

Exodus 44 – Christ: Our Sacrifice and Our Altar

Exodus (Names) – Changing the World

Dr. Leon L. Sanders Exodus 20:22-26

Ancient Altars of Personal Devotion

- This codifies an already ancient practice (Noah)
- These altars were either of earth or unheven stone
- This looks back at Babel and ahead to Christ and all who are called by Him



What is an Altar?

- The altar is the point of union between the holy God and the unholy sinner; i.e., worship (Ps. 51:16-19; Ep. 5:1-2; He. 10:11-18)
- This altar is for communication between the believer and his or her God in voluntary, devotional worship
- This altar is different from the altar of the tabernacle that will be covered in bronze indicating judgment

Looking Back to Babel's Altar

- Ziggurat of Babel probably had both steps and an ornate altar at the top
- Used to deify man as god (Nimrod) unifying his rule
- God does not require man to reach up to Him



European Union's Altar

- Replica of Pieter Bruegel's Tower of Babel unifying man in slavery, not love
- Satan's goal of joining Gnosticism & govt
- There is no devotion, only violence and eternal ruin



Islam's Altar Deifies Self

- This ziggurat in Dubai worships man's faith in technology - scientism
- Mixing of the old and new mirrors the goal of scientism and gnosticism finding hope for man in man, apart from God



Cathedrals – False Worship Altars

- Medieval cathedrals were built over long periods of time (>100 years) to house relics of supposed “saints” promoting pride and pilgrimages (unification)
- Union of religion & govt to produce slavery & wars



Ornamentation is Idolatry

- God did not want man to come up to Him (works) so He forbade the ornamentation of gold, silver and steps
- God reaches down to man’s sinful level (Le. 11:6-9)
 - Man’s flesh is made of the earth (Ge. 2:7)
 - Stones depict:
 - Man’s sinful heart (Le. 11:17-21)
 - Stones of God’s living altar (Temple) (1Pe. 2:4-5)

Christ – Our Lowly Sacrifice (Le. 11:5)

- Christ came from the Father to be sacrifice for sin
 - He came in the form of fleshly man (Ph. 2:5-8)
 - He did not come in majesty but in humility (Le. 9:53; Mt. 23:1-5, 10; 12:12-16)
 - He was not handsome but reflected ugliness of sin
 - He died satisfying the righteous, holy demands of sin
 - He (holy) died so the unholy (us) could be sons of God
 - He is now glorified and will come again but in majesty

Stauros was Christ's Altar for Sin (Ps 3:10-15)

- As Moses lifted up the snake so Jesus was lifted up on the stake (stauros)
- Stauros is an object of shame but we make it of gold and silver to worship it rather than Christ
(2Co 3:11-14; Ph 2:5-11; He 12:1-2, 13:12-14)



Jesus is the Stone of Our Salvation

- The stone is the image of Christ as God starting in Psalms, continuing throughout Bible (Ps 118:21-24)
- Isaiah continues this thought showing that Christ is the Cornerstone of salvation for the Jews (Is 28:14-16)
- Daniel projects the metaphor of the Stone into the establishment of Christ's kingdom for all (Da 2:31-35, 44-45)

Simple Altar - Worship of Christ

- Of Earth: Christ came in the form of sinful man to die on stauros for sin
- Of Stone: Christ is the cornerstone on which the Gospel and His Kingdom are built destroying man's corruption, giving hope



God Mentioned Specific Offerings



Voluntary Offerings

Ascending (Burnt)

- First by Noah after the Cataclysm (Looking back)
- Voluntary offering as a form of worship
- Depicts Christ's sacrifice and ascension to Father

Fellowship (Peace)

- Not used before the Law (Looking ahead)
- Voluntary offering follows other offerings
- Given in thankfulness for God's grace, freely

Spontaneous Acts of Worship



- Performed by Abraham and Jacob in recognition of and obedience to God
- Recognition of God as Holy and offeror in need of God's grace
- This inspires our sacrifice

Warning of Pergamum Church (Re 2:12-17)

- Christians are to:
 - Reject the mixing of man's idolatry with Christ's Gospel
 - Religions (works) of Christendom, Judaism and Islam
 - Reject the immorality that indicates sin's degrading power
 - Reject the mixing of Gnosticism with Christ's Gospel
 - Gnosticism both in and out of Christendom, paganism
 - Worship of God, or gods, apart from God's altar (Christ)

Reward of Believers – Stones of Christ

- Those in churches who do not forsake Christ for the this sinful world (applies to all believers) – in Christ:
 - White rock – Metaphor of belonging to Christ
 - Symbolized by Christ renaming Simeon to Petros (Gk)/Cephas (Hw) (Rock) saying He (Jesus) is the Corner Stone His Church will be built on (Mt 16:17-20, 1c-1-40:42)
 - We will be in His eternal Kingdom – Body of Christ (Re 12:5b)

Being In Him – New Name

- Being in and of Christ means an intimacy of which we are nearly totally unaware of at this time since we can only dimly appreciate what He has promised (1Co-13:12)
- Notice the OT imagery in the promises to Christians showing that knowledge of the Old Testament is integral to our understanding of the New Testament, especially eschatology (end times)

God Gives Us Hidden Manna

- To those who are His, for we cannot remain faithful except as He strengthens us, we will receive the *hidden manna* - Christ (Jo 6:31-40)
- Jesus is hidden from, rejected by, the world but clearly visible to those who are His, given eyes to see (Jo 6:68-70 Lk 10:21-22; Ro 11:7-10)
- His *hidden plan* - Unite everything in Himself (Eph 1:7-10)

Christ - Our Altar, Our Sacrifice

- Spurgeon taught that Christ was not only the sacrifice for our sin but He was also the altar upon which we offer ourselves as living sacrifices as is our reasonable worship of Him who humbled Himself for us (Ro 12:1-2)
- The Bible alludes to this both in imagery and practice for all believers in both Testaments (Ps 51: 16-18; He 10:10-13)

<http://www.spurgeon.org/rob13-15/ch0831.pdf>

Altar For Those Who Love Christ

- This altar for those who worship Christ in love in response to His sacrifice for them (1Jo 4:19-20)
- This altar is for those who freely express the love they have toward God for His love to them (1Jo 11:24-25; 2Co 9:6-9)
- This is not the altar of judgment, that moment has passed for us, this altar is of discipleship toward Christ