

Exodus 30

In the last few chapters God has instructed Moses on how to make the Tabernacle and some of its furniture, the priestly clothing, and the process of ordaining priests. In this chapter God returns to instructing Moses on how to make two more pieces of furniture for the Tabernacle, and how to make two items used at the Tabernacle.

Verses 1-10

GOLDEN ALTAR OF INCENSE

“Moreover, you shall make an altar as a place for burning incense; you shall make it of acacia wood. ² Its length *shall be* a cubit, and its width a cubit, it shall be square, and its height *shall be* two cubits; its horns *shall be* of one piece with it. ³ You shall overlay it with pure gold, its top and its sides all around, and its horns; and you shall make a gold molding all around for it. ⁴ You shall make two gold rings for it under its molding; you shall make *them* on its two side walls—on opposite sides—and they shall be holders for poles with which to carry it. ⁵ You shall make the poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. ⁶ You shall put this altar in front of the veil that is near the ark of the testimony, in front of the mercy seat that is over *the ark of the testimony*, where I will meet with you. ⁷ Aaron shall burn fragrant incense on it; he shall burn it every morning when he trims the lamps. ⁸ When Aaron trims the lamps at twilight, he shall burn incense. *There shall be* perpetual incense before the Lord throughout your generations. ⁹ You shall not offer any strange incense on this altar, or burnt offering or meal offering; and you shall not pour out a drink offering on it. ¹⁰ Aaron shall make atonement on its horns once a year; he shall make atonement on it with the blood of the sin offering of atonement once a year throughout your generations. It is most holy to the Lord.”

“Moreover, you shall make an altar as a place for burning incense; you shall make it of acacia wood.

