

Exodus 27:1–8

Biometric Access: an Altar for Entrance unto God by the Body and Blood of the Sacrifice

Friday, December 9, 2022 ▫ Read Exodus 27:1–8

Questions from the Scripture text: What are they to make in v1? Out of what? What size and shape? What will it have on the corners (v2)? How will they be attached? With what will it be overlaid? What will they make for it (v3)? To receive what? What four other utensils will it have? What will all of them be made of? What else will be made for it (v4)? What will its design and material be? Where will the grate go (v5)? What will be made for carrying it (v6)? Of what material? Overlaid with what? Where will the poles go (v7)? To do what? What additional construction note does v8 add? And what theological reminder about constructing it?

How can man approach the holy God? Exodus 27:1–8 looks forward to the p.m. sermon on the coming Lord's Day. In these eight verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **it is through burnt offering and atoning blood that man can approach the holy God in His dwelling among us.**

We are outside the holy place now. This will become clearer when the instruction is given for placing the altar, but we can already deduce that this furniture is going to go beyond the screen of 26:36–37, and this is affirmed by the use of bronze, rather than gold, for overlaying.

Thus, the altar is teaching us about how man is able to come near the holy God. It is box-like, similar to the ark and the table, but much larger. And it is not for display but for work. Its utensils have a very serious purpose, and we will come to see that they will be quite busily used.

The “pans” of v3 are pots, and the “ashes” are more literally “fat.” The “shovels” are actually for the removal of ashes and other residue. The “basins” are from root word that means to “throw,” which corresponds to their use for applying atoning blood. The “forks” are for managing the carcass of the slaughtered animal. The “firepans” are for taking up hot coals. This is an altar that will be busily used.

The altar will also have a grate that goes around the outside to catch what is falling off, so that whatever is put on the altar will be properly used and disposed of, and none will be permitted to fall to the ground. It will not only be busily used but efficiently used.

Finally, the altar is to be portable, so far as it can be. Like the ark and the table, it gets rings and poles (though bronze replaces gold in their construction). And the load is lightened somewhat by its hollow construction. The altar will be used wherever God's tabernacle goes.

Our only way of approaching God is through the blood of a victim that has been killed and burned. But the true altar would be one that only ever had to be used once (cf. Heb 10:1–4, 14). Christ and His cross are the altar that we have (cf. Heb 13:10). He died for our sins according to the Scriptures; He suffered the burning wrath of God in our place; His blood washes us clean. Hallelujah!

What was the altar to be used for? Why was it necessary? Why don't we use one now?

Sample prayer: Lord, we thank You for giving us Christ Himself as our altar. Consecrate us with His blood, vindicate us by His death, and atone for us by His propitiation. Make us to draw near to You through Him alone, we ask in His Name, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP51B “From My Sins, O Hide Your Face” or TPH275 “Arise, My Soul, Arise”

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Exodus 27 versus 1 through 8. These are God's words. You shall make an altar of acacia wood. Five cubits long and five cubits wide. The altar shall be square and its height shall be three cubits. You shall make its horns on its four corners. Its horns shall be of one piece with it.

And you shall overlay it with bronze. Also, you shall make its pans to receive, its ashes. And its shovels and its basins and its forks and its firepans. You shall make all its utensils of bronze. You shall make a grate for it, a network of bronze. And on the network you shall make four bronze rings at its four corners.

You shall put it under the rim? Of the ultra beneath. That the network may be midway up the altar. And you shall make poles for the altar. Poles of acacia wood and overlay them with bronze. The poles shall be put in the rings and the poles shall be on the two sides of the altar to bear it.

You should make it hollow with boards. As it was shown you on the mountain. So you shall make it so, shall they make it So far the reading of god's inspired. And then errant word. So, so far the lord had given Moses instruction for The holy place and the most holy place.

And now, the first piece of furniture, Outside, the the holy place. Is the bronze, alter the first piece of furniture that you describes is the bronze altar. And this starts to teach, Uh, how men may be. Uh permitted. To enter. The place of the fellowship and the blessing of god, and The before a man can enter, someone must die.

Blood must be shed and wrath must be burnt. And, The altar is described in some respects, in a way that reminds us of both the Uh, the table. For the

showbread, for the That signifies the fellowship with God and then in the holy place and then the ark In the most holy place.

It's bigger. However, So there's a there's a connection. And this however, is not for a display. Of communication to us. This is to be something that is designed for working. Uh, you notice it's overlaid with bronze, and it's utensils. Are bronze, are not gold. They're Um, they're not symbolic.

So much as Uh, Uh, for use Uh, you see the The use of the pins. Verse three. Um, This word that means something more, what we would call pots. Uh, the word for ashes. Is actually a word that is more fat. It's referring to fat that has been burnt and melted and The altar needs pots for the collection and carrying away.

