THE BRAZEN ALTAR



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| DESCRIPTION THE ALTARThe shape of the altar was foursquare (square). The dimensions were five cubits (7½ ft.) long; five cubits (7½ ft.) wide; three cubits (4 ½ ft.) high (Ex. 27:1-2; 38:1-2).There were horns (a symbol of power) attached to each corner of the altar to bind the sacrifice with cords (Ps. 118:27-28).There were rings attached to the side near each corner which poles could be inserted for portability. | MATERIALS OF THE ALTARThe altar and the carrying poles were made of acacia wood overlaid with bronze (Ex. 27:1-2, 6; 38:1-2, 6).The pans, shovels, basins, fleshhooks, and fire pans were made of bronze (Ex. 27:3; 38:3).The grate and rings were made of bronze (Ex. 27:438:4-5). |
| POSITION OF THE ALTARThe altar was in the center of Outer Court of the Tabernacle (Ex. 40:29; Lev. 17:1-9; Deut. 12:5-14). It was the piece of furniture the worshippers saw when they entered the Outer Court. |
| FUNCTION OF THE ALTARThe priests burned the sacrifices upon the altar. The fire came down to consume the first sacrifice (Lev. 9:24) and the fire was to never go out (Lev. 6:12-13).The Burnt OfferingThe priest placed the sacrifice on the altar, and it was totally consumed by the fire (Lev. 1:1-17; 6:8-13; 6:22).The Sin/Guilt OfferingThe priest burned the sacrifice upon the altar, this cleansed the worshiper from sin and guilt (Lev. 6:24-30).The Grain (Meal) OfferingThe worshiper brought mixed flour and oil and offered it to the Lord. The rest of the grain offering was given to the priest for food, leftovers were then given to the worshiper and his family (Lev. 2:1-16).The Drink OfferingThe priest poured out a liquid offering (mostly wine) on the altar (Ex. 29:40-41; Num. 15:2-4, 10).The Fellowship (Peace) OfferingThe priest would wave all or part of the offering to God. After this ceremonial act, it could be eaten by the priest or the worshiper (Lev. 2; 7:11-21). |
| NEW TESTAMENT SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ALTARThe Brazen Altar was the first piece of furniture the worshipers saw when they came into the court to meet with God. Likewise, for the believer, the Altar of the Cross is the first introduction to having a relationship with the Living God (Col. 1:20-21).The sacrifice during the Sin Offering represented cleansing from sin and guilt. Christ is the spotless Lamb of God (1 Pet. 1:18-19), who takes away the sin of the world (Jn. 1:29; 1:36; 1 Jn. 3:5).During the Burnt Offering, the sacrifice was totally consumed on the altar. The believer is to daily place his life on the altar to be totally consumed as a living sacrifice (Rom. 12:1).Paul said he was poured out like a drink offering (Phil. 2:17), and he would later say he was ready to be poured out like a drink offering (2 Tim. 4:6). He saw his service as an act of worship being poured out for the Lord. |