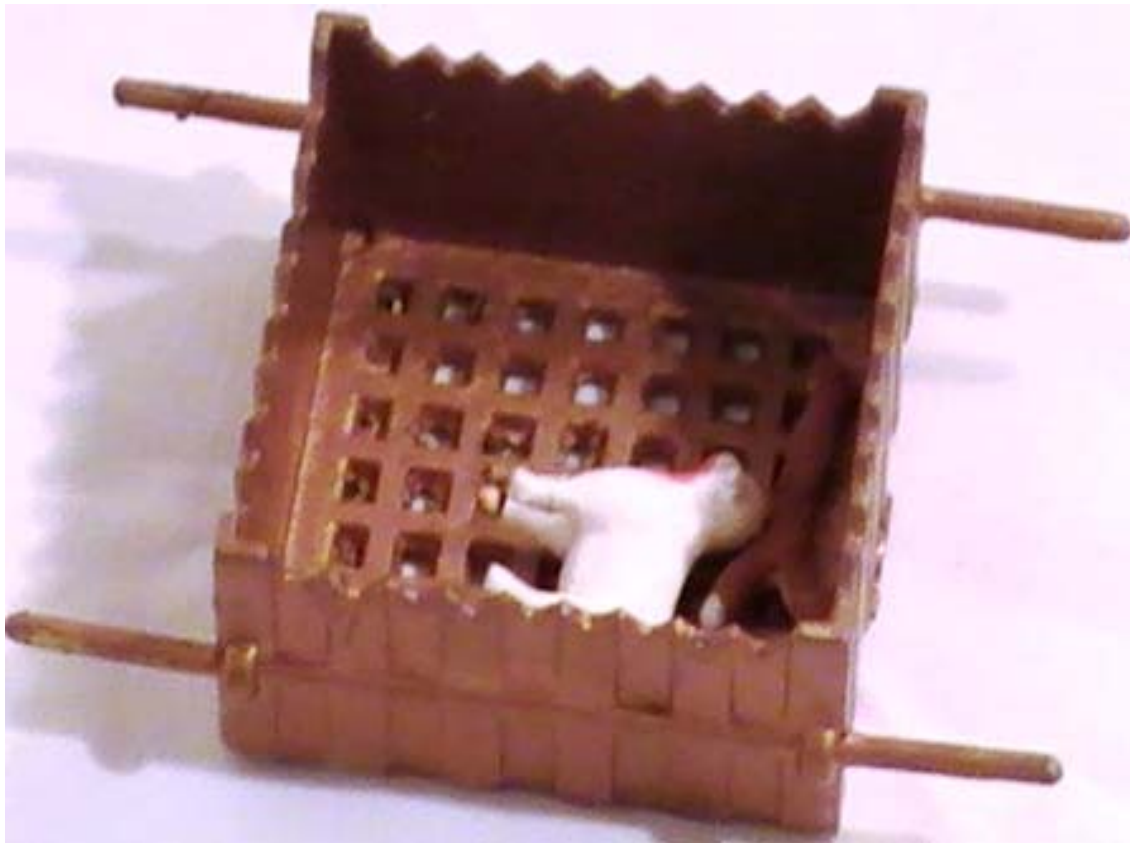


- SACRIFICES ON THE ALTAR
- THE LAMB OF GOD
- THE MEANING OF SIN
- THE REDEMPTIVE POWER OF THE BLOOD
- FAITH IN THE BLOOD

4

## THE BRONZE (BRASS) ALTAR



**Exodus 27:1-6** And thou shalt make the altar of acacia 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; the horns thereof shall be of one piece with it: and thou shalt overlay it with brass. 3 And thou shalt make its pots to take away its ashes, and its shovels, and its basins, and its flesh-hooks, and its firepans: all the vessels thereof thou shalt make of brass. :4 And thou shalt make for it a grating of network of brass: and upon the net shalt thou make four brazen rings in the four corners thereof. 5 And thou shalt put it under the ledge round the altar beneath, that the net may reach halfway up the altar. 6 And thou shalt make staves for the altar, staves of acacia wood, and overlay them with brass. (ASV)



## **SACRIFICES ON THE BRONZE ALTAR**

In the course of their service in the Tabernacle, the Priests had to perform two major tasks associated with the two furniture pieces in the outer court. Firstly the priests routinely offered sacrifices of clean animals in the outer court.

The blood from the animal is sprinkled on the altar and some poured in, eventually some parts of the animal are burnt in the altar. The altar of burnt offerings was the point of atonement for the sins of the children of Israeli of old, because without the shedding of blood there can be no remittance of sin. It signified the animal dying in place of the Israelites for their sins; the blood of the animal virtually covered the sins of the people.

