

The Tabernacle – The Brazen Altar

Slide #2

- **Exodus 40:6 "And thou shalt set the altar of the burnt offering before the door of the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation."**
 - In your journey to a relationship with God:
 - The people of God (curtains) have witnessed to you (pointed you to Jesus - the Gate)
 - You have passed the curtain of the Gate (teaching that Jesus is Lord, King & Savior)
 - The first thing you see in the courtyard – the Altar of Brass
 - you could not miss it
 - size: 7½ feet square x 4½ feet tall
 - largest piece of furniture in the Tabernacle
 - a grating of bronze was inserted into the center to hold the firewood and sacrifice as it was being burned, allowing the ash to fall below
 - altar was wood-covered with brass
 - Christ kept His humanity under the judgment of God (the Word of God)
 - "not my will, but thine, be done" (Luke 22:42)
 - Jesus' will – "I don't want to do this"
 - God's will – "have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4)
- **SPIRITUAL LESSONS:**
 - to come into God's presence requires dealing with **OUR SINS**
 - All parts of the wilderness tabernacle pointed to God's plan of salvation through Jesus Christ
 - literal objects and worship processes help us understand spiritual concepts
 - In John 14:6, Jesus said, "No man cometh unto the Father, but by me."
 - The brass was on top of the wood
 - God's Word must take first place in our heart and life

Slide #3

- **Leviticus 1:2 "If any man of you bring an offering unto the LORD, ye shall bring your offering of the cattle, even of the herd, and of the flock."**
 - **"if"** – voluntary
 - Joshua 24:15 "Choose you this day whom ye will serve"
 - God gives us a choice
 - **"offering"** - the Hebrew word means "to draw near"
 - also translated as "sacrifice"
 - bringing an offering (something valuable or cherished) to the altar of burnt sacrifice represented a sincere desire to draw closer to God
 - **Spiritual Lesson:**
 - James 4:8 "Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you."
 - **"offering of the cattle** [livestock], **even of the herd** [oxen, bullock], **and of the flock** [sheep or goats]"
 - **"bring"** – The offerer is to bring the animal to the entrance of the tent of meeting, to the front of the Tabernacle where the brazen altar stood (Exodus 40:6).

Slide #4

- **Leviticus 1:3 "If his offering be a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish: he shall offer it of his own voluntary will at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD."**
 - **"burnt sacrifice"**

- several different types of sacrifices/offerings that teach what Jesus did on the Cross from different standpoints (sin offering, grain offering, burnt offering, etc. – deeper studies)
- in this lesson, we will be talking about the "burnt sacrifice" (burnt offering)
 - the entire sacrifice was burnt (complete)
- **"without blemish"** – without disease or blemish of any kind
 - God will not accept anything less than the best
 - to offer a defective sacrifice was an insult and a deception
 - Malachi 1:14 "But cursed be the deceiver, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the LORD a corrupt thing."
 - instead of offering the promised (unblemished) animal, the deceiver sacrifices a blemished or diseased animal
- **Spiritual Lessons:**
 - this represents Christ' sacrifice on the Cross
 - 1 Peter 1:19 says Jesus was "as a lamb without blemish and without spot"
 - Christ's sacrifice enabled His body (the church) to be spotless
 - Ephesians 5:27 "a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish"
 - Christ COMPLETELY gave Himself as the ultimate sacrifice to forgive the sins of the world
 - Christ's body (Christians) must give ourselves COMPLETELY to God
 - Romans 12:1 "present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."
 - AMP "dedicating ALL of yourselves, set apart" – "ALL your members"
 - What is "all your members"?
 - 1 Thess. 5:23 – God wants our "whole body, soul, and spirit" – a COMPLETE living sacrifice

Slide #5

- **Leviticus 1:4 "And he shall put his hand upon the head of the burnt offering; and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him."**
 - **"put his hand"** — Leviticus 8:14; 8:18; 16:21 say he put both his hands on the animal's head
 - According to Jewish tradition a confession of sin accompanied the laying on of hands.
 - this was a symbolical act:
 - implying "This animal's life is my life."
 - admitting his guilt
 - admitting he deserved the punishment of death
 - admitting the animal was making atonement for him (literally "a covering")
 - ("atonement" — see Vocabulary words & definitions on handout)
 - **Spiritual Lessons:**
 - Isaiah 53:6 "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."
 - "his own way" — we have all sinned
 - just as the O.T. man laid his hands on the head of the animal (symbolizing transferring of sins)
 - God laid on Jesus "the iniquity [sins] of us all"
 - Jesus became the sacrifice – once and for all
 - just as the animal was precious to the owner
 - when we come to the realization that we deserved death (that Jesus' death was in our place), His great sacrifice will be precious to us

Slide #6

- **Leviticus 1:5 "And he shall kill the bullock before the LORD."**
 - **"he shall kill"** – the priest did not do the killing

- the man who was guilty of sin did the killing
 - his sins were the reason it had to die
- God designed this to create a **HATRED** for sin (to see sin as God sees it).

