

# A Holy Priesthood

Exodus 30:<sup>1</sup> And thou shalt **make an altar** **to burn incense upon:** *of shittim wood* shalt thou make it. <sup>2</sup> A cubit *shall be* the length thereof, and a cubit the breadth thereof; foursquare shall it be: and two cubits *shall be* the height thereof: the horns thereof *shall be* of the same. <sup>3</sup> And thou shalt **overlay it with pure gold**, the top thereof, and the sides thereof round about, and the horns thereof; and thou shalt make unto it a crown of gold round about. <sup>4</sup> And two golden rings shalt thou make to it under the crown of it, by the two corners thereof, upon the two sides of it shalt thou make *it*; and they shall be for places for the staves to bear it withal. <sup>5</sup> And thou shalt make the staves *of shittim wood*, and **overlay them with gold.** <sup>6</sup> And thou shalt

put it before the veil that *is* by the ark of the testimony, before the mercy seat that *is* over the testimony, **where I will meet**

**with thee.** <sup>7</sup> And Aaron **shall burn**

thereon **sweet incense every morning:** when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it. <sup>8</sup> And when Aaron lighteth the lamps at even, he shall burn incense upon it, a perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations. <sup>9</sup> Ye shall offer no strange incense thereon, nor burnt sacrifice, nor meat offering; neither shall ye pour drink offering thereon. <sup>10</sup>

And Aaron shall **make an atonement** upon the horns of it **once in a year with the blood of the sin offering** of atonements: once in the year shall he make atonement upon it throughout your generations:

it *is* most holy unto the LORD. <sup>11</sup> And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, <sup>12</sup> When thou takest the sum of the children of Israel after their number, then **shall they give every man a ransom** for his soul unto the LORD, when thou numberest them; that there be no plague among them, when *thou* numberest them. <sup>13</sup> This **they shall give**, every one that passeth among them that are numbered, half a shekel after the shekel of the sanctuary: (a shekel *is* twenty gerahs:) an half shekel *shall be* **the offering of the LORD.** <sup>14</sup> Every one that passeth among them that are numbered, from **twenty years old and above**, shall give an offering unto the LORD. <sup>15</sup> **The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less than half a shekel**, when *they* give an offering unto the LORD, **to make an atonement for your souls.** <sup>16</sup> And thou shalt take the atonement money of the children of

Israel, and shalt **appoint it for the service of the tabernacle** of the congregation; that it may be a memorial unto the children of Israel before the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls. <sup>17</sup> And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, <sup>18</sup> Thou shalt also **make a laver of brass**, and his foot *also of brass*, to wash *withal*: and thou shalt put it between the tabernacle of the congregation and the altar, and thou shalt put water therein. <sup>19</sup> For Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet thereat: <sup>20</sup> When they go into the tabernacle of the congregation, they shall wash with water, that they die not; or when they come near to the altar to minister, to burn offering made by fire unto the LORD: <sup>21</sup> So they shall wash their hands and their feet, that they die not: and it shall be a statute for ever to them, *even* to him and to his seed throughout their generations. <sup>22</sup> Moreover the LORD spake

unto Moses, saying, <sup>23</sup> Take thou also unto thee principal spices, of pure myrrh five hundred *shekels*, and of sweet cinnamon half so much, *even* two hundred and fifty *shekels*, and of sweet calamus two hundred and fifty *shekels*, <sup>24</sup> And of cassia five hundred *shekels*, after the shekel of the sanctuary, and of oil olive an hin: <sup>25</sup> And thou shalt make it an oil of holy ointment, an ointment compound after the art of the apothecary: it shall be an holy anointing oil. <sup>26</sup> And thou shalt anoint the tabernacle of the congregation therewith, and the ark of the testimony, <sup>27</sup> And the table and all his vessels, and the candlestick and his vessels, and the altar of incense, <sup>28</sup> And the altar of burnt offering with all his vessels, and the laver and his foot. <sup>29</sup> And thou shalt sanctify them, that they may be most holy: whatsoever toucheth them shall be holy. <sup>30</sup> And thou shalt anoint Aaron and his sons, and consecrate them, that *they* may