There's going to be. Um, So much burning and melting. Of the sacrifices of the victims. That are slaughtered first and their blood. Uh, shed. Uh, you have shovels. Um, Which are? Um,

Which are further removal of actual, ashes and residue. And Things, that kind of thing you'd use for a fireplace or campfire. Uh, you have Um, The basins. Which, The word from which basin's come is one for throwing. For the application of atoning blood. The.

Main idea is, Not collection, but application there. And then, The the forks. For turning the The victim fire pans, not now for the collection of refuse, like the shovels were, but those are for the moving around and collecting of hot coals. This is something that is going to be used for a lot of work.

There is Uh, great work to be done. And then it's also something. That. That is going to need to be portable. The idea is it's not an altar that is going to be used. Just one time or in just one place. It's a sacrifice. Uh it's a play. It facilitated sacrifices that are going to need to be done on an ongoing basis and with the people wherever they go.

Um, And so, you have the Um, The poles and the rings and the two sides you have the concern for the weight. That it should be made hollow with boards. And then you have a reminder at the end again, That this is according to. Um, the pattern that is shown to Moses on the mountain.

Uh, so that this is a Copy of a. Uh, true and final thing as Hebrews tells us. By the holy, spirit's own interpretation. Of this. Uh, pattern language and we can see that. There is a great work to be done. Uh, human terms of the slaughtering of animals and the draining of their blood and the burning, Of the animal and the application of the blood, with the basins and Um, And maintenance.

On the altar. Uh, but there is a greater work yet to be done. And, That of course, is the sacrifice. Of our lord, jesus christ, which by itself is more Then all of the work that was supposed to be done with all of these utensils. A greater death with the application.

Of an infinitely greater blood. As the. Pouring out of god's wrath in a full and final and propitiating way. Whereas this burning here, could not prevent, you could not take away guilt or the Wrath of god from us. And then, of course, One. Great. Uh, difference. As that.

The cross. And christ himself and his sacrifice. That only ever had to be only. Ever would be done just the once. Didn't didn't need to be portal portable. It took place one time in one place for all. With effectiveness and application. For everyone who had ever believed in him.

Uh, looking forward to his coming and everyone. Whoever believes in him now looking backward. And so, Can look at this. Uh, this passage and think about this passage and realize. The greatness of what had to be done to atone for sin so that you could come near god. So that you could have fellowship with god and the favor of god like his signified in the holy place and In the holy of holies so that you could have not just the fellowship of God in the favor of god, that you could have god himself.

And the holy of holies. And you can see the greatness of what had to be done. But you can compare. The altar that was given. Uh, to the jews to the altar that we have, which Hebrews 13 says, we have an altar from which They have. Uh, no rights to eat.

They can't eat. Um, Well, from our altar and that is Uh, christ himself who is alive and risen. And yet continuous to feed. Feed us upon himself because he has Shed once for all blood, that it turns for our sin because he has propitiated the wrath of god. And we who have christ as our altar and christ as our sacrifice.

May know for certain. That our guilt and our sin is taken away. If jesus is yours, you may know for certain That your guilt and your sin is taken away and that what he has gained for you, is not merely a blank slate, or Um, created. Rewards. But what he has gained for you are those things that were pictured as being gained at the bronze altar at this altar in Exodus 27, Fellowship with god.

The favor of god. A table and the lampstand. And then even more than that, god Himself. And intimacy. Intimacy with him, that you would be his and that he Would be yours and this has been obtained. By the ones for all sacrifice. Of our lord jesus. So it was very important, wasn't it?

That they do everything. Uh with respect to the altar and everything else, but just as it says here in verse 8, Exactly. As was shown mooses on the mountain. And there's very important for us. He's still can come up to God only through jesus christ. That we come only.

As he has commanded rejoicing. And that which he has accomplished that, which he has done. For us. And the death and resurrection. And ongoing application. Of the sacrifice. Of our lord. Jesus christ to us. And then, let's pray. Our father in heaven, we pray that you would Grant unto us to see.

How awful sin is. And that it is. A hatred towards you. How guilty that you? Hate it. And we pray that. You would not allow us to. Minimize. How wicked and guilty? It is by your providing attendant for its grant instead. That we would maximize how great. Has been your work.

And atoning for our sin. And removing from us. Our guilt and the wrath. That we justly deserved. We pray that you would, Uh, make our hearts often to Turn to christ that whenever we feel that we are out of fellowship, we're out of favor. That you would bring to our faith back.

Uh, to him who Once for all, as a turned for our sin, And that by him. And by his sacrifice, we might have again. Um, Consciences that are Hearts that are sprinkled clean. From an evil conscience. Grant to us to enjoy. Through jesus. Your fellowship, your favor, indeed, you yourself?

Make us to remember that. It was so important to you to hold this before. Your people. That you gave them this altar with its sacrifices. Make us to respond. Rightly as well. We pray in jesus name. Amen.