

Sermon Outlines

The Tabernacle - The Contrasts Between The Two Altars

Readings:

Ex. 27:1-3; 30:1-3
 Heb. 5:1-6; 10:1-14

Introduction

In the Tabernacle, while the furnishings can be viewed as individual pieces each with its own truths, yet evidently there are certain pieces which are distinctly linked, for instance:

- a) The Ark and the Mercy Seat, whose truths are complementary. One indicates the failures of man and the other the propitiatory sacrifice of the Lord.
 - i) The Law was a reminder of the perfect law man had broken.
 - ii) Aaron's rod was a reminder of God's priesthood which had been rebelled against.
 - iii) The Manna was a reminder of God's provision man had been dissatisfied with.
 - iv) The work of the Lord does not just cover, but cleanses from all sin.

- b) The Mercy Seat and the Candlestick which alone were made from a single piece of gold. Since gold indicates glory, the Mercy Seat is a figure of the glory of the propitiatory work of the Lord, and the Candlestick the glory of Him as the Light and the glory of His grace in giving us a living organic union with him.

- c) The Brazen and Golden Altars. It is with these our meditation will be considered under three headings:
 - i) The similarities of the two furnishings.
 - ii) The contrast of the two furnishings.
 - iii) The summarized spiritual significance of the two furnishings.

1) The Similarities Of The Two Furnishings

The Brazen Altar (Ex. 27:1)	The Golden Altar (Ex. 30:1)
Four square (Ex. 27:1)	Four square (Ex. 30:2)
Horns, four since they were on the four corners (Ex. 27:2)	Four horns (Ex. 30:3, with Rev. 9:13)
Never to go out (Lev. 6:13)	Never to go out (Ex. 30:8)
Burn - Heb. "qatar" (Ex. 29:13)	Burn "miqtar (Ex. 30:1)

2) The Contrasts Of The Two Furnishings

Brazen Altar	Golden Altar
In the court (Ex. 40:6-7)	In the Holy Place (Ex. 30:6)
Wood and copper (brass) (Ex. 27:1-2)	Wood and gold (Ex. 30:1-3)
Offerings burnt (Ex. 29:18; Lev. 1:9; 7:31)	Incense offered (Ex. 30:7)
A place of judgment and reconciliation made (Lev. 1:11)	A place for burning incense representing intercession (Ex. 30:1; Rev. 8:3)

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Brazen Altar	Golden Altar
The offerer had access (Lev. 1:3, 5)	Only priests could function at the golden altar (Ex. 30:7-8; Lk. 1:9-10)

3) The Summarized Spiritual Significance Of The Two Furnishings

Brazen Altar	Golden Altar
Indicated the finished work of Christ	Indicated the unfinished work of Christ
Indicated substitution	Indicated intercession
Christ's work on earth	Christ's work in Heaven
Christ's work in the past	Christ's work at the present
Shadowed the three hours of darkness	Shadowed the preparation and functioning of Christ as High Priest
Christ on the Cross	Christ in Heaven
Christ as the Saviour	Christ as the High Priest
The truth of justification	The truth of sanctification
Christ separating us from the world	Christ sanctifying us in the world

4) Truths To Be Considered

- a) Before I saw the need of Christ to be my Saviour (the brazen altar), I had to recognize my need. The same is true of the Golden altar. Before I see the need of Christ to be my High Priest I must be aware of my personal need for him as such.
- b) Thank God for the finished work of Christ without which I never could be saved, and thank God for the unfinished work of Christ which keeps my faith secure.

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
 John 16:13**

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