



Go for God!

“Let’s Worship, Work & Witness!”

Exodus Chapters 30 - 31

> CHAPTER 30 – “LET’S WORSHIP!”

> FIVE WAYS FOR HEARTFELT WORSHIP:

#1 – WORSHIP IN OUR PRAYERS!

(v1-10) The ALTAR OF INCENSE – The altar of incense stood just before the veil inside the tabernacle that separated the most holy place from the rest of the worship area.

Priests burned incense on this altar every day, so its fragrance would fill the tabernacle when the sacrificial blood was sprinkled on the altar of burnt offering.

Later, in the Temple Solomon built this altar was similar but made of cedar (1Kings 6:20; 7:48; 1 Chronicles 28:18).

Upon this altar incense was burned every morning and evening (Exodus 30:7-8), and the blood of atonement was sprinkled upon it (v.10). Being placed immediately before the throne of Jehovah (Ark of the Covenant), it was the symbol of believing and acceptable prayer.

It was the altar at which Zacharias was ministering when the angel appeared to (Luke 1:11).

- **This is the only altar that appears in the heavenly Temple (Isaiah 6:6; Revelation 8).**

- **The Psalmist declares in Psalms 141:1-2 – *O LORD, I call to you; come quickly to me. Hear my voice when I call to you. May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.***

- **Insight to verse 9 – NO STRANGE INCENSE! – *Strange incense* is typical of all false worship, which is to worship sinfully or to worship false gods. God is interested in worship that is *in Spirit and in truth* (John 4:24).**

- **Examples of false worship are found with Nadab and Abihu in Leviticus 10:1-3 (sins of self-will, not God’s will); Korah and his company offered strange incense and were also plagued in Numbers 16 (sin of rebellion); and even King Uzziah was smitten with leprosy when he tried to intrude in the duty of the priest in 2 Chronicles 26:16-21 (pride and arrogance).**

#2 – WORSHIP IN OUR GIVING!

(v11-16) This RANSOM money was a freewill offering (roughly 33 cents in our modern currency), it’s purpose was to reveal equality between rich and poor, to use it in the service of the tabernacle, and to be recognized as memorial.

- **Whenever a census was taken (e.g., Num 1) each Israelite 20 years old or more was to pay a tax to help maintain the tabernacle and services. This tax was considered a ransom (Ex 30:12) because its payment guaranteed protection from plagues. This helped motivate each male to pay. It was also considered an atonement, a covering for sins. (New Testament gratitude and attitude in giving is found in 2 Corinthians 9:6-15.)**

#3 – WORSHIP THROUGH SANCTIFICATION!

(v17-21) The **BRAZEN ALTAR** – A basin in which the priests washed their hands for purification purposes while officiating at the altar of the tabernacle. We're to be washed by the Word of God (Ephesians 5:26 - *that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,*)

#4 – WORSHIP IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!

(v22-23) **HOLY ANOINTING OIL** – This oil was used to sanctify the tabernacle and its furniture, and to anoint the priests (oil symbolizes the Holy Spirit).

One commentator writes regarding this passage, “How like the Holy Spirit is this mixture of spices and oil! He brings fragrance and healing to the anointed soul; He makes holy all who receive Him; He cannot be counterfeited, and whoever tries to substitute for Him is under God’s judgment; He is not given to the world, but to those who are redeemed by the blood of Christ; and He is ever the same.”

#5 – WORSHIP GOD ONLY AND FOREVER!

(v34-38) The making of **INCENSE** – The incense once again is a symbol of prayer and praise. As Christians our offering of prayer is continual, both in the constant attitude of prayer and intercession, which is a sweet aroma to God (1 Thess. 5:16-28). True incense prayer is noted in the following Scriptures:

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostle’s doctrine . . . and in prayers” (Acts 2:42)

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit” (Ephesians 6:18)

“Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving” (Colossians 4:2)

“Continuing instant in prayer” (Romans 12:12)

“My house is the house of prayer” (Luke 19:46)

> CHAPTER 31 – “LET’S WORK & WITNESS!”

(v1-11) Let’s WORK and be Spirit Filled Craftsmen!

The word “*Spirit*” is *ruwach* in Hebrew; meaning wind; by resemblance breath. God had breathed into **Bezalel** His **Spirit**, which produces **wisdom, understanding and knowledge, plus the skill for artistic workmanship**. (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8; 6:1-7; Eph. 5:18-21)

- **What is WISDOM?** Wisdom in this passage in Hebrew is *chokma* has the special meaning of "dexterity, skill" in an art. Wisdom denotes “compass of mind and strength of capacity”; it is the “power of judging” what is best to be done.

- **What is UNDERSTANDING?** Understanding is gifted intelligence for the call of God. While understanding is a gift of God, it does not come automatically. The possession of it requires a persistent diligence. Understanding is the capacity to comprehend the different parts of a work and its complete form.

- **What is KNOWLEDGE?** This knowledge denotes acquaintance with material through practice and experience. Skill for making beautiful and useful things is a gift of God. Here are seen both a natural endowment trained and perfected and a gift of grace through the Holy Spirit. These gifts are found in voice and brain, but also in hands and eyes.

(v12-17) WORK AND REST!

- **Sign of the Sabbath Rest - Sabbath observance was a special sign between God and Israel:**

"And Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine'" (Exodus 19:3–5; 31:16-17).

- **Note the requirements for Sabbath-keeping:** (1) A person placed under that Sabbath law could not leave his home on the Sabbath (Exodus 16:29), (2) he could not build a fire (Exodus 35:3), (3) and he could not cause anyone else to work (Deuteronomy 5:14). A person breaking the Sabbath law was to be put to death (Exodus 31:15; Numbers 15:32–35).

- **For Christians regarding the Sabbath Paul writes in Colossians 2:16-17 - Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. Romans 14:5 says, One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.**

(v18) Stone Tablets of Testimony – WITNESS HIS WORD!

At the conclusion to Moses experience on the mount during the 40 days, God gave Moses two tables of testimony, made of stone and written with the *finger of God*. Let's observe the "finger of God" in the New Testament through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; His is a finger of power, judgment, love, and forgiveness! (Luke 11:15-28; John 8:1-11)

***LET'S WORSHIP! LET'S WORK! LET'S WITNESS!
GO4GOD!***