Traditionally once a year the priest of God will take Blood from the scarified beast to atone for the presumptuous sins committed by the Children of Israel. This was necessary for them to maintain the cordial relation they had with God as a nation. Transgression of the law is sin and the wages of sin is death, so the beast will symbolically die in the place of The Israelites. God as we know can not look at sin, so the only way He could live in the midst of the Israelites was to view them as covered from their sins by the ritualistic blood sacrifices. This is one privilege that all the nations around them never had.

Israel in reality was no better off that the Nations around them in terms of conduct and righteousness. The only thing that distinguished them was the fact that, they were a nation chosen from among many other nations to gracefully approach God and to be called by His name.

## THE LAMB OF GOD

By divine revelation, we know that God had prepared His own sacrificial beast that will truly and permanently take away the sins and guilt of all His people. The sacrifices of old when the Old Testament was standing, were only symbolic of the real one that was to come. There is no way that the blood of Bull and other types of beasts can bring about the desired cleansing and consecration the Lord expects from His People.

God raised up a prophet before the coming of the Lord Jesus, His name was John the Baptist. John the Baptist who was sent as a messenger to lead the way and prepare it for the coming of the Lord spoke by the spirit on the first two recorded occasion He saw Jesus. John the Baptist had His eyes opened by God to behold this glorious appearance of the only begotten son of God. He said with a loud voice **“BEHOLD THE LAMB WHO TAKES AWAY THE SINS OF THE WORLD”**. By this very revelation from above, John the Baptist had formally introduced the one whom the whole creation had been groaning and waiting for. **[John 1:29-30] [John 1:35-36]**

All men have sinned and fallen short of God’s glory and favor. This sinful state of man is the root of the problems we behold in humanity today. The miseries upon mankind are simply because Man is living outside the glory of God. In the state of sin, man is dead and cut off from the glorious and pleasurable life of God.

We thank God though that the one that would die in our place so that we can live once more in the glory of God has been presented to mankind as a free gift. The one who would deliver mankind from sin and death thus putting man back into favor with God had finally been revealed.

Oh that God will reveal the significance of this very revelation of the Lamb and see what the Lord is doing for us today. I say we should ask for a greater revelation of the eternal significance of this appearing that could have gone easily unnoticed. When John the Baptist identified Jesus by revelation, it was not done with much fanfare like men normally expect. The ordinary carnal man expecting

the arrival of the Messiah would have expected a more elaborate presentation of Jesus. They would have probably expected the Sinai like appearance of God to have accompanied the one who had so great a role to play in God's salvation plan. His unassuming appearance and presentation already placed a stumbling block before the wisdom of this world.

## THE MEANING OF SIN

The wages of sin is death but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ. We ought to grab the true concept of sin in the eyes of God. That sin that has led and leads men into a spiritual state of death, is simply the losing our true State in which we were generated in God.

The Sin in the beginning that Adam committed was His unfaithfulness in not keeping Himself in the state that He was created in God. God created man in His image and in His likeness and charged Adam to be fruitful and multiply. He was also charged Him to subject the creation under Him and exercise complete Dominion of the creation. That fruitfulness and multiplication God talked about, is an expansion and continuity in that same spiritual likeness of God.

Adam fell by losing that glorious state or identity which He had as one like God and in the image of God. He lost it all to that beastly carnal identity of the serpent or the devil. Adam being an offspring of God who was supposed to exercise Dominion over the creation, Adam proved unworthy by losing that Dominion and becoming a slave to corruption.

Man in His new found identity outside God, is now bound to a corruptible nature, being now in the likeness and image of the beastly serpent (devilish earthly nature). Man in His original state in God, as one created in the image of God does not and cannot sin [**1 John 3:9-10**], because His nature of love and true holiness before God is above the law. Whereas the Man in the fall is by nature a sinner, a transgressor of the law and as a result is annihilated from God's life.

So the real thing called sin is leaving a life outside of Christ, because Christ is the image of God. Being in the image of God, he can not sin. Christ is the only begotten of the Father if we live a life outside of Him we abide in wrath. That sin is the root of all lawlessness seen in humanity today.

All men have sinned and fallen short of God's glory; we all fall as we put on an Adam-like consciousness. The Adam-like consciousness is that consciousness that loses its Christ-like state for the gain of the glories of this world, according to the wisdom of this world. Adam was created in the image of God, meaning Adam before the fall was living a Christ-like experience because Christ is the image of God [**Colossians 1:15**].

If we all fell, then it means we all stood perfect and sound in God in the beginning. We were never created imperfect by God in the beginning, or in other words we were not found imperfect in Him in the beginning. The downwards journey or fall, came as a result of our carnal Adam-like shift from our original state in God. We by induction and deceit that litters this atmosphere had all been blinded by the god of this material world and stumbled as a result [**2 Corinthians 4:4**]. You do not have to waste your time studying men or looking out for sin in men because all men still living the Adam-like carnal life is a sinner annihilated from God's glory [**Romans 3:23**].

