

THE BRAZEN ALTAR: JUSTIFICATION

BIBLE TEXT : Exodus 27:1-8; 38:1-7; 40:28-32; Leviticus 6:1-7; 7:1-7

LESSON 72 Junior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "Without shedding of blood Is no remission" (Hebrews 9:22).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

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.

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*.

Exodus 38:1-7

¹ And he made the altar of burnt offering *of* shittim wood: five cubits *was* the length thereof, and five cubits the breadth thereof; *it was* foursquare; and three cubits

BIBLE REFERENCES:

NOTES:

A Trip to the Tabernacle

Let us imagine ourselves in the wilderness of Sinai, going up as the Israelites to the Tabernacle to offer sacrifices for our sins. The Tabernacle has been carefully built according to God's instructions to Moses in the mount; and when the priests placed the offering upon the altar, miraculous fire came down from Heaven and set it ablaze. That fire was never supposed to go out.

We wend our way in and out among the tents of the Levites which are pitched around the Tabernacle in the center of the camp. We approach from the east because there is only one entrance into the court that surrounds the Tabernacle. Wherever the Tabernacle will be set up in the wilderness during the wanderings of the Children of Israel, the entrance will always be to the east.

The Court of the Tabernacle

We enter the outer court of the Tabernacle. All the services of public worship are held here. No one but the priests can go beyond the outer court. Before us we see the brazen altar, built square, with a horn on each corner. Brass signifies judgment; and the altar and all the instruments used here are of brass.

God condemns sin, and in the day of judgment everyone who has sin in his life will suffer the second death. God demands that blood must be shed to cover man's sins — the little sins as well as the big sins. Any sin, transgression of the Law, receives God's condemnation; and the offender will be destroyed if he does not take God's way of salvation.

The Lamb Our Substitute

We have brought with us a perfect lamb, a lamb without blemish, to offer to God as a trespass offering for our sins. It is a living offering, signifying that we are giving ourselves to the Lord. Some people are too poor to bring a lamb or a ram, but there is hope for them, too. God has provided that they may bring two doves or pigeons. No one needs to be deprived of justification.

We come before the priest with our lamb, and he tells us what to do. We look toward the sanctuary where God's presence dwells, and we think, "I am placing all my sins on you. I have sinned, and I am so sorry I have displeased God. I deserve to die, but God has said that you, little lamb, can die in my place." Oh, how happy we are that God has been willing to take the lamb as our substitute!

The Blood Shed

The poor little lamb is dead. The blood is carefully drained into a basin by the priest and is sprinkled upon the altar. We have acknowledged our sins before the priest, who is God's representative; we have repented of our sins and have brought the sacrifice to atone for them. The priest has accepted our substitute, and the lamb was killed in our stead. God saw the blood and our faith and was satisfied; for by looking ahead in faith to Jesus who was to come and die as God's Lamb, we are

the height thereof.

² And he made the horns thereof on the four corners of it; the horns thereof were of the same: and he overlaid it with brass.

³ And he made all the vessels of the altar, the pots, and the shovels, and the basons, *and* the fleshhooks, and the firepans: all the vessels thereof made he *of* brass.

⁴ And he made for the altar a brasen grate of network under the compass thereof beneath unto the midst of it.

⁵ And he cast four rings for the four ends of the grate of brass, *to be* places for the staves.

⁶ And he made the staves *of* shittim wood, and overlaid them with brass.

⁷ And he put the staves into the rings on the sides of the altar, to bear it *withal*; he made the altar hollow with boards.

Exodus 40:28-32 ²⁸ And he set up the hanging *at* the door of the tabernacle.

²⁹ And he put the altar of burnt offering *by* the door of the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation, and offered upon it the burnt offering and the meat offering; as the LORD commanded Moses.

³⁰ And he set the laver between the tent of the congregation and the altar, and put water there, to wash *withal*.

³¹ And Moses and Aaron and his sons washed their hands and their feet thereat:

³² When they went into the tent of the congregation, and when they came near unto the altar, they washed; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Leviticus 6:1-7

forgiven.

Jesus Our Lamb

Now let us consider what we must do in the twentieth century, in order to be saved. God still hates sin, and condemns every man to death who has sin in his heart. God is holy, and we cannot come near Him with sin in our lives. To hide that sin from God, we must cover it with the Blood, because "without shedding of blood is no remission" (Hebrews 9:22).

What shall we do? God does not want us to kill lambs any more, because they were just a type of Jesus — and Jesus has come. What did Jesus do to help us when He was on earth? He shed His Blood to cover our sins, just as the lambs in the Tabernacle pictured that He would do. Jesus said: "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matthew 26:28). Aren't we glad there is hope for us through the shed Blood of Jesus?

