

The Gospel From The Brazen Altar

1) Readings

- a) Ex. 27:1-2. Taking particular note that it was 5 x 5 cubits therefore what shape was it? God emphasizes the fact that it was four square. Why?
- b) Lev. 1: Note it's name: "Altar of Burnt Offering"
A careful reading of the Old Testament would reveal this altar had other names such as:
 - i) "The altar of the Lord" (Lev. 17:6)
 - ii) "The altar of the Lord thy God" (Deut. 12:27)
 - iii) "The altar of the Lord our God" (Josh. 22:19)

2) The Altar Of Burnt Offering

- a) Why this name?
 - i) To remind man that the burnt offering was vital for his acceptability. (Lev. 1:4)
 - ii) It was a straight in the face statement to remind every man, commoner, priest, Levite, Moses, Aaron, and chief men to know he:
 - 1. Cannot approach God
 - 2. Is unacceptable to God
 - iii) What can he do to be acceptable?
 - 1. Bring his works? That would never work.
 - 2. The honest endeavors by the thousands to live clean lives, but to no avail.
 - (a) Acts 10:1-43: Cornelius, a good man, compare v. 2, 31, but he needed to hear the gospel (vv. 34-43).
 - (b) Heb. 10:11: The priest, a man who was constantly doing the works God ordained, and the comment: "Can never take away sins".
 - (c) Acts 8:27-38: The Ethiopian Eunuch, a religious man and of great importance, but he needed the gospel.
 - 3. The teaching of men: "We cannot know until the judgment when our works will be put in the balance".
 - (a) God's warning comment: "The axe is laid unto the root of the trees" (Matt. 3:10)

3) Why Am I And My Best Endeavors Not Acceptable To God?

- a) Imagine I send a letter to the Queen or President writing:
 - i) Dear Elizabeth, there are several things I would like to speak to you about so at your earliest moment I want to come to see you, to talk to you with a view of moving into Buckingham palace and make it my home!!! Do you know what would happen?
 - 1. She does not even write back and explain why she will not meet with me!
 - 2. Who does she think she is not meeting me when I am ready on my terms?
 - 3. She does not even give a reason why she will not meet me, just ignores me.
- b) God is gracious and does tell us why we are unacceptable.
 - i) Our triple obnoxiousness before God:
 - 1. Because I am a deliberately blatant sinner. (Rom. chs. 1-5)
 - 2. Because I have inherited a nature which is utterly distorted in every way. (Rom. chs. 5-7)
 - 3. Because I have a germ within me that is vile to its core, it is called sin. (Rom. ch. 7)
- c) God explains:
 - i) Do you want to come to me, then here are the credentials:
 - 1. Clean hands, pure heart, hath not lifted up his soul to vanity nor sworn deceitfully. (Psa. 24:4)

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d) Consider The Altar:

It was square having four sides, north, south, east, west.

- i) When God distinctly specifies four of anything it is always divisible by a one and a three, i.e:

1. Naaman: three positives and one negative. (2 Kgs. 5:1)
2. Gospels: three synoptic and one distinctly different.
3. So how are the sides of the altar divided?

- ii) Observation, they faced north, south, east, and west.

1. "Kill it (the sacrifice) on the North side of the altar" (Lev. 1:11), the North side tells of the death of Christ.

2. "Ashes on the East side of the altar" (Lev. 1:16). The ashes on the East side tells of a finished work, the fire has done its worst, the finished work of Christ (Jn. 19:30).

3. The "River flows from the South side of the altar" (Ezek. 47:1). The South side tells of the glorification of Christ and the coming of the Spirit (Jn. 7:39).

Demonstration: Have the audience imagine the altar, if possible, use the pulpit and walk around it stopping at each side emphasizing the truth.