Why did Jesus refer to us as lost sheep? We are referred to as lost sheep because we all lost our way in the beginning. We all left our original stall of perfection in Christ and have strayed away into the lower dark places of ignorance and imperfection. Christ is here to take us back to that original state we fell from. He has come to restore the green pasture of abundant life back to His sheep

The life of the flesh is in the blood [**Leviticus 17:11**]. That blood or life of God which is the only true life is restored to us by the life of Christ Jesus in His blood. He gave His life so that we can live again in the true image and glory of God.

## **THE REDEMPTIVE POWER OF THE BLOOD**

In Jesus Christ we have redemption through the blood; we are reconciled to God by the blood of Jesus Christ. We all fell by ignorance in the Adam-like consciousness and were of a truth cut off from God's love and from His glory. The blood of the Lamb opens the way for the whole world to enter back into God's favor. Paul wrote about this in **Romans 5:7-11 and Ephesians 1:7-9 and Colossians 1:19-20**

By the blood of the spiritual lamb slain on the spiritual alter in the Heavens we are justified before God. Meaning we are vindicated, approved of or made right before the God of the whole creation. We are saved from wrath by this justification and therefore enter into the good books of God.

We are reconciled to God as a result of the peace brokered through the precious Blood of Jesus. The separation or gulf between God and mankind that existed right from the fall of Adam is cancelled through the redemptive power of the blood of Jesus.

**Colossians 1:19-20 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross (KJV)**

We have redemption and deliverance through the blood; those who were wasting away in their sins are delivered all because of the blood. Accepting the blood ushers in an era of grace that knows no bound.

**Ephesians 1:7-9 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom**

**and prudence, 9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, (KJV)**

In a much deeper writing Paul mentioned the ritualistic blood sacrifices that were made in the tabernacle in relation to God's eternal plan for mankind's salvation in **Hebrews 9:6-28**.

Paul clearly states here that the way to the holiest of all was opened to all by the blood of the true heavenly high priest, which is Jesus. He talks about the Tabernacle in the heavens not made with human hands, a more perfect tabernacle.

**Hebrews 9:11 But Christ having come a high priest of the good things to come, through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation, ( GNB)**

The same way all the vessels, priests and objects in the earthly Tabernacle had to be sanctified with blood of animals so also the heavenly vessels in the heavens which we are, have to go through the same ritual but in a more perfect and true way. The pure and holy blood of the only begotten son has through the sacrifice, made atonement for many so that they enter favor with God. We have access to the sacred eternal promises of God because of the blood of Jesus that was shed for the remission of our sins. This sacrifice is eternal and serves to reconcile all men to God. The love and the power in the blood will reach out even to the lowest Hell to reconcile all to God. No matter your condition or where you may be, the blood of Jesus is able to lift you up back into the glory of God.

**Hebrews 9:21-26 Moreover the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry he sprinkled in like manner with the blood. 22 And according to the law, I may almost say, all things are**



cleansed with blood, and apart from shedding of blood there is no remission. 23 It was necessary therefore that the copies of the things in the heavens should be cleansed with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ entered not into a holy place made with hands, like in pattern to the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear before the face of God for us: 25 nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place year by year with blood not his own; 26 else must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once at the end of the ages hath he been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. (GNB)

The moment we repent of our sins by faith and ask the Lord Jesus to come in to our lives we accept the blood he shed on Calvary and automatically a washing or a regeneration process begins to take place in our lives. The redemption process we are talking about continues in us in a process called the regeneration, as long as we follow the lamb wherever He goes. This same blood and water was seen gushing out from the side of Jesus while being crucified [**John 19: 34**]. The moment we accept him by confessing with our mouth and believing in our heart we accept the blood of Jesus from the heavenly altar and the water for our cleansing from the heavenly brazen laver.

### **FAITH IN THE BLOOD OF JESUS**

It is vitally important that we understand the mysterious workings of the blood of Jesus. It is not enough to have head knowledge but to really have a revelation of this concept within us. Without understanding the workings of the blood we will only waste away in unbelief and condemnation.

The sacrifice of the blood of Jesus has been done eternally for the whole of mankind. God sees the blood of Jesus over the whole of His creation, meaning that all men are justified by the Blood. No matter what you see in a man or what you feel about another person always

remember that Jesus Died for Him or Her. It does not matter what the person is up to, He could be on drugs, He or she could be a thief or a perceived killer but that is your own view of the person. God's view of all men no matter whom or where they come from is that of one justified before Him by the blood of His only begotten Son.