The Sufferings of Christ

We remember how the poor little lamb had to suffer and die because the Israelites sinned, one lamb for one man's sins; but think how much the divine Son of God had to suffer when He offered Himself as a Lamb and had to bear the sins of the whole world. "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many" (Hebrews 9:28). "All we like sheep have gone astray; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6) Think of the sufferings of Jesus in the garden before He was crucified. when He realized how great the burden was; and then His death of a broken heart, on the cross. But He was willing to go through that bitter agony that you and I might be saved. When *Jesus* paid such a tremendous price to make His Blood available for us, should we not make haste to have it applied to our hearts in order to enjoy His pardon for our sins?

Some people do not consider sin as a very serious thing. They think they can be Christians and still have sin in their lives. God loved His only Son more than we can love our children, and yet He was willing to see the Savior suffer such cruel death to take away our sins. In that hour on the cross when Jesus was carrying on Him the sins of the whole world, God turned away His face, because He hated sin. Do you think God can look at sin in the life of man without condemning him to death?

Jesus Our Priest

There were priests in the Tabernacle who offered up the lambs. Who offered up Jesus? He gave Himself. Jesus was the Lamb, and He was also the Priest. He is still our High Priest, in Heaven, showing His bleeding wounds to the Father to hide our sins. "Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour" (Ephesians 5:2).

Jesus the Door

We have learned that the Tabernacle and everything connected with it *was* a picture of God's plan of salvation for us. There was only one entrance, the gate at the east end. Do you see the illustration? Jesus said: "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved" (John 10:9). He said that anyone who tried to get to Heaven any other way was a thief and a robber. We certainly would not want Jesus to call us a thief, so we enter as His Word tells us to: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9), "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah

¹ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

² If a soul sin, and commit a trespass against the LORD, and lie unto his neighbour in that which was delivered him to keep, or in fellowship, or in a thing taken away by violence, or hath deceived his neighbour;

³ Or have found that which was lost, and lieth concerning it, and sweareth falsely; in any of all these that a man doeth, sinning therein:

⁴ Then it shall be, because he hath sinned, and is guilty, that he shall restore that which he took violently away, or the thing which he hath deceitfully gotten, or that which was delivered him to keep, or the lost thing which he found,

⁵ Or all that about which he hath sworn falsely; he shall even restore it in the principal, and shall add the fifth part more thereto, *and* give it unto him to whom it appertaineth, in the day of his trespass offering.

⁶ And he shall bring his trespass offering unto the LORD, a ram without blemish out of the flock, with thy estimation, for a trespass offering, unto the priest:

⁷ And the priest shall make an atonement for him before the LORD: and it shall be forgiven him for any thing of all that he hath done in trespassing therein.

Leviticus 7:1-7

¹ Likewise this *is* the law of the trespass offering: it *is* most holy.

² In the place where they kill the burnt offering shall they kill the trespass offering: and the blood thereof shall he sprinkle round about upon the altar.

³ And he shall offer of it all the fat thereof; the rump, and the fat that covereth the inwards,

55:7).

Justified through the Blood of Jesus

So we see that we today must do more than give a mental assent to belief in Christ. We must repent of our sins, turn from them, ask Jesus to cover them with His Blood, and believe that He forgives. Then we are justified before God, and "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God" (Romans 8:16); and we go forth to sin no more.

God said the sinner must die, but Jesus must have said, "Cannot I take his place?" God loved His Son, and it hurt Him to see Him suffer; but God also loved man, so He told Jesus He could go and shed His Blood for us. Today Jesus stands as our High Priest before God, showing Him the precious Blood to remind the Judge that the price of redemption has been paid.

QUESTIONS

- 1 How could an Israelite receive forgiveness for his sins?
- 2 What offering did he bring?
- 3 Where was the brazen altar?
- 4 What must we do to be saved?
- 5 How do we know when we are saved?
- 6 What was the price of our redemption?

⁴ And the two kidneys, and the fat that *is* on them, which *is* by the flanks, and the caul *that is* above the liver, with the kidneys, it shall he take away:

⁵ And the priest shall burn them upon the altar *for* an offering made by fire unto the LORD: it *is* a trespass offering.

⁶ Every male among the priests shall eat thereof: it shall be eaten in the holy place: it *is* most holy.

⁷ As the sin offering *is*, so *is* the trespass offering: *there is* one law for them: the priest that maketh atonement therewith shall have *it*.

QUESTIONS

- 1 Where, in relation to the Tabernacle, was the brazen altar placed?
- 2 What was its size and how was it constructed?
- 3 What other object was in close relation to it?
- 4 Why were the trespass offerings important?
- 5 To what did all the offerings point?
- 6 What did the court typify?
- 7 What Christian experience did the penitent receive when he came to the brazen altar with his sacrifice?
- 8 What was necessary in the heart of the penitent when he came?
- 9 How was atonement made?
- 10 Read Isaiah 1:2-20 and decide why

the offerings mentioned were not acceptable.

