

Open: 11 ALL PEOPLE THAT ON EARTH DO DWELL

Close: 248 MILLENNIAL GLORY

We will discuss:

1. Altars in God's plan?
2. What are they for?
3. The altars in Israel
4. What Israel's sacrifices showed
5. Consecration of the Christ Head & Body
6. What makes the altar acceptable?
7. Day of Atonement
8. Blood on the horns of the altar, again.
9. The worlds access to the altar

Altars have been an important part of God's dealing with mankind from Genesis to Revelation.

They are used for showing men's hearts, desires, faithfulness, dedication, and for illustrating the demands of justice for expiation and atonement.

In all cases, these are directed toward God

H4196 From H2076; an altar: - altar.

H2076 - to slaughter an animal (usually in sacrifice): - kill, offer, (do) sacrifice, slay.

G2379 - From G2378; a place of sacrifice, that is, an altar (specifically or generally, literally or figuratively): - altar.

Go down through God's dealings with mankind and use of altars.

Adam – No altar – in harmony with God, until his sin

Abel – Respectable offering but no altar mentioned

First Altar – Noah

Gen 6:13 And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; ...I will destroy them with the earth.

Gen 6:18 But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee.

Gen 8:20 And Noah built an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

Gen 8:21 And the LORD smelled a sweet savor; and ... said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground, neither will I again smite any more every thing living.

This was not a sacrifice of atonement.

Noah had believed God, and, God kept his promise.

Noah offered something of personal value in praise, thankfulness, and love to God for bringing his family through the flood.

Abraham:

Gen 12:3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Gen 12:7 And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there built he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.

Sacrifice of Isaac

Gen 22:2 And he said, Take now thy son, to the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering.

Gen 22:9 ...Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.

Gen 22:12 ...Stop!... now I know that thou fearest (reverence and love) God,

Gen 22:16 because thou not withheld thy son, thine only son:

Abraham's willingness to offer his most treasured of all things showed his reverence, his obedience and love to God.

Abraham had given God his heart – this is what God wanted

Later, Isaac built altar to the Lord

Jacob built an altar at Bethel

These were for thankfulness

God's dealing with Israel – the sons of Jacob

Amo_3:2 You only have I known of all the families of the earth:

(Note: The world had/has no altar, they have no access to God.)

To Israel alone, God himself specifies Laws about altars...

Exo 20:24 An altar of earth thou shalt make unto me, and shalt sacrifice thereon thy burnt offerings, peace offerings, sheep, and oxen

Exo 20:25 And if thou wilt make me an altar of stone, thou shalt not build it of hewn stone: for if thou lift up thy tool upon it, thou hast polluted it.

It's not about the altar, but about the quality and heart intent of what goes onto the altar that counts

Man's embellishments (gold, jewels, artwork, etc.) do nothing to enhance acceptability of the sacrifices.

Altars specified for the Tabernacle

Brazen – copper

Exo 27:1 And thou shalt make an altar of shittim wood...

Exo 27:2 And thou shalt make the horns of it upon the four corners thereof: his horns shall be of the same: and thou shalt overlay it with brass.

Horns were not an embellishment, but a necessary item – we'll see why later

Golden – incense altar

Exo 37:26 And he overlaid it with pure gold, both the top of it, and the sides thereof round about, and the horns of it: also he made unto it a crown of gold round about.

What God commanded and what He wants...

Exo 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

...40 years later... after hard wilderness lessons...

Deu_6:5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul (being), and with all thy might.

Deu 10:12 ...what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear (reverence) the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul.

Israel's typical sacrifices maintained their status of typical justification shown on Plane P on the chart, but as Paul us:

Heb 10:4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

So what were these typical sacrifices really for?

To show God their heart's intent...

Pro_23:26 My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways. (Set a watchman)

God will find out the heart intentions...

Deu 10:10 ...the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

Was Israel offering its best or its worst to God?...

Mal 1:7 Ye [priests] offer polluted (spoiled) bread upon mine altar;

Mal 1:8 And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee...?

God hates perfunctory ceremonies and sacrifices...

Isa 1:11 To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats.

It's the thought that counts! What can you give God that he doesn't already have? Simple... your heart.

Isa 1:16 Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;

Isa 1:17 Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

Those who love God show it by what they give to him...

Arunah offered to give David his threshingfloor, oxen and wood for sacrifice...

2Sa 24:24 ... Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing.

...God wants our hearts

Why does God value contrition of heart?

