

Exodus Part 31(Chapter 38)

Making the Altar of Burnt Offering

Exo 38:1 They built the altar of burnt offering of acacia wood, three cubits high; it was square, five cubits long and five cubits wide.

Exo 38:2 They made a horn at each of the four corners, so that the horns and the altar were of one piece, and they overlaid the altar with bronze.

Exo 38:3 They made all its utensils of bronze--its pots, shovels, sprinkling bowls, meat forks and firepans.

Exo 38:4 They made a grating for the altar, a bronze network, to be under its ledge, halfway up the altar.

Exo 38:5 They cast bronze rings to hold the poles for the four corners of the bronze grating.

Exo 38:6 They made the poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with bronze.

Exo 38:7 They inserted the poles into the rings so they would be on the sides of the altar for carrying it. They made it hollow, out of boards.

Making the Bronze Basin

Exo 38:8 They made the bronze basin and its bronze stand from the mirrors of the women who served at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

Making the Court

Exo 38:9 Next they made the courtyard. The south side was a hundred cubits long and had curtains of finely twisted linen,

Exo 38:10 with twenty posts and twenty bronze bases, and with silver hooks and bands on the posts.

Exo 38:11 The north side was also a hundred cubits long and had twenty posts and twenty bronze bases, with silver hooks and bands on the posts.

Exo 38:12 The west end was fifty cubits wide and had curtains, with ten posts and ten bases, with silver hooks and bands on the posts.

Exo 38:13 The east end, toward the sunrise, was also fifty cubits wide.

Exo 38:14 Curtains fifteen cubits long were on one side of the entrance, with three posts and three bases,

Exo 38:15 and curtains fifteen cubits long were on the other side of the entrance to the courtyard, with three posts and three bases.

Exo 38:16 All the curtains around the courtyard were of finely twisted linen.

Exo 38:17 The bases for the posts were bronze. The hooks and bands on the posts were silver, and their tops were overlaid with silver; so all the posts of the courtyard had silver bands.

Exo 38:18 The curtain for the entrance to the courtyard was made of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen--the work of an embroiderer. It was twenty cubits long and, like the curtains of the courtyard, five cubits high,

Exo 38:19 with four posts and four bronze bases. Their hooks and bands were silver, and their tops were overlaid with silver.

Exo 38:20 All the tent pegs of the tabernacle and of the surrounding courtyard were bronze.

Materials for the Tabernacle

Exo 38:21 These are the amounts of the materials used for the tabernacle, the tabernacle of the covenant law, which were recorded at Moses' command by the Levites under the direction of Ithamar son of Aaron, the priest.

Exo 38:22 (Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, made everything the LORD commanded Moses;

Exo 38:23 with him was Oholiab son of Ahisamak, of the tribe of Dan--an engraver and designer, and an embroiderer in blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen.)

Exo 38:24 The total amount of the gold from the wave offering used for all the work on the sanctuary was 29 talents and 730 shekels, according to the sanctuary shekel.

Exo 38:25 The silver obtained from those of the community who were counted in the census was 100 talents and 1,775 shekels, according to the sanctuary shekel--

Exo 38:26 one beka per person, that is, half a shekel, according to the sanctuary shekel, from everyone who had crossed over to those counted, twenty years old or more, a total of 603,550 men.

Exo 38:27 The 100 talents of silver were used to cast the bases for the sanctuary and for the curtain--100 bases from the 100 talents, one talent for each base.

Exo 38:28 They used the 1,775 shekels to make the hooks for the posts, to overlay the tops of the posts, and to make their bands.

Exo 38:29 The bronze from the wave offering was 70 talents and 2,400 shekels.

Exo 38:30 They used it to make the bases for the entrance to the tent of meeting, the bronze altar with its bronze grating and all its utensils,

Exo 38:31 the bases for the surrounding courtyard and those for its entrance and all the tent pegs for the tabernacle and those for the surrounding courtyard.

To understand how Exodus 38 relates to the New Testament, we must consider the following points:

- **Tabernacle Significance:** Exodus 38 describes the construction of the Tabernacle, which symbolizes God's presence, paralleling Christ's role as Emmanuel (God with us).

