

"The Better Sanctuary"

Part 2

Hebrews 9:1-12

Introduction: Last week in our study of the book of Hebrews we stepped into chapter 9:1-12 and we saw that in these verses the writer is naming some of the furniture which was found in the Tabernacle in the wilderness. It is the writer's desire in this section to show his readers that everything thing in the Old Tabernacle was a shadow of Jesus Christ who ministers in a better Tabernacle.

Hebrews 9:8-9

⁸ *The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the **first tabernacle** was yet standing:*

⁹ ***Which was a figure for the time then present**, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;*

Here the writer tells his readers the ceremonies, rituals, and the Tabernacle with its contents were all "FIGURES" for the present time. The word "figure" here in verse 9 means "to place, or to cast side by side so as to show the resemblance between two objects". So the entire Tabernacle was a "figure" of Jesus Christ. That is what we started to look at last week.

Notice Hebrews 9:1-2

Last week we started into verse 2 and we started to look at the articles of furniture which the writer pointed to in the Tabernacle and in last week's study our main focus was upon the Candlestick which was located within the Holy Place. Tonight I want to continue this detailed look at the furniture of the Tabernacle but as we do I want us to back up.

Last week we saw that the writer stepped over the Brazen Altar and the Laver which was both located outside the Holy Place in the outer courtyard. Tonight I want to back up and look closer at these two articles of furniture because there is far more here that we need to see.

I. The Furnishings of the Earthly Sanctuary

Part 2

Hebrews 9:1-5

This past week in my studies I came across some interesting information which helped me to realize we needed to back up, slow down and look at each article in great detail. Let me give you some food for thought before we get started tonight. In God's Word there are 2 chapters which are dedicated to the Creation account. When God's Word speaks of the Tabernacle and the services of the Tabernacle we find there are 50 chapters dedicated to this study. This tells us how important the Tabernacle and the services are in the eyes of God. There is something else to consider, the entire book of Hebrews is built upon the presumption that the reader knows the details of the Tabernacle. So I believe it is our responsibility to look close at the Tabernacle and see how it pictures Jesus Christ.

I. The Brazen Altar

Now we know that the writer skipped over the Brazen Altar because it was his desire to get his readers into the "Holy Place" and bring them into fellowship with the Lord. But we are going to consider the Brazen Altar in more detail.

Last week I shared with you that the Brazen Altar was located inside the door of the Tabernacle. The door was a picture of Jesus Christ as the only way to God. Then Altar then speaks of the need for a blood sacrifice before anyone can come to the Father. Let us begin by looking at the description of the Altar.

Exodus 27:1-8

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.*

The altar was 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet square and it was 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet high. It had 4 horns attached, one on each corner. These were used to tie the sacrifice to the altar. It was made from shittim/acacia wood. This was a wood that was very hard and indestructible. The wood was then overlaid with brass. The altar had rings through which staves could be placed for the transportation from one location to another.

This entire altar is a picture of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the payment of sin. I want to give you a few details about the altar and show you how it pictures Jesus Christ.

The brass which was used in the overlay was very significant. In the Bible brass speaks of judgment. Let me take you to Numbers and show you what happened to Israel when they complained in the wilderness.

Numbers 21:6-9

⁶ *And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.*

⁷ *Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.*

⁸ *And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.*

⁹ *And Moses made a **serpent of brass**, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the **serpent of brass**, he lived.*

This serpent of brass was a type of Jesus Christ on the cross. Now this thought does raise a question, "Why a brass serpent as a type of Christ?"

The serpent is symbolic of 2 things. It is symbolic of sin and the curse. Both of these pictures can be seen in Genesis 3. But what about the brass? The brass is a picture of judgment and as the brass serpent was raised up on the pole it was a picture of Jesus Christ becoming the curse for us and taking upon Himself our sins and there enduring the judgment of God as He paid the penalty for our sins. So brass here in Numbers speaks of judgment. Let me show you another use of brass to speak of judgment.

Leviticus 26:18-19

¹⁸ *And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.*

¹⁹ *And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as **brass**:*

Now back to the Brazen Altar. It was overlaid with brass and the brass pictures the judgment which Jesus endured on our behalf from the Father for our sins.

Matthew 27:46

⁴⁶ *And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*

Jesus was separated from the Father which shows He was taking the judgment that should have fallen upon us.

