

**The Sanctuary Messages Series**  
**Lesson 4: The Altar of Sacrifice**  
**Bible Sermon Notes by Pastor O. Cary Rodgers**

The courtyard represents the ministry of Jesus Christ on this earth who died on the cross for the sins of the world. This is where justification happens in which we go from guilty of sin to not guilty through the sacrifice of the Lamb. This is where justification takes place in which the blood of the Lamb takes us from unrighteous to righteous.

**I. The Altar of Sacrifice Experience (The process of justification, from guilty to blameless)**  
 Also known as the altar of burnt offering, or brasen altar

After the gate, you enter into the altar experience. Notice, the altar of sacrifice is the first thing seen after you enter in through the gate. You cannot have victory over sin without it. This is where a spiritual transaction takes place between you and God. It is the place where you exchange sin and worldliness for the Blood of Jesus Christ and eternal life. This is where God illustrates that He sacrificed his ALL through Jesus Christ and the you must sacrifice your ALL, give up harmful sinful practices. This is where you daily allow God to refine your character. Altar of sacrifice is a place of submission and surrender. It is a covenant of victory between God and us.

**II. Sin History and our Great Need**

1. Adam & Eve sinned. They were naked and sewed together fig leaves to cover their "nakedness" (Genesis 3:7 - 10)

**What kind of relationship did they have with God before sin?** Face to face. They were God-conscious. They had God-esteem.

**What caused their nakedness?** Sin (disobedience) ("Nakedness", totally exposed to the cold chilly consequences of sin, eternal death!) Now they are self-conscious.

**What did they do to cover their nakedness?** Sewed together fig leaves, self-esteem.

**What did they do when they heard the voice of God?** Hid themselves. Feelings of shame, guilt, despair, hopeless because sin caused them to run away and hide from God!

**Did the fig leaves hide their guilt? Shame? Sin? NO!**

**Can fig leaves save you from sin? NO!** God does not accept fig-leaves religion.

WHY????

Sin separates us from God and deformed our reflective image of God. God's goal is to redeem us, cover us, make us, and mold us back into the image of God to reflect the GLORY of God. He shows us the process in the sanctuary.

2. The Promise of redemption, salvation, and hope revealed – Genesis 3:15 (God reveals that he will have a people who reflect the image of God and HATE sin.)

**III. How does God redeem us from eternal death to life at the Altar of sacrifice?**

## Sin Offering...

### Leviticus 4:32 - 35

- 32** And if he bring a lamb for a **sin offering**, he shall bring it a female without blemish.
- 33** And he shall lay his **hand upon the head of the sin offering**, and **slay it for a sin offering in the place where they kill the burnt offering**.
- 34** And the priest shall take of the blood of the sin offering with his finger, and put *it* upon the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and shall pour out all the blood thereof at the bottom of the altar:
- 35** And he shall take away all the fat thereof, as the fat of the lamb is taken away from the sacrifice of the peace offerings; and the priest shall burn them upon the altar, according to the offerings made by fire unto the LORD: and the priest shall make an atonement for his sin that he hath committed, and it shall be forgiven him.

Illustrated through the altar of sacrifice is the cross of salvation in which blood was spilled for the remission of sin of the whole world. The laying of hands on the sin offering symbolically transferred their sin to the Lamb.

There are two main things the altar of sacrifice needed for the redemption of sin, **blood** and **fire!** An animal (lamb without blemish) had to die, blood spilled and burned upon the altar with fire. Every sinner must go through the blood and the fire!

### Through the Blood: (What does the blood represent)

**Leviticus 17:11** For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it *is* the blood *that* maketh an atonement for the soul.

Gk: Atonement - Cover , to cleanse, to forgive.

**Matthew 26:28** For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Gk: Remission – freedom, deliverance, and forgiveness.

**Romans 3:25** Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation (atoning victim) through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

**Hebrews 9:22** And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

**1 John 1:7** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

**There no victory without the shedding of God's blood.**

**Did you know that the fire on the altar of sacrifice was started by God? It was HOLY fire.**

### Leviticus 9:23, 24

**23** And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of the congregation, and came out, and blessed the people: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the people.

24 And there came a fire out from before the LORD, and consumed upon the altar the burnt offering and the fat: *which* when all the people saw, they shouted, and fell on their faces.

**The priest were instructed to never let this Holy fire go out.**

**Leviticus 6:12, 13**

12 And 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; and he shall burn thereon the fat of the peace offerings.

13 The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar; it shall never go out.

**Who does the fire represent?**

**1. Fire on the altar represents Jesus in all of His glory.**

**Hebrew 12:28, 29**

28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

29 For our **God is a consuming fire.**

**Exodus 3:2** And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.

**Exodus 24:17** And the sight of the glory of the **LORD was like devouring fire** on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel.

