

EXODUS 30-31: THE TABERNACLE & THE CALL.

I. (1-10): The Altar Of Incense.

It was made of acacia wood overlaid with gold. It was 18 inches (0.5 meter) square and 3 feet (1 meter) high. **The altar of incense was also carried by the system of rings and poles.**

Aaron (and other priests after him) were instructed to burn incense on this altar every day as part of their normal priestly duties, both in the morning and in the evening. **The ministry at the altar of incense speaks of how God's people should continually come to Him in prayer.**

***Revelation 8:3-4** - Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.*

The altar of incense was not a place of sacrifice, but it was a place for atoning blood. Aaron had to anoint the horns of the altar of incense with blood from the atoning sacrifice. **Once a year, on the Day of Atonement, the altar of incense received the blood of atonement, but it was a place where atonement was remembered and enjoyed, not made.**

II. (11-16): The Ransom money for a census.

A census put Israel at risk of **plague** because a census (a numbering) signified ownership. This spoke against God's ownership of Israel, because in their thinking, a man only had the right to count or number what belonged to him. Israel didn't belong to Israel; Israel belonged to God. It was up to Him to command a counting.

If a census was conducted, everyone twenty and over had to pay ransom money; one-half shekel. This ransom money spoke clearly: *everyone owes God; everyone is obligated to Him.*

***Mark 10:45** - "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."*

***1 Timothy 2:5-6** - For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time...*

“The Lord commanded that every male over twenty years of age should pay half a shekel as redemption money, confessing that he deserved to die, owning that he was in debt to God, and bringing the sum demanded as a type of a great redemption which would by-and-by be paid for the souls of the sons of men.” Charles Spurgeon.

This money was given to the service of the Tabernacle. There was a large amount of silver needed in the building of the tabernacle, and this is how it was obtained.

III. ([17-21](#)) The Bronze Laver/Basin.

It was for ceremonial washings, set between the Altar and the Tabernacle.

The Basin speaks of the washing that is necessary for anyone who would come into the presence God.

[John 13:10](#) - *He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean.*

IV. ([22-33](#)) The Holy Anointing Oil.

This oil was used for anointing the priests and the articles pertaining to service. It was not be imitated nor used as normal perfuming oil. This shows that the work of the Holy Spirit is never to be imitated.

V. ([34-38](#)) The Holy Incense.

The special incense for the tabernacle was made according to the same principles as the anointing oil. God didn't want this sacred smell – symbolizing the sweetness of prayer – to be used for human attraction or adornment.

[EXODUS 31:1-6](#) - The call of Bezaleel and Aholiab.

God supernaturally enabled Bezalel to do the work of building the Tabernacle; God's work entirely depends on His power.

[Acts 6:3](#) - *“Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business;*

[Zechariah 4:6](#) - *So he answered and said to me: “This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ Says the LORD of hosts.*

John 7:37-39 - *On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

Acts 1:8 - *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

- VI. ([7-11](#)) **The Tabernacle, Ark of the Testimony, Mercy Seat, Table, Lampstand, Altar of Incense, Altar of Burnt Offering, Laver, Priestly Garments, Anointing Oil and Sweet incense.**
- VII. ([12-17](#)) The command to respect the Sabbath.
- VIII. ([18](#)) God gives Moses the Tablets of stone, written with His finger.