

Tabernacle 3 – THE ALTAR

(15 minutes)

Purpose: To understand the symbolism of the Altar and how the elements of sacrifice point to Christ.

Once an Israelite entered the Gate or Door of the Tabernacle, they come here to the Altar to offer sacrifice. Sacrifice has always been part of the gospel (Moses 5:5-9), Mosaic sacrifice expanded it to teach more. [show list of elements of sacrifice]

1. Offering – what was sacrificed and why?

Voluntary: Meal – (Leviticus 2) offerings of flour or coin and oil, as a gift for goodwill

Peace – (Leviticus 3) animal offering shared with others, to give praise and thanksgiving

Burnt – (Leviticus 1) animal offering or birds, for general unintentional sin

Obligatory: Sin – (Leviticus 4) animal offering or birds, for specific unintentional sin

Trespass – (Lev. 5-6) animal offering or birds, for specific unintentional sin & restitution

Leviticus 1:3 – male without blemish, how is the offering like Christ? (male without sin)

[bring forward lamb/sheep to give it up for sacrifice]

2. Offerer – who brought it, and how?

Leviticus 1:3 – offered free willingly, how is the Offerer like Christ? (volunteered)

3. Laying on of Hands – why is this done?

Leviticus 1:4 – to be accepted, make atonement, substitute for you

How is this like Christ? (takes our sins, set apart or anointed for the task)

[show how that is done]

4. Priest – who is this done in front of?

Leviticus 1:5, 7-8 – the Priests, Aarons sons, how are they like Christ? (authority to carry it out)

[youth give up their lamb/sheep]

5. Altar – where is this done?

Leviticus 1:5 – the Altar, what are the features?

Exodus 27:1-2 – 5 cubits square, made of brass, horns at each corner.

Why horns? – (Heb- Kehren = figuratively, of power), 1 Kings 2:28 – cling to for safety

How do the horns represent Christ? (power and refuge)

Leviticus 1:11 – killed on north side of altar by offerer, if a burnt offering

6. Fire – how was it sacrificed?

Leviticus 1:7-9; 6:13 – by fire, it is continual, How does the fire represent Christ? (purge)

7. Blood – what is taken from the sacrifice?

Leviticus 1:5 – the blood, why? (responses – blood=life, sanctify, protect, etc.[previous lesson])

Leviticus 3:17 – never to eat the blood, it is drained (defines kosher meat)

Hebrews 9:13-14 – blood of Christ will purge us

Where is the blood applied?

Leviticus 1:5 – for all animal offerings, poured out around base of altar

Sin offerings different:

Leviticus 4:27,30 – specific unintentional sin of individual, blood placed on horns of altar

Leviticus 4:13,18 – specific unintentional sin of community, blood on veil and horns of altar of incense in Holy Place.

Leviticus 16:15-19 – on Day of Atonement (once a year), High Priest for sins of all Israel, blood on mercy seat in Holy of Holies, the veil, and on horns of altar of incense.

What does it mean that the blood was applied to the horns?

How do you feel that most sacrifices are for your unintentional sins?

What does it mean to you that only One can make the sacrifice and atone for all your sins?

How do we see the Altar, Priest, Offerer & Offering in the Sacrament today?