

Chapter Nine (9)

The Shadow Of The Cross

“And thou shalt make an altar of shittim wood, five cubits long, and five cubits broad; the altar shall be four square: and the height thereof shall be three cubits.

Hollow with boards shalt thou make it: as it was shewed thee in the mount, so shall they make it.” (Ex.27:1, 8).

The first article of furniture the sinner passing through the eastern gate of the tabernacle encountered, was the altar of burnt offering. The word “altar” signifies “to lift up.”

The altar, the place of lifting up, points to the Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ, of which He Him Self: “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me.” (Jn.12:32).

This altar was the place of substitutionary sacrifice.

It stood between the gate of the court and approach to the tabernacle.

There was no approach to the tabernacle except by way of the altar, which, of course, speaks of the Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ, and also bars the way of every sinner coming to God.

Until he stops at this altar and appropriates the blood, and accepts the sacrifice as a substitute, there is no further progress.

It was both a way to God, and a barrier to God.

There is no approach to God except by the Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by faith in His death and the substitutionary sacrifice.

The Cross stands squarely between the sinner and God.

God's Pattern

This altar of burnt offering was made by man, but designed by Almighty God in heaven itself.

It was according to the pattern shown to Moses in the Mount.

When completed, it was God who ignited the wood upon the altar by fire which fell directly from heaven.

Man part in the death of Christ was making the Cross, and placing the sacrifice upon it, and there his part ceased entirely.

This death of the Lord Jesus Christ upon the Cross, was no accident, It was no surprise to God, but planned by Him from eternity.

(Jn.3:16)
(Acts 2:23)

Man could not have touched the Lord Jesus Christ or done anything to Him at all, except according to the pattern and purpose, and permission of Almighty God and the fact that Jesus voluntarily gave Himself into the hands of sinners to be slain.

Jesus was not overpowered and led to the Cross involuntarily, but gave Himself willingly to be - brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep, before her sneerers is dumb, so he openeth not His mouth. (Isa.53:7).

The death of the Lord Jesus Christ - was voluntary (Heb.9:26)

“Once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.” (Read pg.71)

The Four Horns

The altar of burnt offering which stood in the court of the tabernacle had four horns of brass, mounted on the four corners of the altar.

Horns in the Scripture are symbolic of great power.

The Gospel of the Cross is the most powerful thing in all existence.
(Rom.1:16) the Power of God unto salvation to everyone that believe.
The word “power” in the Greek - “dynamis” means “unlimited power”

Paul says in (1Cor.1:18) “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”

The horns were mounted upon the four corners of the altar of burnt offering, They pointed in the four direction of the compass N-E-W-S

Two Staves

The altar in the tabernacle was portable made to be carried about place to place. It was a provision for nomad people, who were still in the wilderness and had not yet been settled in the land of Canaan.

It was a provision for pilgrims while they were yet passing through the wilderness and therefore were supplied with two staves by which the priest were able to carry the altar whenever the order of the Lord caused them to move.

“And thou shalt make staves for the altar...
And the staves shall be put into the rings and the staves shall be
upon
the two sides of the altar, to bear it.” (Ex.27:6-7).

The altar then was to be carried by two staves or handles, which passed through four brass rings attached to the sides of the altar.

The altar is the Cross of Christ - it is to be carried throughout the whole wilderness of the world, and is to accompany us as our only hope of salvation, until we reach glory itself.

The staves are two in number, the Gospel consist of two parts. One consist of the death of Christ. The other is the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, and together they constitute the Gospel. (1 Cor.15:3-4).

(Read pg.73)

It's Position

The largest piece of furniture in the entire tabernacle sanctuary and the first one in order of the seven pieces as the priest entered to worship.

The position of the altar in the tabernacle.

It was the starting point, the beginning of man approach to God.

(Pg.74-75)

Discuss

We are not saved by Jesus' life and death, but by His death and Life.

Chapter Ten (10)

Fire From Heaven

In the forgoing messages we have given the general pattern of the tabernacle in detail, and have spent some time by way of introduction on the outer court, and the door of approach into the tabernacle grounds.

Until we enter the door, it is impossible to behold the beauties of the interior.

Until sinners comes by way of the door of Faith in God's Word, and the shed blood of the Lord Jesus, he/she can never behold the glories of Christ, and of His wonderful Word.

The natural man is blind to the things of God. Jesus Himself said:

"Except a man be born again, he cannot see ... " (Jn.3:3).

Outer can Jesus as a perfect man, a good man, but he/she will never see Him as the Savior and Lord until he/she enters the door of Faith at the eastern end of the tabernacle.

He/she comes face to face with the altar of burnt offering, - the figure of the Cross of the Lord Jesus the Christ, and realizes that only by the death of another, an innocent substitute, can he/she be saved.

The sinner will never see the gold in the tabernacle until he/she has seen the blood at the door of the tabernacle.

The gold represents the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the natural man.

Natural Man Blinded

Paul tells us in (1 Corinthians 2:14,

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him/her: neither can he/she know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

And again in (11Corinthians 4:3-4), Paul gives this added light, and says:

"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

In whom the god of this world [Satan] hath; blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

This explains why the Bible remains to a great degree a closed book to the most educated but unconverted man, while it is an open book to the most ignorant believer.

Read the rest middle (pg.77 - 78).

The Interior Beauty

When the believer enters by faith through the door, he/she meets up immediately with the altar.

Ethos altar stood just inside the door of the tabernacle; it was the shape of a square seven and one-half feet by seven and one-half feet and four and one-half feet high.

Read the rest (pg.78) description of the altar.

It was a picture of the incorruptibility of the body of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Like the altar. - Christ was able to withstand intense heat of the continue sacrifice which were made upon the altar, it was not consumed because oxygen was excluded. The wood was not destroyed because it was envelope of brass.

The intense of the wrath of God; He was not destroyed, but was able to say concerning His life: 'No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself.'

I have power to lay it down =, and I have power take it up again (Jn.10:18).

(1 Peter 2:24) "He bare our sins in His own body on the tree."

(Isaiah " The Lord had laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

Continual Offering

The fire upon this Alta was kindled from heaven.
It fell from God and kindled the sacrifice on the occasion of the dedication of the tabernacle when it was completed.

"There came a fire out from before the Lord, and consumed upon the altar the burnt offering and the fat: which when all the people saw, they shouted, and fell on their faces." (Lev.9:24).

It must be all by the grace of God, wholly apart from all human help and merit, religion and works.

To do otherwise meant certain death. Example - two sons of Aaron - Nadab and Abihu, in (Lev. 10) "Strange Fire"

Others - Abel sacrifice

In the case of Elijah.

Always Burning

This fire on the altar of burnt offering was kindled once and for all, and was never allowed to go out, and was never repeatep.

This of course, speaks of the security of the believer, and the fact that the sacrifice always stands to plead for the saint who has come by way of the Cross.

The sacrifice of Christ is once and for all, and is never to be repeated.

The whole service of the altar was designed by God Himself in behalf of the sinner.

Never Sat Down

In the tabernacle the work of the priest, was never done.

Day after day, month after month, he needed to offer the sacrifices for the sins of the people and feed the fire upon the altar of burnt offering.

There was not a chair in the entire building.

But when the Lord Jesus Christ our great High Priest came, He finished the work, and he made an offering once and for all.

Read Heb.10:1-4, &11-14)

There are two lesson to learn here:

The first is there is only one way of approach into the presence of God:

*That is to come as a poor, lost, helpless, hell-deserving sinner.

*one was to bring absolutely nothing but the animal of sacrifice in His hands.