Psa_34:18 The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

Isa_57:15 ... I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

God seeks those who will worship him in spirit and in truth – at all times

Those with contrite hearts see God's perfect standard and their own failings. They Love the God with all their heart and being and might, and want to walk in His ways, but their flesh won't let them.

These are the very ones God wants.

These showed their contrition and through John's Baptism of repentance.

Jesus called to them..

Mat 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (from the burden of the letter of the law, but not from the heart's desire.)

Finally, at Pentecost, the opportunity was open for the most devout and consecrated to transfer from Moses to Christ.

Jerusalem swelled from 100,000 to between 1 and 2 million. The Law required all the males to come to Jerusalem for Pentecost. In Jesus day, only the MOST devout would travel hundreds of miles for Pentecost, of Exo 23:17, Lev 23:16, Deu 16:9-10.

Peter told them...

Act 2:36 ...let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Act 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

Their fleshly failings could now be covered by the blood of Christ to enable a full relationship with God. They could have the rest that Jesus had talked about.

The way to God was now open, not only for the Jews, but also, in time, for the gentiles.

The consecration covenant, or contract between the individual and God himself is shown in Lev 8.

But how can a fallen be accepted by God. God's standard is perfection. A fallen man is incompetent before God's justice.

How do we get to the point of consecration?

Basic steps in the process:

Jas 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him:

Joh 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Now with vitalized justification, and acceptable to God.

This is shown in Lev 8.

Lev 8:14 And he brought the bullock for the sin offering: and Aaron and his sons laid their hands upon the head of the bullock for the sin offering.

Br Russell tells us:

T41p3: "The bullock for the sin-offering was brought, "and Aaron and his sons laid their hands upon the head" of it, thus saying, 'This sacrifice represents us.'"

This is based on the principle of Lev 1:4

Lev 1:4 And he shall put his hand upon the head of the burnt offering; and it shall be accepted for him

The bullock in represents human perfection... the actual perfection of Jesus and the reckoned perfection of each one at the moment of consecration.

This principle is shown again...

Lev 8:18 And he brought the ram for the burnt offering: and Aaron and his sons laid their hands upon the head of the ram.

T42p2: "...thus indicating that it represented them."

And again...

Lev 8:22 And he brought the other ram, the ram of consecration: and Aaron and his sons laid their hands upon the head of the ram.

T45p1: "...showing thus that it represented them."

This shows that at the instant of consecration, Jesus and all making a consecration are considered as perfect human beings...

Reference about vitalized justification...

Q401: "justification by faith is a gradual process. Each step of faith brought us nearer to the climax."

"But the climax was not wholly reached until our faith manifested its perfection by our obedience and full surrender in consecration to the Lord. **Then** our great Advocate accepted our consecrated bodies and imputed to them of His merit, absolutely justifying them in the sight of Justice--the Heavenly Father. **Then** it was that the **Heavenly Father accepted that completely justified soul** by the begetting of the Holy Spirit. Thenceforth he was a New Creature, and a son begotten to the spirit plane.

"...But not until the final step was taken did he become fully justified to human nature--a son on the earthly plane. And only for an instant did he there remain. Then the begetting of

the Holy Spirit indicated the acceptance of the sacrifice of the perfected one, and started him as a New Creature.”

R4574 - subsection – “OUR JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH”

Their reckoned justification was **vitalized** at the **moment of consecration**. By this we mean that at that moment God treated them **exactly** as he would have done had they been like Jesus, **actually** "holy, harmless, undefiled and separate from sinners."

Lev 8:15 And he slew it; and Moses took the blood, and put it upon the horns of the altar round about with his finger. Lev 8:15

T42p0: The "finger" of the "Law" thus pointed out that **the altar of earthly sacrifices was acceptable to God by reason of the shed blood, (the life given)**, and that all who realize the power of the altar (horns are symbols of power) must first recognize the blood which sanctifies it.

Whose blood is this? The blood of each one making a consecration.

R5869- “Our blood has virtue only because of His merit counted to us”

We each consecrate our own lives in sacrifice. We each have the imputed merit that God recognizes as a perfect sacrifice. Now, our offerings on the altar are acceptable by God.

The altar has been made acceptable or “prepared” by the blood on the horns of the altar.

...then the organs, fat, our best powers, are acceptable to God.

The Christ, Head and Body, enter into the exact same covenant with God, in every detail, shown in Lev 8. (Aaron and his sons – 5 times)

But the actual sacrificing itself is shown in Lev 16 -The Day of Atonement.

The sin-offering of Jesus and his Body members tested them thoroughly so they could be entrusted with the divine nature and

become the world's high priest to bring them back to human perfection.