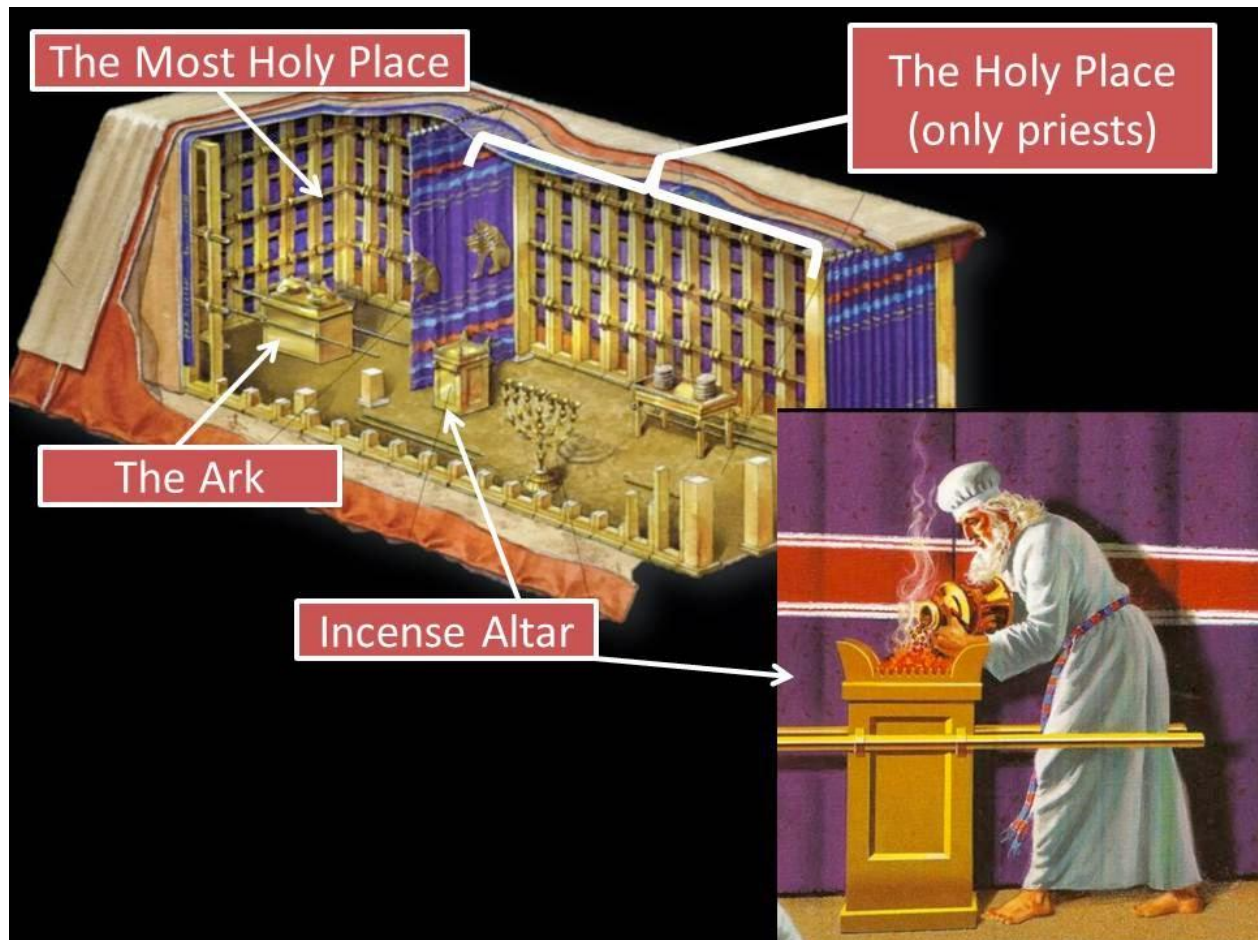
See video 3005 Altar of incense

<http://www.levickfamily.com/9.11.html>

⁶ You shall put this altar in front of the veil that is near the ark of the testimony, in front of the mercy seat that is over *the ark of the testimony*, where I will meet with you.

This altar was stationed in the Holy Place by the veil that separated the Most Holy place from the Holy Place.

See pic 3010 Golden Alter of incense



⁷ Aaron shall burn fragrant incense on it; he shall burn it every morning when he trims the lamps. ⁸ When Aaron trims the lamps at twilight, he shall burn incense. *There shall be perpetual incense before the Lord throughout your generations.*

The smoke rising up from the burning incense symbolized the prayers of the people being lifted up to God in heaven. The altar of incense was next to the ark and the mercy-seat, the most sacred object in the tabernacle. This indicated the extreme value that God sets on prayer.

⁹ You shall not offer any strange incense on this altar, or burnt offering or meal offering; and you shall not pour out a drink offering on it.

This altar was only for burning incense. Again this shows the importance of the people's prayers.

¹⁰ Aaron shall make atonement on its horns once a year; he shall make atonement on it with the blood of the sin offering of atonement once a year throughout your generations. It is most holy to the Lord."

On the Day of Atonement the blood of the sin-offering was placed on the horns of this altar. This will be discussed in detail in Leviticus 23.

Verses 11-16

The half-shekel contribution

The Lord also spoke to Moses, saying, ¹² "When you take a census of the sons of Israel to number them, then each one of them shall give a ransom for himself to the Lord, when you number them, so that there will be no plague among them when you number them. ¹³ This is what everyone who is numbered shall give: half a shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary (the shekel is twenty gerahs), half a shekel as a contribution to the Lord. ¹⁴ Everyone who is numbered, from twenty years old and over, shall give the contribution to the Lord. ¹⁵ The rich shall not pay more and the poor shall not pay less than the half shekel, when you give the contribution to the Lord to make atonement for yourselves. ¹⁶ You shall take the atonement money from the sons of Israel and shall give it for the service of the tent of meeting, that it may be a memorial for the sons of Israel before the Lord, to make atonement for yourselves."

¹² "When you take a census of the sons of Israel to number them, then each one of them shall give a ransom for himself to the Lord, when you number them, so that there will be no plague among them when you number them.

A census will be taken in the second year of the Exodus 1445 BC (Numbers 1). Another one will be taken just before the Israelites enter Canaan in 1406 BC (Numbers 26).

In both cases, the census only included every male from twenty years old and upward, whoever was able to go to war.

¹³ This is what everyone who is numbered shall give: half a shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary (the shekel is twenty gerahs), half a shekel as a contribution to the Lord.

This would equal about 10 dollars in today's money.

¹⁶ You shall take the atonement money from the sons of Israel and shall give it for the service of the tent of meeting, ...

By the time of Christ it seems that this contribution had become a yearly tax or tribute.

See Matthew 17:24 – 27

²⁴ Now when they came to Capernaum, those who collected the two-drachma tax came to Peter and said, “Does your teacher not pay the two-drachma *tax*?” ²⁵ He *said, “Yes.” And when he came into the house, Jesus spoke to him first, saying, “What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth collect customs or poll-tax, from their sons or from strangers?” ²⁶ When Peter said, “From strangers,” Jesus said to him, “Then the sons are exempt. ²⁷ However, so that we do not offend them, go to the sea and throw in a hook, and take the first fish that comes up; and when you open its mouth, you will find a stater. Take that and give it to them for you and Me.”

