

## Life-Study of Exodus Summary - Messages 147-151

### The Golden Incense Altar

#### Where the priestly service begins – A life of prayer

According to the divine record in Exodus, the priestly service begins at the golden incense altar. In the sight of God, the **priestly service begins** at the incense altar, **at the place where prayers are offered to God**. The incense altar is related to prayer, and to pray is to enter the Holy of Holies and to come to the throne of grace, signified by the propitiation-cover over the ark of testimony in the Holy of Holies. Our prayer should usher us into our spirit.

In practice, the centre of God's administration is the incense altar. Christ's interceding life is the centre of God's practice. Everything is executed, motivated, and carried out from this divine centre. When the **prayer** of the **saints**, the **corporate Christ**, ascend to God with the incense of Christ, God executes the policies of His administration. **Whenever we pray in the spirit, Christ is praying in our praying**. In this way, Christ is actually the one praying.

To be at the incense altar is to be in the **incarnated** God. To pray at the incense altar is to pray in God and with God in us. Christ is the tabernacle, the offerings, and also the incense. To burn the incense is to pray Christ. We should not burn strange incense. We should only burn the **resurrected and ascended Christ**. We must present such a **living** Christ to God as incense at the incense altar. May we see this view and experience such a revolution in our prayer life.

#### The effectiveness of the incense altar

If it were not for the incense altar, no one would come to the altar of burnt offering. No one would repent and come to the altar to confess his sins. No one would be motivated to come to the laver. No one would come to the showbread table to feed on Christ. **It is the incense altar that causes people to come to the altar of burnt offering, to the laver, to the showbread table, to the lampstand, and to the ark in the Holy of Holies.**

In order for people to be motivated to experience Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, His intercession is necessary. This is the significance of the incense altar. **As those seeking the Lord, we in the recovery both individually and corporately must learn one thing – to pray. If we do not have the centre, the incense altar, none of the aspects of the tabernacle and the outer court will be effective in our experience.**

#### Its materials and dimensions

The incense altar was made of acacia wood overlaid with gold signifying Christ's humanity and divinity. **Christ's interceding life is based on the renewed and uplifted humanity of Christ to express God Himself**. The incense altar was square signifying perfection, and a cube signifying **perfection of perfection**. Its height was greater than that of the showbread table and the ark indicating Christ interceding in the highest. The incense altar has four horns signifying the **strength** of Christ's intercession toward the **four corners of the earth**. It had a crown of gold signifying the **glory of Christ's divinity being the preserving power of His intercession**. Finally, it had two rings of gold and carrying poles which signify the life-giving Spirit bringing the intercession **everywhere** on earth. (Life-Study of Exodus – Messages 147-151)