

Exodus 30

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.”

You shall make an altar as a place for burning incense

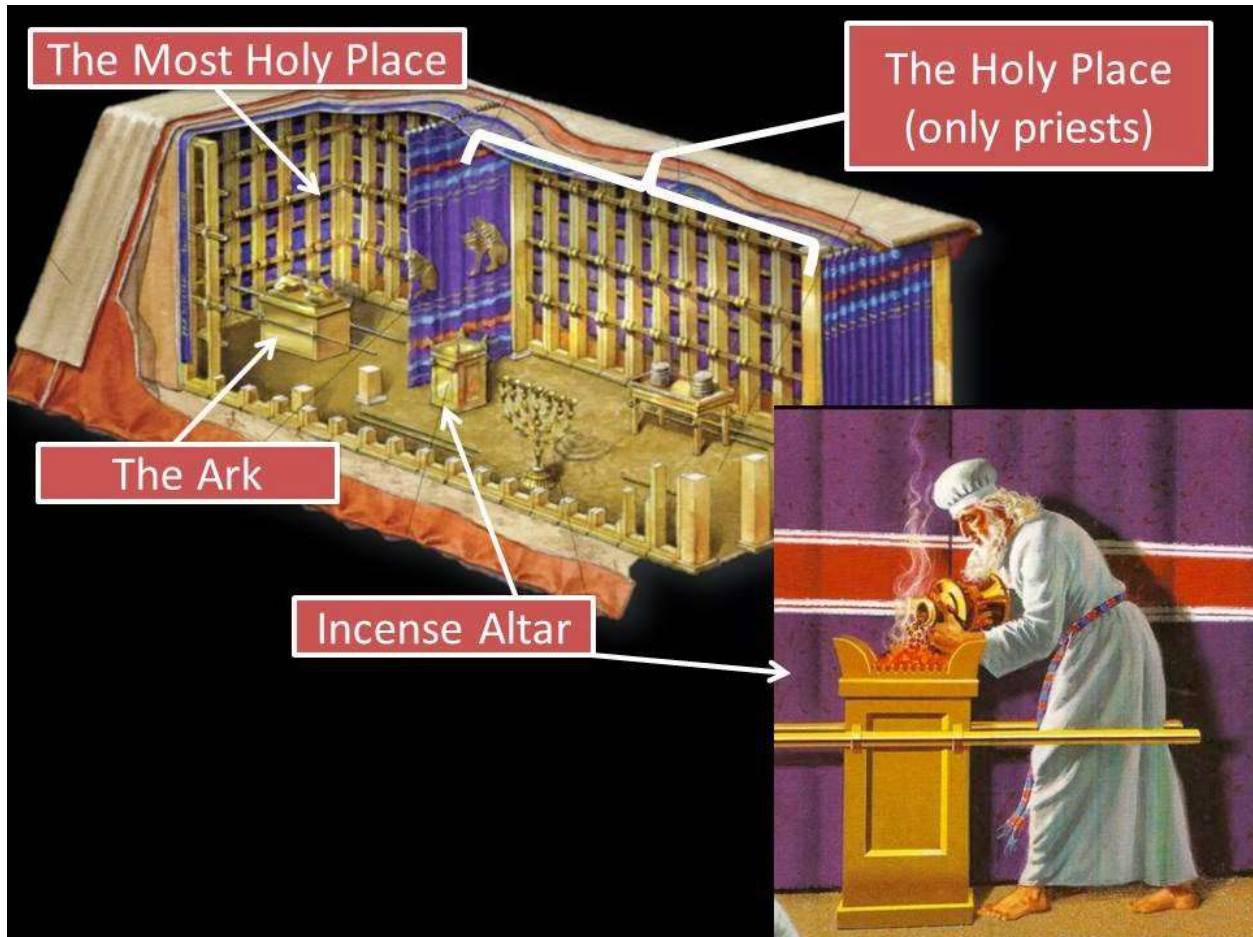
See video 3005 Altar of incense

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

You shall put this altar in front of the veil that is near the ark of the testimony

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

Incense symbolized the prayers of God's people

The altar of incense was next to the ark and the mercy-seat, the most sacred object in the tabernacle.

This indicates 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

Aaron shall make atonement on its horns once a year

On the Day of Atonement the blood of the sin-offering was placed on the horns of this altar.

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.”

When you take a census, each one shall give a ransom for himself to the Lord, so that there will be no plague when you number them.

At first it seems that a census was only taken when God commanded it.

One was taken in the second year of the Exodus 1445 BC

See Numbers 1

Another one was taken just before the Israelites entered Canaan in 1406 BC

See Numbers 26

Everyone shall give half a shekel as a contribution to the Lord

Any man 20 twenty years old and over was to give a shekel (twenty gerahs).

