

ALTAR – AN INTERSECTION

Point of Contact Between Heaven & Earth

A Passage – Portal – Highway – Radio – Communication -

A Device – Place –

Revelation & Transformation of the Altar

Noah built an altar... Gen 8:20

Abram built an altar... Gen 12:7, 12:8, 13:18, 22:9

Isaac built an altar... Gen 26:25

Jacob erected an altar... Gen 33:20, @ Bethel built an altar... Gen 35:7

Moses built an altar... Exo 17:15

HISTORY OF ALTARS

In scripture, sacrifices were offered before the use of altars, and altars prior to sacred buildings to house the altars. Their first mention is in the case of the altar built by Noah after the Flood (Ge 8:20).

ALTAR SITES BECAME SACRED PLACES DUE TOMEMORIAL OCCASIONS

Memorial Covenants, Memorial Visions, Memorial Events, Memorial Communications,
Memorial Revelations, Memorial Promises.

IN THE BEGINNING.... There were no altar prescriptions

It had no fixed shape and no regular pattern. It varied with the materials. It might be a mound of earth, consist of a rock (Jg 13:19), a single large stone (1Sa 14:33-35) or even a number of stones (1Ki 18:31 f).

In Genesis we often read of the erection of altars, e.g. Ge 8:20; 12:7; 13:4. Abraham builds the altar for the sacrifice of Isaac in Ge 22:1-24. It cannot be supposed that he used metal or wrought stone. When Jacob makes a covenant with Laban a heap of stones is thrown up *"and they did eat there by the heap"* (Ge 31:46).

LATER ALTAR PRESCRIPTIONS (under Moses)

"An altar of earth mayest thou make unto me, and mayest sacrifice thereon thy burnt offerings and thy peace offerings, thy sheep, and thine oxen; in all the place where I record my name I will come unto thee and I will bless thee. And if thou make me an altar of stone, thou shalt not build it of hewn stones; for if thou lift thy tool upon it, thou hast polluted it. Neither mayest thou go up by steps unto mine altar," etc. (Ex 20:24-26;.....

....no steps, but only slopes for ascent to the same--implying they stood on some elevation

LATER A PRESCRIPTION OF "PLACE"

When Naaman desired to cease sacrificing to any deity save the God of Israel he was confronted by the problem of deciding how he could sacrifice to Him outside this "place." He solved it by asking *for two mules' burden of the earth of the "place"* (2Ki 5:17).

LATER A PRESCRIPTION OF SPECIFIC "MATERIALS, SIZE, & SHAPE"

In Ex 27:1-8 (compare Ex 38:1-7) a command is given to construct for the Tabernacle an altar of shittim wood covered with bronze. It was to be five cubits long by five broad and three high.

The four corners were to have horns of one piece with it. A network of bronze was to reach halfway up the altar to a ledge. In some way that is defined only by reference to what was shown to Moses in the Mount the altar was to be hollow with planks, and it was to be equipped with rings and staves for facility of transport. A precise construction.

IF STONES ARE USEDthey may not be dressed or hewn stones. No steps

LATER PRESCRIPTION OF USAGE....SACRIFICE

IN THE BEGINNING.... A place of covenant, offering, revelation, sacrifice, worship, communication, communion, Always with the theme of "Death" being interwoven throughout Always with Death !

THERE WERE UNLAWFUL & IDOLATROUS ALTARS ... such as...

Heathen altars Jeroboam's altar.... Ahaz's altar

LATER came the ALTAR OF INCENSE (*an extra ingredient added to prayers*)

The tabernacle and successive temples brought two altars into view -- the Altar of Burnt Offering (the altar by preeminence, Eze 43:13), and the Altar of Incense.....Prayers as Incense

Re 8:3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto **him much incense**, that he should offer it with **the prayers of all saints** upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

Lu 1:10 And the whole multitude of the **people were praying without at the time of incense.**

*Ps 141:2 Let my **prayer be set forth before thee as incense**; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.*

LATER A VERY SPECIFIC PLACE PLACE OF "HIS NAME"

LATER A VERY SPECIFIC PLACE A VERY "SPECIFIC PERSON & NAME"

LATER SPECIFIC PLACE, PERSON, & NAME ...TOOK ON A SPECIFIC CHARACTER

....THERE IS STILL A ALTAR, STILL A PLACE, STILL A NAME, STILL A PERSON

BUT IT HAS NOW TAKEN ON THE SPECIFIC SPIRIT OF THAT PERSON, NAME, PLACE, ALTAR.

We must not allow our time at the altar to become anything less than SPIRITUAL as it is now on this side of the cross.

ALTAR EXPERIENCES.....

Noah – offered burnt offerings and ...the Lord smelled a sweet savour.... Covenant & Rainbow
Abraham & Isaac – God provides a Ram --- Abraham held nothing back...
David – I will not offer to God that which costs me nothing.

“ALTAR” IS IN SCRIPTURE OVER 300 TIMES EVEN IN LAST BOOK --- REVELATION

*1 Corinthians 10:18 Behold Israel after the flesh: are not they which eat of the sacrifices partakers of **the altar**?*

*Hebrews 13:10 **We have an altar**, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle.*

THE ALTAR IS A SPIRITUAL PLACE OF

The Altar is no longer a specific natural place with GPS coordinates. It is now a spiritual place. It's character or atmosphere. It is not the activity of praying It is the Spirit and divine nature atmosphere of praying.

Out of this atmosphere permeated with.... **death, ...offering, ...giving, ...sacrifice, ...submission, ...honor, ...yielding, ...dependence, ...leaning, ...letting go, ...worship**comes manifestations of Power, Healings, Miracles, Forgiveness, Deliverance against insurmountable odds..... As Abram gave the Promise (Isaac) back to Him.

HEAVEN & EARTH'S POINT OF CONTACT or PORTAL ...IS CHRIST JESUS

THAT IS NOT A DOCTRINE OR IDEOLOGY OR TENETIT IS SPIRIT, ..NATURE, ..LIFE!

*Romans 12:10 **Be kindly affectioned one to another** with brotherly love; in **honour preferring one another**;*

*Romans 13:8 **Owe no man any thing, but to love one another**: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.*

*Romans 14:17 **For the kingdom of God** is not meat and drink; but **righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.***

*1 Corinthians 4:6 And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, **that no one of you be puffed up for one against another.***

*1 Corinthians 12:25 **That there should be no schism in the body**; but that the members should have the **same care one for another.***

*Galatians 5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but **by love serve one another.***

*Galatians 5:15 But **if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.***

*Colossians 3:13 **Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another**, if any man have a quarrel against any: **even as Christ forgave you**, so also do ye.*

*1 Timothy 6:4-5proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: **from such withdraw thyself.***

Titus 3:3 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

The Rock that followed them was Christ.

Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever.