

STUDY GUIDE

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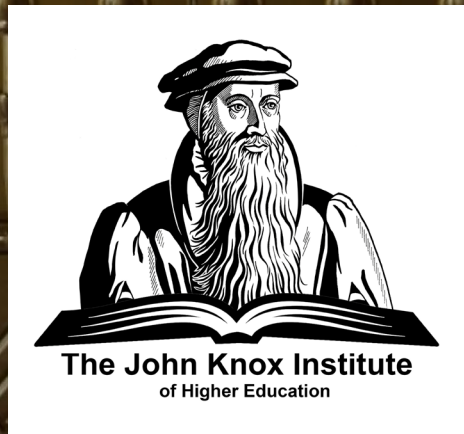
The Tabernacle of Moses

Video Lecture Series

by Rev. A. T. Vergunst

Lecture 7 ~

THE BRAZEN ALTAR—Part 2



John Knox Institute of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version.

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The Tabernacle of Moses

Video Lecture Series

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4. The Courtyard Fence
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Scripture Text

“And thou shalt offer every day a bullock for a sin offering for atonement: and thou shalt cleanse the altar, when thou hast made an atonement for it, and thou shalt anoint it, to sanctify it. Seven days thou shalt make an atonement for the altar, and sanctify it; and it shall be an altar most holy: whatsoever toucheth the altar shall be holy. Now this is that which thou shalt offer upon the altar; two lambs of the first year day by day continually. The one lamb thou shalt offer in the morning; and the other lamb thou shalt offer at even: and with the one lamb a tenth deal of flour mingled with the fourth part of an hin of beaten oil; and the fourth part of an hin of wine for a drink offering. And the other lamb thou shalt offer at even, and shalt do thereto according to the meat offering of the morning, and according to the drink offering thereof, for a sweet savour, an offering made by fire unto the LORD. This shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD: where I will meet you, to speak there unto thee. And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by my glory. And I will sanctify the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar; I will sanctify also both Aaron and his sons, to minister to me in the priest’s office. And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will be their God. And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, that brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them: I am the LORD their God.—Exodus 29, verses 36 to 46

Key Points

1. The Brazen Altar illustrates justification by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - a. All mankind are sinners (Romans 3:23). We feel guilt and need for pardon from God.
 - b. The fire on the Brazen Altar reveals God’s holiness and justice. For sinners to be reconciled to God, God’s wrath and curse for sin must be satisfied (Romans 6:23).
 - c. The substitutionary animal sacrifices on the Brazen Altar pointed to the perfect sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary.
 - d. Imputation of sin is seen in the person putting their hand on the head of the animal.

1) The believer's sins are transferred to Christ on the cross, and Christ's perfect righteousness is transferred to the believer.

e. The sacrificed animal had to be perfect. This points to the perfect holiness and righteousness of Jesus Christ.

f. A "sweet smelling savour"—God accepted the sacrifice, pointing to God's acceptance of Jesus Christ's final sacrifice on the cross.

g. The priest declared the person justified, pointing to the justification of sinners who would come to God through faith in the final sacrifice of Jesus Christ on Calvary.

2. The offerings of animal sacrifices depict the role of faith in our salvation.

a. Laying his hand on the animal required faith, pointing to the believer's faith in Christ.

b. It is not our faith that saves us, but the Savior in whom we trust.

c. "God, be merciful to me, a sinner"—Jesus' parable in Luke 18:9–14.

Review Questions

1. Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned." How should this make us feel guilty? What are we guilty of?

2. How does our guilt separate us from God? Does this make us want to be reconciled to God? But how can we be reconciled?

3. Those who came to God at the Tabernacle had to first make use of the Brazen Altar. What foundational and biblical truth does this reveal to us? How do we make use of the Brazen Altar?

4. Before the animal was sacrificed, the person offering had to put his hand on the head of the animal to symbolize a transfer. What was being transferred to the animal? What does the word “impute” mean in the Bible?

5. God required that every animal sacrificed as a substitute had to be perfect. What is the significance of this and how does it relate to the Lord Jesus Christ?

6. What is the meaning in the Bible of the phrase, “a sweet smelling savour” in regards to substitutionary sacrifices? How is that related to the term “justification by faith”?

7. What is the “double transfer” that takes place when a believer is declared justified? What should be the new affections of someone who is justified in God’s sight?

8. Rev. Vergunst says that some people spiritually confuse the Brazen Altar and the Laver. What does this mean in relation to the difference between justification and sanctification? Why is it important to know the difference?

9. What role does faith play in the justification of a sinner? Does a believer merit justification by their faith?

10. Jesus' parable in Luke 18:9–14 reveals the right way to think of justification. Please explain the difference between the way the Pharisee prayed and the way the publican prayed. Which of the two men was accepted and justified by faith?

Personal Applications

1. Please study Romans 3:23 and Romans 6:23. Do these Scripture passages cause you to feel the burden of guilt in yourself? Do you desire to be justified and accepted before God? Have you come to the Brazen Altar of Jesus Christ for that forgiveness?

2. Are you struggling with sin in your own life, doubting that God will accept you? Consider for encouragement the truths taught in this lecture about the Brazen Altar and all that it represented. Consider also the prayer of the publican in the Temple.