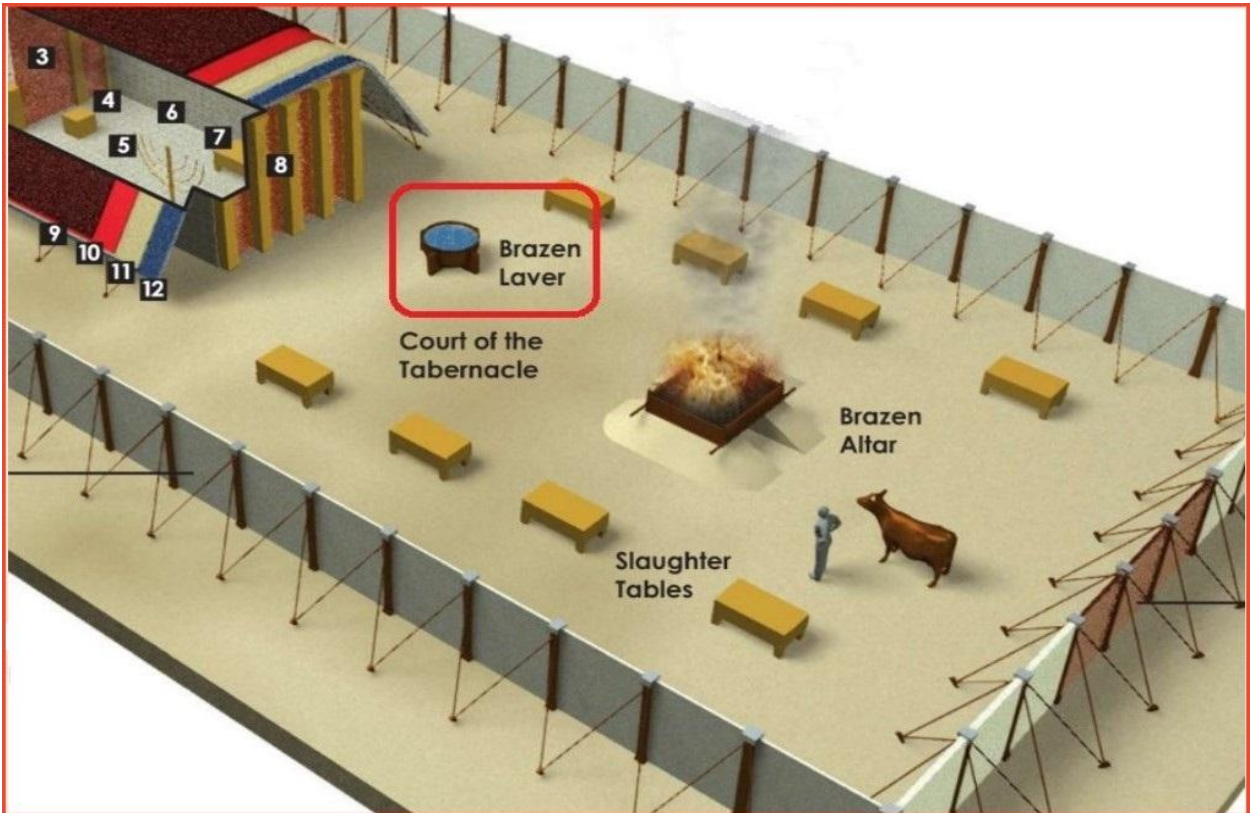
Verses 17- 21

THE BRONZE LAVER

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ¹⁸ “You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base of bronze, for washing; and you shall put it between the tent of meeting and the altar, and you shall put water in it. ¹⁹ Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet from it; ²⁰ when they enter the tent of meeting, they shall wash with water, so that they will not die; or when they approach the altar to minister, by offering up in smoke a fire *sacrifice* to the Lord. ²¹ So they shall wash their hands and their feet, so that they will not die; and it shall be a perpetual statute for them, for Aaron and his descendants throughout their generations.”

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ¹⁸ “You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base of bronze, for washing; and you shall put it between the tent of meeting and the altar, and you shall put water in it.

See Pics 3015 and 3020



See Video 3025 Laver of bronze

<http://www.levickfamily.com/9.12.html>

¹⁹ Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet from it; ²⁰ when they enter the tent of meeting, they shall wash with water, so that they will not die; or when they approach the altar to minister, by offering up in smoke a fire *sacrifice* to the Lord.

This was done for two reasons:

1. To show respect to God before entering His house.
2. Anyone should wash their hands before they prepare food.

Verses 22-33

THE HOLY OIL OF ANOINTING

Moreover, the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ²³ “Take also for yourself the finest of spices: of **flowing myrrh** five hundred *shekels*, and of fragrant **cinnamon** half as much, two hundred and fifty, and of fragrant **cane** two hundred and fifty, ²⁴ and of **cassia** five hundred, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, and of **olive oil** a hin. ²⁵ You shall make of these a holy anointing oil, a perfume mixture, the work of a perfumer; it shall be a holy anointing oil. ²⁶ With it you shall anoint the tent of meeting and the ark of the testimony, ²⁷ and the table and all its utensils, and the lampstand and its utensils, and the altar of incense, ²⁸ and the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, and the laver and its stand. ²⁹ You shall also consecrate them, that they may be most holy; whatever touches them shall be holy. ³⁰ You shall anoint Aaron and his sons, and consecrate them, that they may minister as priests to Me. ³¹ You shall speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘This shall be a holy anointing oil to Me throughout your generations. ³² It shall not be poured on anyone’s body, nor shall you make *any* like it in the same proportions; it is holy, *and* it shall be holy to you. ³³ Whoever shall mix *any* like it or whoever puts any of it on a layman shall be cut off from his people.’”

