

# Altars, Divine Presence & History

## I. Altars Are Places Where Heaven and Earth Touch

Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, Solomon

### Altars & Temples

DAVID'S CRISIS becomes a Breakthrough

1 Chr 21:18 NIV Then the angel of the LORD ordered Gad to tell David to go up and build an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

24 But King David replied to Araunah, "No, I insist on paying the full price. I will not take for the LORD what is yours, or sacrifice a burnt offering that costs me nothing."

25 So David paid Araunah six hundred shekels of gold for the site.

26 David built an altar to the LORD there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. He called on the LORD, and ***the LORD answered him with fire from heaven*** on the altar of burnt offering.

22:1 Then David said, "The house of the LORD God is to be here, and also the altar of burnt offering for Israel."

1 Chr 22:5 NKJV Now David said, "Solomon my son *is* young and inexperienced, and the house to be built for the LORD *must be* **exceedingly magnificent, famous and glorious throughout all countries**. I will now make preparation for it." So David made abundant preparations before his death.

## II. Altars Are Places of Sacrifice...

**Something dies, something is poured out, something is committed. There is interaction. It is the interactive nature of God with His Creation.**

**To obey is better than sacrifice.**

**Worship and Declaration are part of the altar.**

### III. Altars Determine The Destiny of A Land

**So which altars will be maintained?**

**Baal—prosperity      Ashtoreth—sensuality**

**The high places were places where the people did their own thing, defined their own spirituality and sought a counter-feit spirituality.**

**Yahweh — The God Who Is**

1 Kings 18:20 NIV So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. 21 Elijah went before the people and said, “How long will you **waver** between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.” But the people said nothing.

30 he **repaired the altar** of the Lord, which was in ruins. 36 At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: 37 Answer me, O Lord, ... 38 Then **the fire of the Lord fell** and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. 39 When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, **“The Lord—he is God! The Lord—he is God!”** (NIV)

40 Then Elijah commanded them, “Seize the prophets of Baal.

SPIRITUAL GOVERNMENT — THE ATMOSPHERE

41 And Elijah said to Ahab, “Go, eat and drink, for **there is the sound of a heavy rain.**” 42 So Ahab went off to eat and drink, but **Elijah climbed to the top of Carmel, bent down to the ground and put his face between his knees.** 43 **“Go and look** toward the sea,” he told his servant. And he went up and looked. “There is **nothing there,**” he said. **Seven times** Elijah said, **“Go back.”** 44 The seventh time the servant reported, **“A cloud as small as a man’s hand is rising from the sea.”** So Elijah said, **“Go and tell** Ahab, ‘Hitch up your chariot and **go**

down **before the rain stops you.**" 45 Meanwhile, **the sky grew black** with clouds, the **wind rose**, a **heavy rain** came on and Ahab rode off to Jezreel.

## SHIFTED ECONOMY & GOVERNMENT

**History Changed When The Altar Changed** It was only the beginning of a revolution that would bring deliverance to Israel.

**Gethsemane** was an altar that changed everything!!! There, the sacrifice was made, "Not my will, but your will be done..."

God is no respecter of persons, but he is a respecter of faith...

AND He makes friends with those who seek after Him and get to know Him.

**Hebrews 11:6** And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he **rewards** those who earnestly seek him.

**He likes passion, he likes noise, he likes honesty, he likes those who diligently seek Him.**

**The Book of Acts is full of supernatural activities. Heaven and earth are touching. The only church life in the Bible is that in The Acts of the Holy Spirit.**

Acts 2—The Altar Of The Upper Room

Acts 10—The Altar Of Cornelius — Released "Next Level"

A heavenly vision

Angel speaking

**Acts 10:3 NIV** One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, "Cornelius!"

4 Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked. The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God.

**A God given trance**

[Acts 10:10](#) [Peter] became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance.

### **Outpouring Of The Spirit — History Changed!**

[45](#) The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were **astounded** that the **gift** of the Holy Spirit had been **poured out** even on the Gentiles. [46](#) For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising [NKJ magnifying] God. Then Peter said, [47](#) “Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.”

## **III. Building an Altar**

### **You offer what you have**

[Romans 12:1 NIV](#) Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

**You enter with thanksgiving, honesty, confession, desperation.**

**You have three areas in which you are a steward, so you offer these in your lifestyle.**

- 1. Time**
- 2. Talent**
- 3. Treasure**

**You offer on the altar the things dearest to you.**

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|--------------------|----------------|
| <b>1. Feelings</b> | <b>Desires</b> |
| <b>2. Fortune</b>  | <b>Deeds</b>   |
| <b>3. Future</b>   | <b>Dreams</b>  |
| <b>4. Family</b>   | <b>Destiny</b> |

## **5. Fame**

**Psalm 50:5 NIV** “Gather to me my consecrated ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.”

**Psalm 50:23 NIV** He who sacrifices thank offerings honors me, and he prepares the way so that I may show him the salvation of God.”

**This is why we gather**

**This is why we worship**

**This is why we live a lifestyle expecting the supernatural.**

**Oh that I may know Him...**

**Love God, love each other, love the lost.**

**That's it.**

**Communion**