QUESTION: Why does sin require death (animals & then Jesus Christ)?

- Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death"
 - "wages" = penalty, payment, judgment
 - what is the penalty of committing sin? – "death"
 - when someone commits sin, he dies spiritually (punishment)
- when Adam & Eve sinned, they did die – spiritually (Genesis 2:17; 3:3)
 - Genesis 3:21 – God made "coats of skins" to "clothe them"
 - (an animal(s) had to die because of their sin)
- Why such a harsh sentence – death?
 - We fail to see how serious sin is
 - When we sin, we say ...
 - "I made a mistake"
 - "I only told a white lie"
 - "I messed up"
 - "It's not a big deal"
 - "I'm only going to go out in sin for a little while – then I'll get saved"
 - We make excuses, we reason it away
 - when we do not see how serious sin is, we more easily give in to **TEMPTATION**
- What is the TRUTH? What does God say about sin?
 - Sin is disobedience to God's laws
 - When Saul disobeyed, God compared it to **REBELLION**
 - Rebellion is why people sin
 - Rebellion is refusing God's way because you want your own way
 - How serious does God see **REBELLION**?
 - 1 Samuel 15:23 "Rebellion is as the sin of **WITCHCRAFT**"
- God set up the system of sacrifices to teach important lessons:
 - a just and holy God cannot overlook sin
 - sin is **SERIOUS** and **CONSEQUENCES** are painful
 - the continual animal sacrifices:
 - foreshadowed Christ's sacrifice
 - taught that animal sacrifices were not enough (continual)
 - did not enable people to stop sinning
 - Christ is a better sacrifice
 - Christ was sinless AND He willingly gave His life
 - the animals had no choice

Slide #7

- **Leviticus 1:5 "And the priests, Aaron's sons, shall bring the blood, and sprinkle the blood round about upon the altar."**
 - a priest or an assistant held a bowl under the neck of the animal to receive the blood
 - **"sprinkle the blood ... upon the altar"**

QUESTION: What is so important about the blood?

- **Leviticus 17:11** — "For the life of the flesh is in the blood"
 - the physical blood carries nutrients to the cells & takes away waste materials
 - the blood circulates white & red blood cells and platelets

- when someone loses too much blood, a blood transfusion can save his life
- physical blood represents **the life** of the man or animal
- **SPIRITUAL LESSON:** to have new life requires the shedding of Christ's BLOOD
 - new life = being born again (in right standing with God)
 - Hebrews 9:22 – "without shedding of blood is no remission [forgiveness]"

Slide #8

- "Tetelestai" – It is finished!" (John 19:30)
 - animal sacrifices are no longer needed
 - all that the Tabernacle pointed to ("it is coming") had now taken place!

Slide #9

- **Leviticus 8:15 "Moses ... put [the blood] upon the horns of the altar round about with his finger."**
 - The altar had four horns
 - said to be curved, facing outwards – pointing to the four corners of the earth
 - represents every one, every where, for all time – salvation is for whosoever will
 - **"put [the blood] upon the horns"**
 - horns represent power (Strong's Concordance); Psalm 87:17; 18:2; Luke 1:69
 - the blood was to purify, cleanse the altar
 - symbolizing that there is power in the blood to remove man's sins
 - "there's still power in the blood of Jesus"
 - "what can wash away my sins, nothing but the blood of Jesus"
 - "there's power in the blood to save from sin"

Slide #10 – What Is Our Part?

- Romans 3:25 AMP "God displayed [Jesus] publicly [on the Cross] as a life-giving sacrifice"
 - sin brought death ("dead in trespasses & sins"; Ephesians 2:1)
- Romans 3:25 says Jesus was "a propitiation" = a reconciliation with God, turning away anger
 - The same Greek word is used for the covering of the Ark of the Covenant (Lev 16:14; Hebrews 9:5) – called the MERCY SEAT
 - the only way to the mercy seat (to find God's mercy) is through Christ
 - to find mercy, to be reconciled with God, to be in right relationship with God (made possible by Jesus), we must have "faith in his blood"
- **Examples of "faith" in the blood:**
 - the death angel passed over the Israelites who believed & applied the blood to their doorposts
 - their faith and obedience saved them from the death of the firstborn
 - when Jericho's walls fell, Rahab & her family were saved by the red cord
 - representing the blood of Jesus
 - she believed and obeyed, and her faith saved her and her family
 - safe in the house
 - the children of Israel were only safe as long as they stayed in the house (Exodus 12:22)
 - Rahab did not leave her house before Jericho's destruction
 - Noah did not leave the ark in the 7 days before the Flood
- **Spiritual Lessons:**
 - (1) faith in His blood = more than just saying "I BELIEVE"
 - faith = obedience to His Word
 - Noah, Rahab, and Israelites all put their faith into ACTION
 - (2) your faith will have a great affect on your family, friends, classmates, coworkers
 - (3) there is no safety once you leave the house of God (the church)