**Exodus 13:21** And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:

**2. Fire also represents the Holy Spirit working in us to do the will of God to glorify God.**

**Acts 2:1 - 4**

**1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.**

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

**What does the fire represent?**

**3. Fire represents trials and tests that perfect our characters to reflect the character of God.**

**Zechariah 13:9** And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It *is* my people: and they shall say, The LORD *is* my God.

**1 Peter 1:7** That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

**1 Peter 4:12, 13**

12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

**When the three Hebrew boys refused to bow down to the image that Nebuchadnezzar had setup, they were thrown into the fiery furnace bound. The only thing that burned off of them where the things that bound them.**

**Remember God's people must go through both the Blood & Fire...**

**Revelation 7:14** And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

**The altar represents Christ and the sacrificial experience we receive through both the blood and fire...**

Blood the cleansing or forgiveness of sin. The fire is God's glory and the Holy Spirit working in you and the fire of test and trial to perfect your character.

God already completed the sacrifice. Are you willing to bring your ALL on the altar of sacrifice? You MUST give your ALL to get ALL.

A true sacrifice is when you give something up of greater value to receive something in exchange of lesser value. When we give up our sins on the altar of sacrifice we exchange something of lesser value, sin, to receive something of greater value, eternal life through Jesus Christ, the Lamb.

**Romans 12:1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

**Are you still willing to walk into the experience?**

**III. Altar of sacrifice – Size, dimensions, symbolism**

**Altar of Sacrifice Size and Dimensions**

**Exodus 27:1 – 8**

1 And thou shalt make an altar of shittim wood, five cubits long, and five cubits broad; the altar shall be foursquare: and the height thereof *shall be* three cubits.

1 cubit is approximately 1.5 feet. 1.5 feet x 5 cubits = 7.5 feet. Altar was 7.5 feet on each side of the altar. And the height was 1.5 x 3 = 4.5 feet high.

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.

3 And thou shalt make his pans to receive his ashes, and his shovels, and his basons, and his fleshhooks, and his firepans: all the vessels thereof thou shalt make of brass.

- 4 And thou shalt make for it a grate of network of brass; and upon the net shalt thou make four brasen rings in the four corners thereof.
- 5 And thou shalt put it under the compass of the altar beneath, that the net may be even to the midst of the altar.
- 6 And thou shalt make staves for the altar, staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with brass.
- 7 And the staves shall be put into the rings, and the staves shall be upon the two sides of the altar, to bear it.
- 8 Hollow with boards shalt thou make it: as it was shewed thee in the mount, so shall they make it.

### **What is the lessons of victory we can learn from the pattern of the Altar of Sacrifice in the sanctuary?**

Its main material was shittim wood overlaid with brass?

#### **Who and what does brass represent? Brass is an alloy mixture of copper and zinc.**

**Daniel 10:6** His body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in colour to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude.

**Revelation 1:15** And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

***When you enter into the outer court you MUST humble yourself at the feet of Jesus at the Altar of Sacrifice! It is his feet that take us to VICTORY!***

**Numbers 21:9** And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.

#### **Who did that brass serpent represent?**

**John 3:14, 15**

**14** And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:  
**15** That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

The serpent = sin. Jesus became "sin for us".

**2 Corinthians 5:21** For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Brass serpent represented the sacrifice of Jesus Christ at the cross!

***The brass altar of sacrifice also represents Jesus and his sacrifice that takes away the venomous deadly poison of sin and gives us the victory over it through Jesus!***

#### **What does the wood represent?**

The wood = the cross = self-denial (exposure to death)

**Matthew 16:24** Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

#### **What do the four horns on the each corner of the altar represent?**

Horns of an animal like a bull, rhino, or buffalo is the main weapon against its opponent. It

signifies strength, honor, and power. His strength and power is in the horns.

**2 Samuel 22:3**

3 The God of my rock; in him will I trust: *he is* my shield, and **the horn of my salvation**, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence.

**Matthew 28:18** And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

**Psalms 62:11** God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power *belongeth* unto God.

**John 1:12** But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name:

**Romans 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

***The horns on the altar represent the power of Jesus and His salvation for ALL people. Notice that there is a horn on each corner of the altar representing the four corners of the earth. His power of salvation is available to all people around the world!***

A lesson we can receive from this is that the power of salvation is in the sacrifice. NO sacrifice of Jesus. No power for anyone. No Victory. Also for us no self sacrifice of self and sinful flesh, No power. No Victory.

The horns of the altar is intimidating to Satan and his demons for those who go to the altar of Christ.

APPEAL – Surrender ALL because God surrendered his ALL. ALL (Time, Talent, Treasure, Temple) on the altar of sacrifice.... Enter into an experience... Daily surrender.... Daily come to the feet of Jesus at the altar.... Daily allow the Holy Spirit to burn in your heart... Daily