Here, the different animals show different qualities of the sacrifices.

The sacrificing of the Bullock (Jesus)...

Lev 16:11 And Aaron shall bring the bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and shall make an atonement for himself, and for his house, and shall kill the bullock of the sin offering which is for himself:

Incense, coals, golden altar, blood on the merch seat – Most Holy -seven times – completely

Lord's goat (body members)...

Lev 16:15 Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the veil, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat:

At this point, the **blood of both** the **Bullock** and the **Lord's goat** has been **taken into the Most Holy** and been sprinkled on the mercy seat - the propitiatory.

But after this...

Lev 16:18 And he shall go out unto the altar that is before the LORD, and make an atonement for it; and shall take of the **blood of the bullock**, and of the **blood of the goat**, and put it **upon the horns of the altar** round about.

But why? The blood of both has already been taken into the Most Holy.

Br Russell makes no specific comments about these verses.

We will come back to this.

After the Day of Atonement is the blessing of the people...

This is shown in Lev 9 where Arron, in the garments of glory and beauty, along with Moses, Aaron's sons, the Elders of Israel and all the children of Israel are before the tabernacle of the congregation.

This seems to show the Glorified Christ, Head and Body, recounting the sacrificing of the Gospel Age to the waiting world, as they are brought to an understanding of ransom and restitution... to see the Glory of the Lord.

T83p2: “The people--the world in general--will recognize God's gracious love more and more each day. Thus it will be that “the glory of the Lord will be revealed and all flesh shall see it together. (Isa_40:5)”

T90: “How beautifully these types teach a full ransom for all the people, and a restitution and blessing made possible to all!”

Once the fallen world sees what has been done selflessly to bless them with restitution, they will want to approach God with expressions of thankfulness, love, and consecration.

Br Russell says about “altar” in the Mediatorial kingdom...

T97p2

“the altar was already sanctified or set apart, and that their offerings would be acceptable because of God's acceptance of the Atonement Day sacrifices. To this altar the Israelite brought his free will offering”

Let' look again at Lev 16:18-19

Lev 16:18 And he shall go out unto the altar that is before the LORD, and make an atonement for it; and shall take of the **blood of the bullock**, and of the **blood of the goat**, and **put it upon the horns of the altar round about**.

Lev 16:19 And he shall sprinkle of the blood upon it with his finger seven times, and **cleans** it, and **hallow** it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel.

But, no sacrifices from the children of Israel will go on the altar on the Day of Atonement, so what is this for?

These verses seem to show that the cleansing and hallowing of the altar is done by the Christ Head and Body on the Day of Atonement, to prepare it for mankind's offerings in the mediatorial phase of the kingdom.

The principle...

T42p0: "the altar of earthly sacrifices was acceptable to God by reason of the shed blood"

God's minimum standard is perfection. Those approaching him in consecration must be perfect either actually or legally, reckonly.

But, in the mediatorial kingdom, mankind will NOT be perfect or have imputed justification.

This is a special arrangement. Because of their faithfulness, their lives poured out, their selfless sacrificing their humanity, unto death...

The Christ, Head and Body, will be in charge of the altar, and of bringing mankind back to perfection.

God will be out of the picture.

Exo 33:1 And the LORD said unto Moses, Depart, and go up hence, thou and the people... unto the land which I swore unto Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, Unto thy seed will I give it:

Exo 33:3 ... I will not go up in the midst of thee; for thou art a stiffnecked people: lest I consume thee in the way.

With the Christ, Head and Body in charge, and the altar cleansed...

They will make sure that...

Lev 6:12 ...the fire upon the altar shall be burning in it; it shall not be put out: and the priest shall burn wood on it every morning, and lay the burnt offering in order upon it;

For over 6000 years, mankind in general had no way to approach God. The altar was COLD and inaccessible.

But now, the altar will be HOT.

How will this altar be use? (Tabernacle Shadows pgs. T93-104)

The People Consecrating – Unto the LORD

Offerings of: Meal, pigeon, dove, goat, Bullock

These represented the “all” of those consecrating; the quality of animal representing the state of their humanity at the time of consecration.

The death of the animal shows that they present their “all” in consecration.

Burnt Offerings – thankful prayers to Jehovah, for His plan of ransom and restitution and how it personally blesses each one

Meat (Meal) Offerings – Praise and worship unto the LORD, oil, frankincense, sweet savor,

Part burned, part eaten by the Priests – showing that their offerings to Jehovah are through the Christ Head and Body

Trespass or Sin Offerings

For Minor Offences – poor judgment Lev 5:1-14

Lev 5:1-14 Trespass offerings – **minor offenses of poor judgment** – bring what he can to offer – lamb, kid of the goats, pigeons, turtledoves, fine flour

Lev 5:13 And the priest shall make an atonement for him

Serious Trespasses/Sins

Ignorance...