The problem here is that many do not understand that God now sees us as sons not sinners. Most are still struggling today to do works seeking to please God. Many have gone into the rituals of religion trying to justify themselves before God. I have seen people who fast day after day, read ten chapters daily pray for hours every day and do all kind of religious works trying to please God. The more you try it this way, the more you will only fail. In doing these things without understanding, some have attracted the spirit of religious pride, which breeds cruelty in the body of Christ. The other categories of people are those who do not even attempt to approach God because they have a sense of complete annihilation from Him. These are the ones who hearts are hardened by the ravaging effects of condemnation within them. The moment the person turns around, He will discover that the provision for His reconciliation had always been there for Him, even though He or she did not understand.

The only way out of our misery, is to accept the blood of Jesus and accept that God has freely justified us through the blood of Jesus. Then we can grow in the knowledge and likeness of God. Forget about that carnality that pops up from time to time, confess that is not you but the old man of sin. Lay a hold on the words of God when He says He has freely justified you and reconciled you unto Himself by the blood of Jesus. If we do not believe and accept the sacrifice of Jesus then we call God a liar. We indirectly say that the sacrifice of the blood of His only begotten announced thousands of years before His appearance is not sufficient.

We have been justified; we are sons, do not let the devil deceive you into thinking that you are longer among the beloved because of errors that arise up in you once a while. Accept the work of the Cross by looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of your faith.

When the serpents bit the Israelites in the wilderness all they had to do was to look at the bronze serpent on the pole and they were healed. If they did not look at the bronze serpent hanged on the pole

they would have perished. In like wise manner we must look unto the author and finisher of our faith. In all situations always look up to the cross and accept the free gift of righteousness, never give room to the Devil to cause condemnation to destroy you. The Lord is faithful and just to forgive you of any trespass; in fact He has forgiven you of every trespass. All we need to do is receive this grace that surpasses the knowledge of man.

I personally suffered for many years because I did not look at the bronze serpent (Christ Jesus), I did not realize that the blood covered me and God did not look at my stumbling. At times I felt so depressed of my inability to please God that it will send me backsliding for months and years at a time. People on the outside always knew that somehow I love God, but they couldn't understand why I was so unstable in my walk with God.

Thank God, the revelation finally came; He had justified me from the foundation of the world. The blood is and will always cover me nothing can separate me from the love of Christ. I can now move on with God and fellowship with Him because He first loved me. The Lord sees no iniquity in me because I have accepted the free gift of righteousness given to all humanity so that I do not have to walk any more in a guilty defiled conscience [**Romans 4:5-8**]

The key is in receiving the gift by faith and this is the power and the foundation of those who ever hope to walk in the glory of the living God.

**Romans 3:22-26** Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. (KJV)

It is our faith in His words and thoughts towards us that we should hold on to, not to carnal feelings or appearances. It is the faith that we have in the blood that will keep us from the power of condemnation unleashed on us by the Devil. Those who know the power and the value of the blood will do exploits and they will overcome the wicked one who seeks to destroy. Understanding the significance of the blood of Jesus and the Cross and the embracing it by faith is the foundation of our walk back into glory. We must then build upon this precious foundation.

### **BUILING ON THE FOUNDATION**

Normally there is a change we notice the moment we accept the workings of the cross in our lives, a peace not understood without, falls on the repentant person. That refreshing and peace can only be for a season if we do not follow on to know the Lord in His entirety. In simple words we must progress in God.

When born again like it is commonly called we should not make the mistake to think it ends there, we must move on to know the Lord better, we must grow and walk in Him otherwise we risk the chance of being like the world without knowing it. I tell you many who profess to be born again today are already dead in their religious rituals without knowing it, but thank God, His message has come to give us understanding so that we don't fall into this error.

Just saying you are born again cannot take you into the Promised Land and we know it, we must understand that being born again, we must grow in understanding of the true will of our heavenly father. We must labor in certain things for a season upon the foundation of grace, so that we may enter into His eternal rest. The saints of God don't belong to the outer court for this reason Paul says we must live the elementary things of God and move on. I don't know about you but I am moving on. We have to grow in grace, in a Christ-like identity.

Remember that the Israelites all marked their doors with the blood of the lamb which is a type of the blood of Christ, they all escaped from the land of the Egyptians, they were all baptized in the Red sea, they all rejoiced in the salvation of the Lord. After all this what happened? Most of them perished in the wilderness without entering into the promise land. These were all examples for us, so that we do not take for granted the fact that we profess to be born again and refuse the workings of Christ in us. [1 **Corinthians 10:1-5**]

**1 Corinthians 10:1-5**

**10:1 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, 2 all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. 5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness**

God is glorified when we move on in Him, not just when we claim to know Him. The blood has given us the way to come with boldness before His presence in His heavenly tabernacle; we must now ascend to meet with our God. We must move on into God's Glorious Presence in the tabernacle it is a westward movement which can be compared to the rising of the Sun, a continuous movement into glory.