About 25 cents in today's money

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

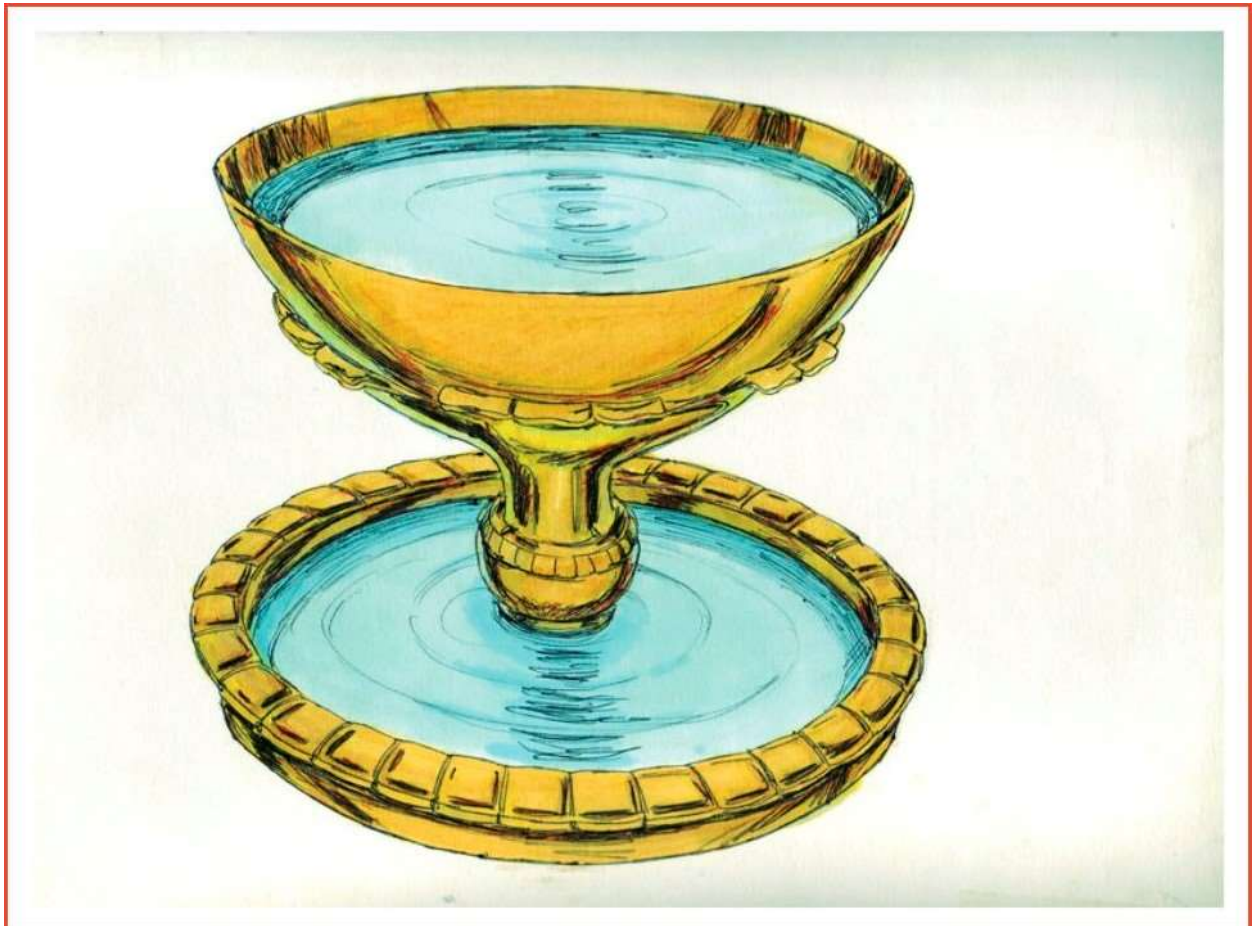
Verses 17-21

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.”

