

The Tabernacle, Christ, and the Church

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

Lesson 6 - The Bronze Altar & Courtyard (Exodus 27:1-8 & 9-19)

Description of the Altar

-The altar of bronze was the _____ piece that one would see as they entered the tabernacle courtyard. It was a large altar (7.5ft wide x 7.5ft long x 4.5ft tall) made of wood and overlaid with bronze. Like several of the other pieces this would be moved by having poles placed through rings on the corners and then would be carried.

Purpose

-The bronze altar was for the burning of sacrifices that were made unto the Lord. Before proceeding any further into the tabernacle structure, one had to pass by the altar. The fire for the altar was _____ by the Lord (Leviticus 9:24) and the fire of the altar was to remain burning constantly (Leviticus 6:9).

“A spacious court enclosed the tabernacle. There was admittance by only one gate. All worshippers must pass one door. Immediately in front of this the brazen altar stood. This object first arrested view. Each eye must first behold, each step must first approach its hallowed structure.”-Law

“The fire on the bronze altar never went out...The fire of the altar needed to be satisfied constantly lest it be extinguished...God Himself lit the insatiable fire that was to burn constantly.”-Hyde

Christ foreshadowed

-Before one could enter the place of God's presence (the Holy Place and Most Holy Place) the _____ of sin must first be addressed. The fire of the Lord must consume the sacrifice for sin for man to go any further.

“The fire on the altar, which the worshipers saw first as they entered the courtyard, then, was a picture of God Himself as a ‘consuming fire’ (Hebrews 12:28). This means that since God is righteous (that is, upright) and holy (that is, pure), being without sin, He must punish sin or He would cease to be God. Like the fire of the altar, He must be satisfied...His intense wrath and justice were satisfied only temporarily by these animal sacrifices. This satisfaction is still required for sinful humans to enter the perfect presence of God.”-Hyde

“Reader, you cannot weigh enough the misery and guilt of sin. It wakes eternal fury. It is the fuel of the quenchless fire. And what are you but one vile mass of sin? How, then, can you escape? There is only one hope...God comes in flesh to die...Christ is the gift...My soul, here is remedy for all your sins. Your need is great, but the atonement is far greater. Christ must be all, or nothing. He must do all the work, have all the merit and bear all the glory.”-Law

Description of the Courtyard

-The courtyard was a rectangular _____ around the tabernacle that was 150 ft long and 75 ft wide. There was only one entrance, on the eastern side. This courtyard was made of twisted linen and wooden pillars. This courtyard would have been about 7.5ft high all the way around.

Purpose

-To set apart the tabernacle from all else. To act as a _____ to keep all that was common and unclean out of this sacred place where God’s presence was to reside amongst men. One could not see over it and a person was not just allowed into the courtyard whenever they wanted. There were strict requirements about those who could and couldn’t enter.

“Although there was access, we have to remember that it was a limited access.”-Hyde

Christ foreshadowed

- While the courtyard provided access for the people it also was clearly establishing the truth that access to God comes only _____ way. The secret things of God cannot be seen or known unless one enters by the one door.

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”-John 14:6

“I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.”-John 10:9