebrews 13:14**)
 - Through him let us always offer to God a sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips which make public declaration to his name. (**Hebrews 13:15**)
 - Moreover, do not forget the doing of good and the sharing of things with others, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. (**Hebrews 13:16**)

- **McClintock and Strong's Cyclopaedia [1882, Vol. I, p. 183] says concerning the early Christians; When the ancient apologists were reproached with having no temples, no altars, no shrines, they simply replied, Shrines and altars we have not. Commenting on [Hebrews 13:10], M. R. Vincent's Word Studies in the New Testament [1957, Vol. IV, p. 567] says:**
- **It is a mistake to try to find in the Christian economy some specific object answering to altar either the cross, or the eucharistic table, or Christ himself. Rather the ideas of approach to God, sacrifice, atonement, pardon and acceptance, salvation, are gathered up and generally represented in the figure of an altar, even as the Jewish altar was the point at which all these ideas converged.**
- **The multiplying of altars was strongly condemned by the Hebrew prophets.**
- **In that day earthling man will look up to his Maker, and his own eyes will gaze at the Holy One of Israel himself. (Isaiah 17:7)**
- **And he will not look to the altars, the work of his hands, and at what his fingers have made he will not gaze, either at the sacred poles or at the incense stands. (Isaiah 17:8)**
- **Hosea said that Ephraim multiplied altars in order to sin;**
- **For Ephraim has multiplied altars in order to sin. He has come to have altars in order to sin. (Hosea 8:11)**
- **Israel is a degenerating vine. Fruit he keeps putting forth for himself. In proportion to the abundance of his fruit he has multiplied his altars. In proportion to the goodness of his land, they put up good pillars. (Hosea 10:1)**
- **Their heart has become hypocritical, now they will be found guilty. There is one who will break their altars. He will despoil their pillars. (Hosea 10:2)**
- **And the high places of Beth-aven, the sin of Israel, will actually be annihilated. Thorns and thistles themselves will come up upon their altars. And people will in fact say to the mountains; Cover us! And to the hills; Fall over us! (Hosea 10:8)**
- **With Gilead what is uncanny, also untruth, have occurred. In Gilgal they have sacrificed even bulls. Moreover, their altars are**

like piles of stones in the furrows of the open field. (**Hosea 12:11**)

- **Jeremiah stated that the sin of Judah was engraved on the horns of their altars.**
- **The sin of Judah is written down with an iron stylus. With a diamond point it is engraved on the tablet of their heart, and on the horns of their altars. (Jeremiah 17:1)**
- **When their sons remember their altars and their sacred poles beside a luxuriant tree, upon the high hills. (Jeremiah 17:2)**
- **And Ezekiel foretold the slaughter of false worshipers all around their altars.**
- **And your altars must be made desolate and your incense stands must be broken, and I will cause your slain one's to fall before your dungy idols. (Ezekiel 6:4)**
- **And I will put the carcasses of the sons of Israel before their dungy idols, and I will scatter your bones all around your altars. (Ezekiel 6:5)**
- **In all your dwelling places the very cities will become devastated and the high places themselves will become desolated, in order, that they may lie devastated and your altars may lie desolated and be actually broken and your dungy idols may be actually made to cease and your incense stands cut down and your works wiped out. (Ezekiel 6:6)**
- **And you people will have to know that I am Yehowah, when their slain one's come to be in the midst of their dungy idols, all around their altars, upon every high hill, on all the tops of the mountains and under every luxuriant tree and under every branchy big tree, the place where they have offered a restful odor to all their dungy idols. (Ezekiel 6:13)**
- **Expressions of divine judgment are also prophetically associated with the true altar.**
- **And I proceeded to say; Woe to me! For I am as good as brought to silence, because a man unclean in lips I am, and in among a people unclean in lips I am dwelling, for my eyes have**