Lev 5:15 If a soul commit a trespass, and sin through **ignorance, in the holy things of the LORD**; then he shall bring for his trespass unto the LORD a **ram without blemish** out of the flocks, with thy estimation by **shekels of silver**,

Lev 5:16 And he shall make amends for the harm that he hath done in the holy thing, and **shall add the fifth part** thereto,

Lev 5:19 It is a trespass offering: **he hath certainly trespassed against the LORD**.

Knowingly... against his neighbor

Lev 6:2 If a soul sin, and commit a **trespass against the LORD**, and **lie** unto his neighbor in that which was delivered him to keep, or in fellowship, or in a thing taken away by **violence**, or hath **deceived** his neighbor;

Lev 6:5 ...he shall even **restore it in the principal**, and shall **add the fifth part** more thereto,

Lev 6:6 And he shall bring his trespass offering unto the LORD, a **ram without blemish out of the flock**,

T99p2: “This teaches that for every wrong restoration must then be made, with interest, and accompanied by repentance or an asking of forgiveness of the Lord

In other words...

Sins of omission or commission are treated the same.

Mankind will have a responsibility to learn the laws of God, the Holy things of the Lord” in letter and spirit, and to rid themselves of selfishness and sin.

Heb_8:11 And they shall not teach every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: **for ALL shall know me, from the least to the greatest**.

Lev_19:18 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, **but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself: I am the LORD.**

All must learn and do good and reject selfishness and sin.

Peace offerings:

Fulfillment of a **vow** or a **thank offering**...

Of the herd or flock – large animals – Sheep, Goat

(Lev 3:2 KJVR-S) lay his hand upon the head of his offering, and (the individual) shall kill it at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation...

(Lev 3:3 KJVR-S) And he shall offer of the sacrifice of the **peace offering** an offering made by fire **unto the LORD**; the fat that covereth the inwards, and all the fat that is upon the inwards,

(Lev 3:4 KJVR-S) And the two **kidneys**, and the **fat** that is on them, which is by the flanks, and the **caul** above the liver, with the kidneys, it shall he take away.

(Lev 3:5 KJVR-S) And Aaron's sons shall **burn it on the altar** upon the burnt sacrifice, of a **sweet savor unto the LORD.**

Again showing the dedication of the best powers to the Lord

Peace offerings eaten by each individual and the Priests

Thanksgiving

Lev 7:15 And the flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offerings for thanksgiving shall be eaten the same day that it is offered; **he** shall not leave any of it until the morning.

Vow

(Lev 7:16 KJVR-S) But if the sacrifice of his offering be a **vow**, or a voluntary offering, it shall be **eaten the same day** that he

offereth his sacrifice: **and on the morrow** also the remainder of it shall be eaten:

But mankind will never forget where they started – in sin and death

Lev 7:13 he shall offer... leavened bread with... his peace offerings.

Fulfillment of a vow...

Note that **making** a vow is one thing, the **fulfilling of a vow** is the ultimate goal for each individual...

T98p2: “This seems to show that if any man will then come into a condition of **full peace and harmony** (as all must do or else be cut off in the Second Death), he must eat or fulfil a covenant before God of entire consecration to him.

The peace offering seems to be the answer to the question...

What will YOU do with perfection? Answer: Do God’s will in letter and spirit... forever.

At 2874...

T98p2: “If, after being thus perfected, he again becomes defiled by wilful sin, he must die (the Second Death) as shown by the penalty of touching unclean things.

For those who fail to give their whole heart...

(Lev 7:20 KJVR-S) **But the soul that eateth of the flesh of the sacrifice of peace offerings**, that pertain unto the LORD, **having his uncleanness upon him**, even that soul shall **be cut off from his people**.

This shows mankind’s stance at or near the **close** of the mediation, when the law will be enforced without mercy:

Eze_18:4, 20 The soul that sinneth, it shall die. will

With human perfection at 2874, all can fulfill Psa 51:19...

Psa 51:19 Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.

...Dedication of their perfected humanity to do god's will forever

We look forward to the time when the blood of the Christ Head and Body is placed on the horns of the altar... on behalf of mankind.

Priests will burn the wood on the altar, and finally, for the world...

The altar will be hot.