²³ Take also for yourself the finest of spices:

Four spices and olive oil were used to make the Holy Oil of Anointing. These 5 ingredients came from 3 trees and one reed.

1. **Myrrh** is a sap-like substance that exudes from cuts in the bark of Commiphora trees.

See pic 3030



2 & 3. **CINNAMON** and **Cassia** are derived from the laurel tree.

See Pics 3035



Cinnamon and Cassia belong to the same family. Cinnamon is from the inner part of the bark, and cassia, from the outer part of the bark. So cassia bears a strong resemblance to cinnamon

4. **Fragrant cane** is also known as calamus or sweet flag.

See Pic 3040



The plant emits a strong, sweet aroma, especially when the rhizomes are crushed. A rhizome is an underground stem that sends out roots and shoots from its nodes. They are also called creeping rootstalks.

5. **Olive oil.**

Olive oil comes from the Olive Tree

See Pic 3045



²⁵ You shall make of these a holy anointing oil, a perfume mixture, the work of a perfumer; it shall be a holy anointing oil.

The anointing oil was used to anoint the Tabernacle and all its furniture and the priesthood (Aaron and his sons).

The preparation of the oil was entrusted to Bezaleel.

See Exodus 37:1, 29

Now Bezalel made....

²⁹ Then he made the holy anointing oil and the pure, fragrant incense of spices, the work of a perfumer.

The duty of preserving it fell on Eleazar the son of Aaron.

See Numbers 4:16

¹⁶ “Now the responsibility of Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest is the oil for the light, the fragrant incense, the continual grain offering, and the anointing oil—the responsibility of all the tabernacle and everything that is in it, with the sanctuary and its furnishings.”

³¹ You shall speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘This shall be a holy anointing oil to Me throughout your generations. ³² It shall not be poured on anyone’s body, nor shall you make *any* like it in the same proportions; it is holy, *and* it shall be holy to you. ³³ Whoever shall mix *any* like it or whoever puts any of it on a layman shall be cut off from his people.”

Being cut off from his people was a reference to the death penalty.

See Exodus 31:14

¹⁴ **Therefore you are to keep the Sabbath, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it must be put to death; for whoever does *any* work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people.**

Verses 34-38

THE HOLY INCENSE

³⁴ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Take for yourself spices, stacte and onycha and galbanum, spices with pure frankincense; there shall be an equal part of each.

³⁵ With it you shall make incense, a perfume, the work of a perfumer, salted, pure, *and* holy. ³⁶ You shall beat some of it very fine, and put part of it before the testimony in the tent of meeting where I will meet with you; it shall be most holy to you. ³⁷ The incense which you shall make, you shall not make in the same proportions for yourselves; it shall be holy to you for the Lord. ³⁸ Whoever shall make *any* like it, to use as perfume, shall be cut off from his people.”

³⁴ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Take for yourself spices, **stacte** and **onycha** and **galbanum**, spices with **pure frankincense**; there shall be an equal part of each.

Four ingredients were used to make the Holy Incense that was burned on the Golden Altar. This included the following three spices and frankincense.

1. **Stacte**

This is a myrrh that comes from a storax tree.

See pic 3050



2. **Onycha**

See pic 3055

The Greek word "onycha" translates to "fingernail" or "claw," and it is the name given to the operculum (the flap or door that closes the shell) of a type of Red Sea mollusk. It emits a highly aromatic odor when burned.



3. **Galbanum**

This is a gum resin with a pleasant odor and a bitter taste. It is derived from a number of plants.

See Pic 3060



4. **Frankincense**

Common frankincense is a gum derived from the ordinary fir tree. But the frankincense of the Jews is a substance called Olibanum. It is made from the resin of the Boswellia tree. Frankincense has a woody, spicy smell

See Pic 3065



It typically grows in the dry, mountainous regions of India, Africa and the Middle East

³⁷ The incense which you shall make, you shall not make in the same proportions for yourselves; it shall be holy to you for the Lord. ³⁸ Whoever shall make *any* like it, to use as perfume, shall be cut off from his people."

The Jews were forbidden to make this incense for their own use. Only the ordained priests of the tabernacle could use it.