- seen the King, Yehowah of armies, himself! (**Isaiah 6:5**)
- At that, one of the seraphs flew to me, and in his hand there was a glowing coal that he had taken with tongs off the **altar**. (**Isaiah 6:6**)
 - And he proceeded to touch my mouth and to say; Look! This has touched your lips, and your error has departed and your sin itself is atoned for. (**Isaiah 6:7**)
 - And I began to hear the voice of Yehowah saying; Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? And I proceeded to say; Here I am! Send me. (**Isaiah 6:8**)
 - And he went on to say; Go, and you must say to this people, Hear again and again, O men, but do not understand, and see again and again, but do not get any knowledge. (**Isaiah 6:9**)
 - Make the heart of this people unreceptive, and make their very ears unresponsive, and paste their very eyes together, that they may not see with their eyes and with their ears they may not hear, and that their own heart may not understand and that they may not actually turn back and get healing for themselves. (**Isaiah 6:10**)
 - At this I said; How long, O Yehowah? Then he said; Until the cities actually crash in ruins, to be without an inhabitant, and the houses be without earthling man, and the ground itself is ruined into a desolation. (**Isaiah 6:11**)
 - And Yehowah actually removes earthling men far away, and the deserted condition does become very extensive in the midst of the land. (**Isaiah 6:12**)
 - And, look! There were six men coming from the direction of the upper gate that faces to the north, each one with his weapon for smashing in his hand, and there was one man in among them clothed with linen, with a secretary's inkhorn at his hips, and they proceeded to come in and stand beside the copper **altar**. (**Ezekiel 9:2**)
 - I saw Yehowah stationed above the **altar**, and he proceeded to say; Strike the pillar head, so that the thresholds will rock. And cut them off at the head, all of them. And the last part of them I

shall kill with the sword itself. No one fleeing of them will make good his flight, and no one escaping of them will make his getaway. (**Amos 9:1**)

· Symbolic Souls Beneath The Altar

- It is from underneath the **altar** that the souls of those slaughtered for witnessing for God symbolically cry out.
- And when he opened the fifth seal, I saw underneath the **altar** the souls of those slaughtered because of the word of God and because of the witness work that they used to have. (**Revelation 6:9**)
- And they cried with a loud voice, saying; Until when, Sovereign Lord holy and true, are you refraining from judging and avenging our blood upon those who dwell on the earth? (**Revelation 6:10**)
- The **fire** from beneath the **Golden Altar** in heaven indicates a rejection of further prayer as it is hurled down to the earth
- But right away the angel took the incense vessel, and he filled it with some of the **fire of the altar** and hurled it to the earth. And thunders occurred and voices and lightnings and an earthquake. (**Revelation 8:5**)
- And a reed like a rod was given me as he said, Get up and measure the temple sanctuary of God and the **altar** and those worshiping in it. (**Revelation 11:1**)
- And I heard the **altar** say; Yes, Yehowah God, the Almighty, true and righteous are your judicial decisions. (**Revelation 16:7**)
- And another angel arrived and stood at the **altar**, having a golden incense vessel, and a large quantity of incense was given him to offer it with the prayers of all the holy one's upon the golden altar that was before the throne. (**Revelation 8:3**)
- And the smoke of the incense ascended from the hand of the angel with the prayers of the holy one's before God. (**Revelation 8:4**)

- The golden **altar** of incense is expressly related to the prayers of the righteous. It was customary among the Jews to pray at the hour of offering incense.
- According to the solemn practice of the priestly office it became his turn to offer incense when he entered into the sanctuary of Yehowah. (**Luke 1:9**)
- And all the multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of offering incense. (**Luke 1:10**)
- May my prayer be prepared as incense before you, the raising up of my palms as the evening grain offering. (**Psalms 141:2**)
- The single **altar** for offering incense also corresponds with the one avenue of approach outlined in the **Christian Greek Scriptures**.
- **I am the door**, whoever enters through me will be saved, and he will go in and out and find pasturage. (**John 10:9**)
- Jesus said to him; **I am the way and the truth and the life**. No one comes to the Father except through me. (**John 14:6**)
- And in that day you will ask me no question at all. Most truly I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything he will give it to you **in my name**. (**John 16:23**)
- Because through him we, both peoples, have the **approach to the Father by one spirit**. (**Ephesians 2:18**)
- Certainly, therefore, you are no longer strangers and alien residents, but you are fellow citizens of the holy one's and are members of the household of God. (**Ephesians 2:19**)
- And you have been built up upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, **while Christ Jesus himself is the foundation cornerstone**. (**Ephesians 2:20**)
- **In union with him** the whole building, being harmoniously joined together, is growing into a holy temple for Yehowah. (**Ephesians 2:21**)
- **In union with him you, too**, are being built up together into a place for God to inhabit by spirit. (**Ephesians 2:22**)

See Also OFFERINGS