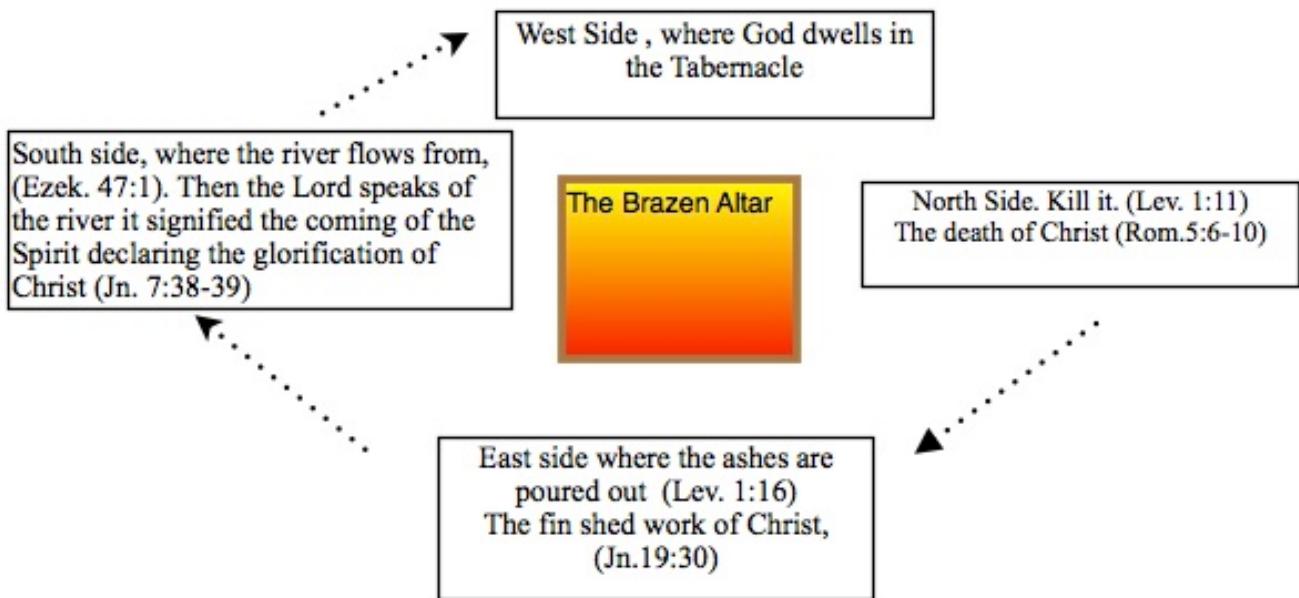
4. No where do we ever read of the West side? Why. (Tell of the tabernacle and in it God dwelt and it was on the West side. How do I come to God?)

Demonstration:

- (a) I see Christ and His death for me, them moving to the front of the pulpit.

- (b) I see the finished work of Christ so nothing left for me to do, then to the left side of the pulpit.

- (c) I see the Spirit's descent as evidence for the glorification of Christ, and on the West side I approach God's acceptability for nothing more is needed.



4) If I Decide That I Will Come To God On My Terms, God Lets Me Know That:

- a) I will not be accepted, illustrated by the man without the wedding garment. (Matt. 22:11-12)
- b) My acceptance into His home is on His terms.
- c) My fellowship with Him is on His terms:
 - i) Illustration: the man without a wedding garment

5) How Can I Get The Qualifications To Be Acceptable To God And Be Sure His Home Is Mine?

- a) The Altar
 - i) Christ bore the punishment for my sins: *the North side*
 - ii) Christ finished the work for giving me complete cleansing: *the East side*
 - iii) God is satisfied with Christ and He is glorified: *the South side*

6) When I Depend, Put My Trust In The Finished Work Of Christ Understanding:

- a) Christ swapped places with me
- b) God does not barter with me, giving me salvation if I give him my faith.
- c) I am already depending on my works for salvation, and I transfer my faith to the work of Christ.
- d) He gives me the gift of salvation for free.

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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