minister unto me in the priest's office. <sup>31</sup> And thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel, saying, This shall be an holy anointing oil unto me throughout your generations. <sup>32</sup> Upon man's flesh shall it not be poured, neither shall ye make *any other* like it, after the composition of it: it *is* holy, *and* it shall be holy unto you. <sup>33</sup> Whosoever compoundeth *any* like it, or whosoever putteth *any* of it upon a stranger, shall even be cut off from his people. <sup>34</sup> And the LORD said unto Moses, Take unto thee sweet spices, stacte, and onycha, and galbanum; *these* sweet spices with pure frankincense: of each shall there be a like *weight*: <sup>35</sup> And thou shalt make it a perfume, a confection after the art of the apothecary, tempered together, pure *and* holy: <sup>36</sup> And thou shalt beat *some* of it very small, and put of it before the testimony in the tabernacle of the congregation, where I will meet with thee: it shall

be unto you most holy. <sup>37</sup> And *as for* the perfume which thou shalt make, ye shall not make to yourselves according to the composition thereof: it shall be unto thee holy for the LORD. <sup>38</sup>

Whosoever shall make like unto that, to smell thereto, shall even be cut off from his people.

- Here is a picture of God's people being a nation of priests
- **I Peter 2:5** Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, **an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices,** acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.
- **Revelation 1:6** And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him [be] glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

I. God is a prayer hearing God [30-1-10](#)

A. As His priests we talk to Him in prayer

B. The altar of incense is often a picture of

prayer [30:1](#) And thou shalt **make an**

**altar to burn incense upon:** *of*

*shittim wood shalt thou make it.*

1. The psalmist compared prayer to the

incense [Psalm 141:2](#) Let my prayer be set

forth before thee **as incense;** *and*

*the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.*

2. John speaks of the odors or sweet smelling

incense as they spoke of prayer

[Revelation 5:8](#) And when he had taken

the book, the four beasts and four [and]

twenty elders fell down before the Lamb,

having every one of them harps, and



golden vials full of odours, **which are the prayers of saints.**

C. The fire for the burning of the incense came from the brazen altar suggesting that all true prayer must be based on the finished work of Christ on the cross <sup>6</sup> **And thou shalt put it before the veil that is by the ark of the testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the testimony, where I will meet with thee.**

1. He meets with them there at the altar
2. He meets them at the mercy seat
3. Any meeting men have with God will be based on the sacrifice that was given as a substitute for us.

4. Any meeting will be based on God's mercy towards us

D. They were required to use the right ingredients at the altar <sup>9</sup> **Ye shall offer no strange incense thereon, nor burnt sacrifice, nor meat offering; neither shall ye pour drink offering thereon.**

1. The right fire **Leviticus 10**

2. The right spices

3. New Testament believers were given a pattern to follow **Matthew 6:5** **And when thou prayest,** thou shalt not be as the hypocrites *are*: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. <sup>6</sup> **But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when**

thou hast shut thy door, **pray to thy Father which is in secret;** and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. <sup>7</sup> But when ye pray, **use not vain repetitions,** as the heathen *do*: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. <sup>8</sup> Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. <sup>9</sup> After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. <sup>10</sup> Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread. <sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. <sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

- a) In prayer we worship Him
  - b) We confess our need of Him and our insufficiency
  - c) We thank Him for what He is doing in our lives
  - d) We ask from Him what we need
  - e) We willingly submit to His will and whatever He wants to do in our lives
- E. All prayer is made possible because of the sacrifice that was made for our sins <sup>10</sup> **And Aaron shall make an atonement upon the horns of it once in a year with the blood of the sin offering** of atonements: once in the year shall he make atonement upon it throughout your generations: it *is* most holy unto the LORD.

1. It is by the sacrifice of Jesus that we can go past the veil and talk to God
2. It is the sacrifice of Jesus that opens the door for us to talk to God
3. We have a priest that takes us through to the Father

F. This incense, our prayers, gave a sweet smell

G. They offer incense in the mornings and the evenings

1. We should seek God in prayer all the time
2. In every decision
3. In every way making sure that He is the central consideration of our hearts and thoughts

H. Do we believe that He really hears and answers prayer?

1. Have we made prayer a central part of our lives?
2. Do we constantly think on Him and His will for our lives?
3. Do we try to offer biblical prayers?

## II. Remembering what God has done [30:11-16](#)

- A. God had brought His people out of Egypt and across the Red Sea <sup>16</sup> **And thou shalt take the atonement money of the children of Israel, and shalt appoint it for the service of the tabernacle** of the congregation; **that it may be a memorial** unto the children of Israel before the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls.

