

## The Tabernacle, Christ, and the Church

-A study through the second half of the book of Exodus-

### *Lesson 9-The Altar of Incense and the Census Tax (Exodus 30:1-16)*

#### **Description of the Altar of Incense**

-This altar was made of wood and overlaid with gold. It had a square top (18in x 18in) and was roughly 3ft tall. The top had a golden rim around it and four horns on the four corners. Similar to most of the other furniture it had golden rings attached to it for carrying poles to be inserted into. It was placed right before the veil going into the Most Holy Place. Aaron was to anoint the horns of this altar with the \_\_\_\_\_ of the sin offering. Every morning and evening Aaron was to burn fragrant incense on this altar. The Tabernacle would have always been filled with the sweet-smelling smoky aroma.

#### **Christ foreshadowed**

-Fragrant incense being burnt before the Lord is a common picture in the Scriptures for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the saints (Psalm 141:2 & Revelation 5:8)

*“The golden altar of incense, then, was a visual symbol to the people of Israel that the priests were offering up their prayers to God in heaven.”-Hyde*

-This altar had to be anointed with blood for the incense to be \_\_\_\_\_ to God.

*“The altar of burnt offerings was in the outer courtyard...it was the first thing an Israelite saw upon entering the courtyard. The altar of incense, by contrast, was inside the holy place. This arrangement teaches us that we must come to God through a sacrifice for sins before we can come to Him through prayer. Put another way, God must accept us by means of a substitute before He will accept what we bring Him in supplication.”-Hyde*

*“Reader, be wise, and learn the heaven-taught art of mixing blood with every service. Let prayer be mighty in the plea of Jesus’ death. Let praise ascend from blood-cleansed lips. Let love be as a flame from blood-sprinkled hearts. Let every work be worked with blood-washed hands. God’s eye looks for this sign. When it is seen, mercy’s wide door flies open, and acceptance cannot delay. But woe is theirs whose offerings are not washed. Cain’s miserable end gives warning that we bring no sacrifice without atonement.”-Law*

-God \_\_\_\_\_ His people to always be praying to Him. He is a God who wants fellowship with His people. He is not a distant unconcerned deity. He desires you to pray. He wants you to go to Him.

*“God commands what He desires”-Hyde*

-The continual incense before the Lord also teaches us of Christ’s continual \_\_\_\_\_ for His people (Hebrews 7:25).

*“O my soul, may this sweet incense be your constant joy... You may cast back all doubts and fears which Satan would suggest. He oft will whisper that our prayers are weak and worthless, and nought but insults to the ears of God. Alas! This is too often true. But hope relies not on our holiest work. Christ prays. Christ prays most worthily. And in His prayers acceptance stands. Our praises are oft as a dull smoldering smoke. Alas! Here is our sin, our shame, our base ingratitude. But Jesus’ voice is heard. His merits sweeten our short-coming utterance. Our hearts are cold and dead. But Jesus ever loves, and proves His love by unremitted prayers.”-Law*

## **The Census Tax**

-This section can appear to be disconnected from the surrounding context but understood rightly it fits perfectly. The Lord is teaching His people of His holiness, their sin, and need for \_\_\_\_\_. This portion teaches these same two truths. The Lord required that a census be taken of the people and a ransom be paid to spare them from the plague that God will bring upon them. This payment is referred to as both a “ransom” and “atonement money”

-“ransom”-payment for \_\_\_\_\_

-“atonement money”-sin \_\_\_\_\_

-Everyone twenty years old and older was to pay the \_\_\_\_\_ amount (a half shekel). The life of every person, no matter their social status, must be ransomed with the same amount.

*“This illustrates that there is no partiality in the love of God, and He extends His means of mercy to avert wrath equally to all.”-Hyde*

## **Christ foreshadowed**

-The Lord was continuing to show the people that He is was a Holy Sovereign and that they were mercy-needy sinners. Without atonement they would be consumed by His wrath. However, God, who is rich in mercy, lets them know of the plague \_\_\_\_\_ and gives them life-saving knowledge that will spare them.

-We stand condemned because of our sinfulness before God. We need to be ransomed by God from being under God’s wrath (satisfaction theory vs. ransom act theory). We need atonement. We need divine \_\_\_\_\_.

*“We must never forget that, ultimately, God saves us from God.”-Hyde*

*“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.”-Mark 10:45*

*“Knowing that you were not ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without spot and blemish.”-1 Peter 1:18-19*