Isa 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Mat 1:23 "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 He was with God in the beginning.

Joh 1:3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

Joh 1:4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

Joh 1:5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Joh 1:6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John.

Joh 1:7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.

Joh 1:8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

Joh 1:9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

Joh 1:10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

Joh 1:11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

Joh 1:12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God--

Joh 1:13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

Joh 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- **Sacrificial System:** The altar of burnt offering in Exodus 38 foreshadows Christ's ultimate sacrifice for humanity's sins in the New Testament.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

John 3:18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

1 John 4:9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

1Jn 4:10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Heb 10:1 The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming--not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship.

Heb 10:2 Otherwise, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins.

Heb 10:3 But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins.

Heb 10:4 It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Heb 10:5 Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me;

Heb 10:6 with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased.

Heb 10:7 Then I said, 'Here I am--it is written about me in the scroll-- I have come to do your will, my God.'

Heb 10:8 First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them"--though they were offered in accordance with the law.

Heb 10:9 Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second.

Heb 10:10 And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Heb 10:11 Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

Heb 10:12 But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for

sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,

Heb 10:13 and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool.

Heb 10:14 For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

- **Priestly Role:** The Levitical priesthood established in Exodus highlights the need for mediators, which is fulfilled in Jesus as the High Priest (Hebrews 4:14).

Hebrews 4:14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet he did not sin.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

- **Covenant Themes:** The covenant established in Exodus sets the stage for the New Covenant through Jesus, emphasizing grace over law.

Jeremiah 31:31 "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah.

Jeremiah 31:32 It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD.

Jeremiah 31:33 "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Jeremiah 31:34 No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

Hebrews 8:1 Now the main point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven,

Heb 8:2 and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by a mere human being.

Heb 8:3 Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, and so it was necessary for this one also to have something to offer.

Heb 8:4 If he were on earth, he would not be a priest, for there are already priests who offer the gifts prescribed by the law.

Heb 8:5 They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."

Heb 8:6 But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises.

Heb 8:7 For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another.

Heb 8:8 But God found fault with the people and said: "The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah.

Heb 8:9 It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my covenant, and I turned away from them, declares the Lord.

Heb 8:10 This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Heb 8:11 No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.

Heb 8:12 For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

Heb 8:13 By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear.

- **Worship Practices:** The rituals and offerings in Exodus 38 points to the New Testament understanding of worship and sacrifice, culminating in Christ's atonement.

1Peter 2:22 "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

1Peter 2:23 When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

1Peter 2:24 "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."

Romans 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—

this is your true and proper worship.

Romans 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Symbolism of Materials: The materials used in the Tabernacle (gold, silver, bronze) symbolize spiritual truths that are expanded upon in the New Testament, such as purity and redemption.

Gold (Divinity and Glory): Represents the deity, holiness, and righteousness of God. It symbolizes heavenly treasures and faith that has been refined, often used to describe the New Jerusalem and God's throne.

Revelation 3:18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

Silver (Redemption and Purity) Silver symbolizes redemption and the price of atonement. It represents the price Christ paid for atonement and redemption through His blood.

1Peter 1:18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors,

1Peter 1:19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

1Peter 1:20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

1Peter 1:21 Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

1Peter 1:22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.

1Peter 1:23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

Bronze (Judgment and Strength) : Symbolizes God's righteous judgment against sin and the refining/purifying work of God. It was used in the Tabernacles altar of sacrifice to point to Christ bearing judgment on the cross and represents strength

1Peter 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1Pe 1:4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,

1Pe 1:5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

1Pe 1:6 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

1Pe 1:7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Bronze (Judgment and Strength): Symbolizes God's righteous judgment against sin and the refining/purifying work of God. The altar's sacrifice points to Christ bearing judgment on the Cross and to our being able to endure through Him.

Bronze is the only material that was capable of withstanding the heat without being consumed or warped.

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,

Hebrews 12:2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

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