

Altered, A Biblical History

The Altar

Ps. 84:1-3 How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!

2 My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

3 Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

Summery: This series of messages has been designed to teach the children of God that they need to make certain that their prayer life is connected to the proper power source for a more effective method of petitioning God.

INTRODUCTION: David was writing this Psalm as a word of adoration for the house of God.

He said he fainted for the house of God and would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

But one thing he specifically points out is the altar.

He says in ***V.3 “Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young- a place near your altar, O Lord Almighty, my King and my God”.***

Why would he say this?

Because they could find it as a place of refuge and peace.

Even though many modern churches don't install actual altars, over all they are still one of the most popular items you'll see in a church.

Some use the steps of the stage, some the communion table, and some the old-fashioned long 2X12's with varnish on them.



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But, regardless of what/where it is, there is great power to be found at the altar.

Nothing is more important in the church than the altar!

Not pews, pulpits, chairs, benches, piano, etc.

The most beautiful and the most run-down church buildings in the world are totally ineffective without a place to make an altar!

It's at the altar:

- 1. Alcoholics have been able lay down their bottles,**
- 2. Drug addictions have been broken,**
- 3. Adulterers have been forgiven,**
- 4. Murderers are born again,**
- 5. Families have been restored,**
- 6. The suicidal find peace of mind,**
- 7. The spiritually bound are set free,**
- 8. The sick are healed,**
- 9. Financial miracles come forth,**
- 10.Churches are revived...**
- 11.The Treasure of the Wisdom of God is discovered.**

THANK GOD FOR THE ALTAR!!!

In the Bible, there were two purposes for altars:

- 1. To give various offerings to God.**
 - A. Burnt,**
 - B. Drink,**
 - C. Freewill,**
 - D. Heave,**
 - E. Meal,**
 - F. Sin,**
 - G. Thank offering.**

These were presented at or around the altar of God.



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The purpose was to get God's approval/favor over their lives or the work they were doing.

If we don't have God's favor over our lives, we are going to be lost and in trouble.

2. To bring a sacrifice to God for the atonement of sin

Romans 12: 1-3 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

There were some people in the Bible who believed in the altar:

- 1. Noah-after getting off the Ark,**
- 2. Abraham-after dividing the land with Lot,**
- 3. Isaac-while headed to Gerar because of the famine that was transpiring,**
- 4. Jacob-after meeting with Esau and discovering the power of forgiveness,**
- 5. Moses- after the Israelites were attacked by an enemy for the first time since leaving Egypt,**
- 6. Joshua-after crossing the Jordan,**
- 7. Gideon-after receiving the call of God to lead an army against the Midianites,**
- 8. Samuel-while judging Israel,**
- 9. Elijah-while on Mt. Carmel,**
- 10. David-after committing the sin of numbering Israel,**
- 11. Manasseh-after humbling before God and turning away from wickedness while in Babylon,**
- 12. Peter-after denying Jesus 3 times,**
- 13. Jesus-in Gethsemane,**
- 14. 120 at Pentecost**

If the altar was good/important enough for all them, surely it must be for us!



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Now, I know people question, 'if the altar is so great, what is it that makes folks so afraid to come to it?'

After all, like I said physically it's just a 2X12 with some studs, covered in varnish.

We all sit in the chairs, stand on the stage, go into the lobby to fellowship, study over a table, etc. and none of that bothers us.

Why then does it bother us so much to use the altar?

1. If you go, you are admitting you need help.

2. If you go, you will be humbled.

3. If you go, your true self will be revealed.

But regardless, we need to use the altar.

If you are a Christian, don't ever get to the place where you feel like you don't need to come pray any more.

And if you're a sinner, if you are not living right, the best choice you can make is to come to the altar.

Stop arguing with God as to why you can't come; just come!

In closing, Let's take a quick look at how important it is to God and man for the presence of altars in our lives.

Genesis 3: 20-21 The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

21 And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

Don't sell this verse of scripture short.

What this scripture doesn't say is as important as what it does say.

God wasted no time making certain that the channel of communication and approach to God were clearly established as soon as possible as the fall of man had taken place.

In others words the principles of the functions of the alter were established by God early on in the history of the sons of Adam.



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