

The Shores Scrolls

Connecting the weekend sermon to the rest of your week™

Series: Audience with the Almighty

Message: The Sacrifice God Made for You

Scripture: Exodus 27:1-8; 38:1-7

Think back to the last time you saw a bonfire, noticing the size of it and how the flames reaching upwards disappear into the night sky. That mental picture is useful in approximating the fire of the brazen altar. The three things that stand out in our texts are the fire that was always to be burning, the brass construction of the altar and the seemingly endless parade of animals used in its sacrificial system of offerings, for the sins of both the individual and the nation.

Quite foreign to us today in the western world is the concept of animal sacrifice. But God in the Old Testament established the pattern, that if a person wished to be forgiven for the offense they had committed, another had to die in their place. This was pointing forward to the sacrifice that Jesus would one day make on the cross for sinful man, because man had no way on his own to come back into a forgiven relationship to his Creator. God outlined this representative method, illustrating His love for mankind, having made provision for this before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:3-14; 2 Tim. 1:9)

Man's rebellion and resulting sin barred him from God's presence as the layout of the Tabernacle illustrated. The brazen altar was just inside the front door and was as far into God's presence as the person bringing the sacrifice was allowed to go. Past this point the priests represented the people even as Christ represented the sinner in His death and resurrection.

Big Idea

The brazen altar was representative of the Cross of Christ in offering forgiveness and a way back into a restored relationship with God our Creator.

Insight

Unlike the people of Israel of the Old Testament who stood at a distance, believers in the New Testament "with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:16 ESV

Day 1: READ What does it say?

Exodus 27:1-8; 38:1-7

“You shall make the altar of acacia wood, five cubits long and five cubits broad. The altar shall be square, and its height shall be three cubits. ² And you shall make horns for it on its four corners; its horns shall be of one piece with it, and you shall overlay it with bronze. ³ You shall make pots for it to receive its ashes, and shovels and basins and forks and fire pans. You shall make all its utensils of bronze. ⁴ You shall also make for it a grating, a network of bronze, and on the net you shall make four bronze rings at its four corners. ⁵ And you shall set it under the ledge of the altar so that the net extends halfway down the altar. ⁶ And you shall make poles for the altar, poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with bronze. ⁷ And the poles shall be put through the rings, so that the poles are on the two sides of the altar when it is carried. ⁸ You shall make it hollow, with boards. As it has been shown you on the mountain, so shall it be made.

Exodus 27:1-8

He made the altar of burnt offering of acacia wood. Five cubits was its length, and five cubits its breadth. It was square, and three cubits was its height. ² He made horns for it on its four corners. Its horns were of one piece with it, and he overlaid it with bronze. ³ And he made all the utensils of the altar, the pots, the shovels, the basins, the forks, and the fire pans. He made all its utensils of bronze. ⁴ And he made for the altar a grating, a network of bronze, under its ledge, extending halfway down. ⁵ He cast four rings on the four corners of the bronze grating as holders for the poles. ⁶ He made the poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with bronze. ⁷ And he put the poles through the rings on the sides of the altar to carry it with them. He made it hollow, with boards.

Exodus 38:1-7

Now that you've read the text, write down some observations about it.

What two materials were used in the construction of the altar?

What decorated the corners of the altar?

Observe and underline (in the text above) the design aspects for mobility.

Moses received these construction plans where?

According to Exodus 38, what was the function of this altar?

Day 2: REFLECT What does it mean?

1. What function or role did altars serve in the Old Testament?
 2. What purpose or function could a modern day believer use an “altar” for today?
 3. What “sacrifices” should the believer today make in their service and worship of God?
 4. Contrast going from the prominent use of altars in the OT to no altars or even a temple in the New Jerusalem. What is the significance of this?
 5. With Jesus as the ultimate High Priest and Himself as the final sacrifice for all mankind; what significance should this truth work out to in the life of a believer today?

Day 3: RESPOND How does it apply to me?

1. How did God make himself known to you through this passage(s)? What did you learn about Him?
 2. What specifically is God asking you to do from this study of Scripture? Is there a promise to claim, a sin to avoid, an example to follow, or a command to obey?
 3. How do the truths in this study of Scripture apply to . . .

You personally?

The Church?

The world around you?

Day 4: RECORD your thoughts

Use this space to journal your thoughts about the passage and what God is showing you to change in your life.

Day 5: RECALL the memory verse

...we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Hebrews 10:10 ESV

Life Group discussion questions

1. Think about the placement of the brazen altar within the Tabernacle, does this location have any special significance or meaning? Why or why not?
2. What New Testament doctrine does the picture of the brazen altar illustrate? How so, explain.
3. In the light of our lesson passages and Romans 12:1, how does a believer today live sacrificially?
4. The brazen altar represented God's judgment on sin. What life lessons can we bring forward and apply to our lives today?
5. God gave Moses very specific plans for the furniture of the Tabernacle. Could this principle hold true for the lives of believers today? Does God have specific plans for believer's lives? Agree or disagree? How can you support your answer?

How to Use This Resource

The Shores Scrolls is a spiritual formation tool that helps you connect the weekend sermon to the rest of your week. It is designed for individual study, small group interaction, and family conversation around God's word.

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Atlantic Shores Baptist Church
1861 Kempsville Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23464
atlanticshores.org

Mission

Making disciples of Jesus Christ who go and make disciples

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