You shall also make a laver of bronze for washing

See Pics 3015

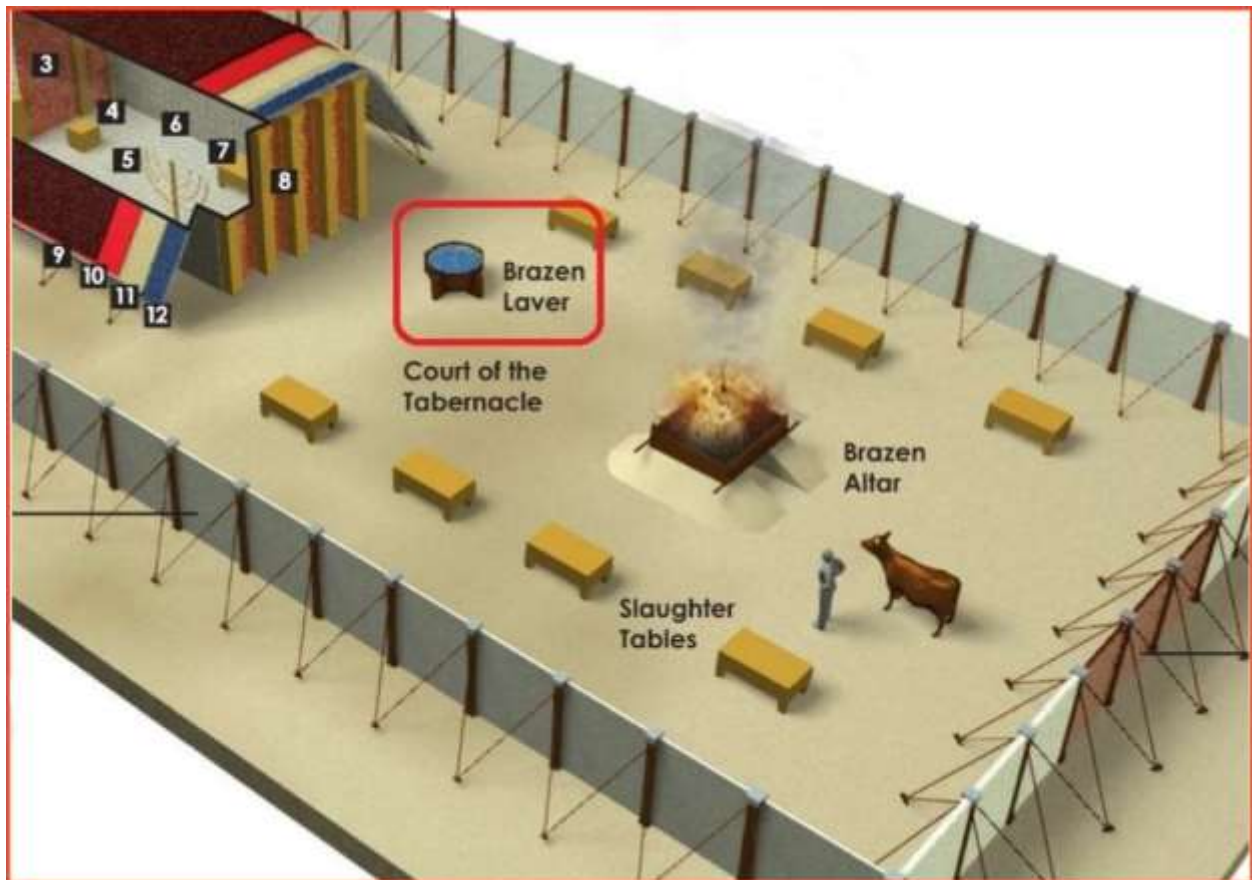


See Video 3020 Laver of bronze

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

You shall put it between the tent of meeting and the altar

See Pic 3025



So they shall wash their hands and their feet, so that they will not die

To become a priest, they had to be washed with water

See Exodus 29:4

After they became a priest, they only had to wash their hands and feet

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.’”

Take also for yourself the finest of spices:

1. of flowing myrrh five hundred *shekels*
2. of fragrant cinnamon half as much, two hundred and fifty
3. of fragrant cane two hundred and fifty
4. of cassia five hundred

These spices were used in the following amounts:

15 1/4 pounds of myrrh and of cassia

7 pounds, 12 ounces of cinnamon and calamus

These 4 spices come from 3 trees and a reed.

And of olive oil a hin.

A hin is a gallon and a half

This oil comes from the Olive tree

1. The Myrrh Tree

See pic 3030



2. CINNAMON is derived from the laurel tree

See Pics 3035



3. Fragrant cane (Cassia)

Cassia and cinnamon 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

See pic 3035 above

4. CALAMUS is a reed

See Pic 3040



The 5th ingredient in this Holy Oil is olive oil

Olive oil comes from the Olive Tree

See Pic 3050



It shall be a holy anointing oil, with it you shall anoint

1. The Tabernacle and all its equipment
2. Aaron and his sons

The outer walls were not included

The preparation was entrusted to Bezaleel

See Exodus 37:29

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

See Numbers 4:16

Whoever shall mix *any* like it or whoever puts any of it on a layman shall be cut off from his people

This is a reference to the death penalty.

See Exodus 31:14

Verses 34-38

THE HOLY INCENSE

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.”

Take for yourself spices,

Stacte and onycha and galbanum, spices with pure frankincense;

There shall be an equal part of each.

1. **Stacte** This is a myrrh

See pic 3055

Stacte from A Storax Tree



2. Onycha

This is a mollusk which emits a highly aromatic odor when burned

An invertebrate which includes snails, slugs, mussels, and octopuses

See pic 3060

Onycha is the door membrane of a snail-like mollusk found in the Red Sea.



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 3065

Galbanum is an herb from Iran, Turkey, and the Mediterranean



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

See Pic 3070



It typically grows in the dry, mountainous regions of India, Africa and the Middle East
Frankincense has a woody, spicy smell

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.