

Doctrinal Studies  
**The Golden Altar of Incense**

1. The Golden Altar of Incense is described in detail in Ex. 30:1-10, 34-38, 37:25-28.
2. While just outside of the veil or the second curtain the golden altar of incense actually belongs to the furniture of the Holy of Holies. It was placed outside because the golden altar of incense was constantly used. The ark and the Mercy seat were used only once a year. Please remember: The Brazen altar located inside the curtain fence in the outer court speaks of the Christ who died for us. The Golden altar of incense located in the Holy Place near the veil speaks to us of Christ, who lives in Heaven to intercede for us.
3. The golden altar of incense depicts Jesus Christ after His victory, seated at the right hand of the Father as the King of Kings and Royal High Priest.
4. The basic ingredients of the golden altar include not only its construction of wood and gold, but a crown, fire and incense.
5. Let's note the five articles in the structure of the golden altar: Wood: a symbol of the Humanity of Jesus Christ; Gold: a symbol of the Deity of Jesus Christ; A Crown: which kept fire from falling to the ground; Fire: Judgment of Christ on the Cross; Incense: Prayer and Victory.
6. Since the Crown kept the fire from falling to the ground it represented the Victory of our Lord Jesus Christ in His Death, Burial, Resurrection, Ascension and Session.
7. The validity of the work of Christ on the Cross is found in Resurrection, Ascension and Session which is the Victory of the conflict, therefore the incense represents several things:
  - a. That the Work of Christ on the Cross was acceptable.
  - b. Incense refers to propitiation, as does the Mercy seat.
  - c. The Incense also represents Prayers; prayers of Christ on our behalf and prayers of the Royal Priesthood.
8. While the horns on the brazen altar speaks of sacrifice and refuge, the horns on the golden altar speak of power and prayer.

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9. The golden altar also had rings for carrying it. The rings and staves also have significance. The Rings speak of the perfection of God's plan of Grace – the Staves or golden rods that carried it indicate the global ministry of Prayer. There is no place where Prayer cannot go.
10. Therefore, the Golden altar represents Prayer and the utilization of Divine resources. Redemption and Reconciliation took place at the brazen altar. Intercession for the Redeemed took place at the golden altar of incense.
11. The incense was a symbol of Prayer as well as Propitiation as revealed in Psa.141:2, Heb. 13:15 and Rev. 5:8, 8:3.
12. The incense also represents the intercessory Prayer of Jesus Christ as our High Priest. Rom. 8:34, Heb. 7:25.
13. The composition of the incense portrays the Victory of Christ in the battle of the ages.
14. Ex. 30:34 tells us that the incense was composed of four ingredients: Stacte; Onycha; Galbanum; Frankincense.
15. Stacte presents the nobility of the life of the Lord while He was on the earth in Hypostatic Union. Stacte = drops of gum which came from trees. Onycha presents the nobility of death of Christ. Onycha was an incense derived from a shell fish and had an exquisite, rare, elegant aroma. Galbanum depicts the greatness and effectiveness of the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. It was used in mixing to add strength and persistence. Frankincense burned with a pure white flame ascending upward. Jesus in Ascension went up to the Father. A beautiful picture of Ascension and Glorification.