Now let us consider the acacia wood and the picture which it gives to us. The acacia wood is a picture of the humanity of our Lord. He was sinless and perfect and never once did He give into sin therefore death had no claim upon Him. Just as the wood was indestructible so was our Lord. Death could not claim Him but He would willingly lay down His life for us. The typology in the wood goes even further. The indestructibility of the wood speaks of our Lord and His ability to endure the judgment of the crucifixion, His ability to endure the decaying effects of the grave, and in the end He was resurrected to live forever more.

Now let us take a moment and consider the horns which were placed upon the Brazen Altar. They were located on 4 corners of the altar and they were used to tie the sacrifice to the altar before it was killed.

The "horn" in the Bible speaks of power.

2 Samuel 22:2-3

² *And he said, The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer;*

³ *The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence.*

The "horns" on the Brazen Altar were a picture of the strength of our Lord's love. Many people thought it was the nails which held Jesus on the cross but it was not the nails. It was His powerful love which held Him to the cross. The animals were held on the altar by the horns. Jesus was held upon the cross by His love for you and me. Let me remind you of how Jesus was mocked as He hung upon the cross.

Matthew 27:39-42

³⁹ *And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads,*

⁴⁰ *And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. **If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross.***

⁴¹ *Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said,*

⁴² *He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, **let him now come down from the cross,** and we will believe him.*

These statements prove our Lord was bound on the cross by the cords of His love for mankind. Just as the animal on the altar could not escape because of the cords which held it there so it was true of our Lord that He was bound to the cross by the cords of love.

The Brazen Altar revealed to Israel 2 things about God:

1. **His hatred for sin.**
2. **His requirement of bloodshed for the forgiveness of sin.**

The cross reveals the very same 2 things to us. When we look back to the cross and we see the Son of God hanging there we are reminded of how much God hates sin and the very need for bloodshed for forgiveness. God would have never sacrificed His Son if there was another way! God would have never sacrificed His Son if sin would have been permissible in His presence!

Let us consider one more thought concerning the Brazen Altar. There were 5 utensils connected with the sacrifices at the altar and every one of the utensils also pre-shadowed Jesus Christ.

Exodus 27:1-8

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.*

There were pans, shovels, basons, fleshhooks, and firepans. Let me show you what David Levy writes concerning these utensils:

"These five utensils used to serve the altar were types of Jesus Christ. Pans and shovels were used to remove the precious ashes of the sacrifices and carry them outside the camp to be disposed of in a clean place. The ashes spoke of the finished work of Christ.

John 19:30

³⁰ *When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished:** and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.*

The "clean place" spoke of the new sepulcher in which Jesus was placed at His burial.

John 19:41

⁴¹ *Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden **a new sepulchre,** wherein was never man yet laid.*

The blood from the sacrifices was drained into a basin and poured out at the base of the altar; typifying Christ, who poured out His blood on our behalf.

Hebrews 9:12

¹² *Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.*

The fleshhooks represented the cruel hands of the men who nailed Jesus to the cross.

Luke 23:33

³³ *And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there **they crucified him,** and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.*

The firepans/censers, which carried the fire from the Brazen Altar to the Altar of Incense, represented Jesus Christ's intercessory ministry of prayer at the Father's throne as our Advocate."

1 John 2:1

*My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, **we have an advocate with the Father,** Jesus Christ the righteous:*

Conclusion:

There is much more to be seen in the Brazen Altar but we have enough here to help us to see the picture of Christ. In closing I want you to see the process which the sacrifices were offered. This is seen in Leviticus 1:3-9 and here we see the Burnt Offering.

Leviticus 1:3-9

³ *If his offering be a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish: he shall offer it of his own voluntary will at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD.*

⁴ *And he shall put his hand upon the head of the burnt offering; and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him.*

⁵ *And he shall kill the bullock before the LORD: and the priests, Aaron's sons, shall bring the blood, and sprinkle the blood round about upon the altar that is by the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.*

⁶ *And he shall flay the burnt offering, and cut it into his pieces.*

⁷ *And the sons of Aaron the priest shall put fire upon the altar, and lay the wood in order upon the fire:*

⁸ *And the priests, Aaron's sons, shall lay the parts, the head, and the fat, in order upon the wood that is on the fire which is upon the altar:*

⁹ *But his inwards and his legs shall he wash in water: and the priest shall burn all on the altar, to be a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD.*