1. He had redeemed them with His own great power.
  2. They should never ever forget what God had done in their lives
  3. They should never forget the great work that God had done in their lives
- B. Every man, every individual was responsible to give as they remembered what God had done and showed their gratitude <sup>11</sup> **And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,** <sup>12</sup> **When thou takest the sum of the children of Israel after their number, then shall they give every man a ransom** for his soul unto the LORD, when thou numberest them; that there be no plague among them, when *thou* numberest them.
- C. The census or count was never to think of how great they were but how great God

had been to them. <sup>13</sup> This **they shall give,** every one that passeth among them that are numbered, half a shekel after the shekel of the sanctuary: (a shekel *is* twenty gerahs:) an half shekel *shall be* **the offering of the LORD.**

1. There is a desire to count like David did to just know how strong we are
2. They were to remember that it was never what they had done or a counting of their power

D. The real distinction was to be careful not to count their power, 20 year olds, their men of war <sup>14</sup> Every one that passeth among them that are numbered, from **twenty years old and above,** shall give an offering unto the LORD.



E. The payment was the same for both the rich and the poor. Salvation costs the same for each <sup>15</sup> **The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less than half a shekel, when *they* give an offering unto the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls.**

F. Are we thankful for what God has done?

1. Do we remember where we were before He saved us?
2. Do we use the change He has made in our lives for our own benefit or for His glory?
3. Do we remember the price He paid for us and consider it our honor to serve and love God?
4. Do we remind others of the great work our God has done?

### III. They were to keep clean 30:17-21

A. The laver of brass was for their ceremonial cleansing <sup>17</sup> And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, <sup>18</sup> Thou shalt also **make a laver of brass,** and his foot *also of brass,* to wash *withal:* and thou shalt put it between the tabernacle of the congregation and the altar, and thou shalt put water therein.

1. The laver was between the people and the altar
2. They were cleansed by the blood of the Lamb but would want to remember to work at being close to God and away from sin
3. The laver is like the Word of God that works in our lives and brings about holy living

- B. They had been cleansed but needed daily cleansing
- C. Serving God was part of focusing on God and not letting the work get you away from His person <sup>20</sup> When they go into the tabernacle of the congregation, they shall wash with water, that they die not; or when they come near to the altar to minister, to burn offering made by fire unto the LORD:
- D. Let us keep working at maintaining our walk with the Lord. Don't allow the world to slowly contaminate you and pull you away from serving God
  - 1. Are you carefully considering things that seem to pull you away from the Lord
  - 2. Are you careful to continually seek and please Him

3. Do you keep coming to His altar in worship and service

E. We should want to work at keeping this relationship strong more than any other we have on the planet **Psalm 73:25** *Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.*

IV. They were the anointed of the Lord <sup>25</sup> *And thou shalt make it an oil of holy ointment, an ointment compound after the art of the apothecary: it shall be an **holy anointing oil.***

A. God used this oil to mark His men and things that were to be separated totally to Him

1. Things in the tabernacle were anointed <sup>26</sup> *And thou shalt anoint the tabernacle of the congregation therewith, and the ark*

of the testimony, <sup>27</sup> And the table and all his vessels, and the candlestick and his vessels, and the altar of incense, <sup>28</sup> And the altar of burnt offering with all his vessels, and the laver and his foot. <sup>29</sup> And thou shalt sanctify them, that they may be most holy: whatsoever toucheth them shall be holy.

2. They were to anoint Aaron and the priests <sup>30</sup> And thou shalt anoint Aaron and his sons, and consecrate them, that *they* may minister unto me in the priest's office. <sup>31</sup> And thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel, saying, This shall be an holy anointing oil unto me throughout your generations.
3. They were never to allow this to become something that was commonly used by the people <sup>37</sup> And *as for the perfume*

which thou shalt make, ye shall not make to yourselves according to the composition thereof: it shall be unto thee holy for the LORD.

- B. There was never supposed to be an attempt at even imitating this oil <sup>38</sup> Whosoever shall make like unto that, to smell thereto, shall even be cut off from his people.
- C. Today all of us that are born again are to live out this holy and dedicated life that was for the priests before
  - 1. You do not get to escape saying, I am not one of the called
  - 2. You do not get away with thinking that there are two groups and you lucked out and didn't make it into the serving God group

D. We are as believers anointed by the Holy Spirit **I John 2:20** But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things. **27** But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

1. The Holy Spirit lives in us
2. We are His temple
3. He is our teacher

E. God anoints all of us to His service and to be His and His alone **II Corinthians 1:21** Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, *is God;*

F. Do you realize that you belong to God and you are to serve Him?

1. Do you consider yourself the anointed of God?
2. Do you spend time in prayer and Bible study seeking Him?
3. Do you serve like you were really His servant?
4. Is this the time that you should decide that you will start living out all that He has done in you