

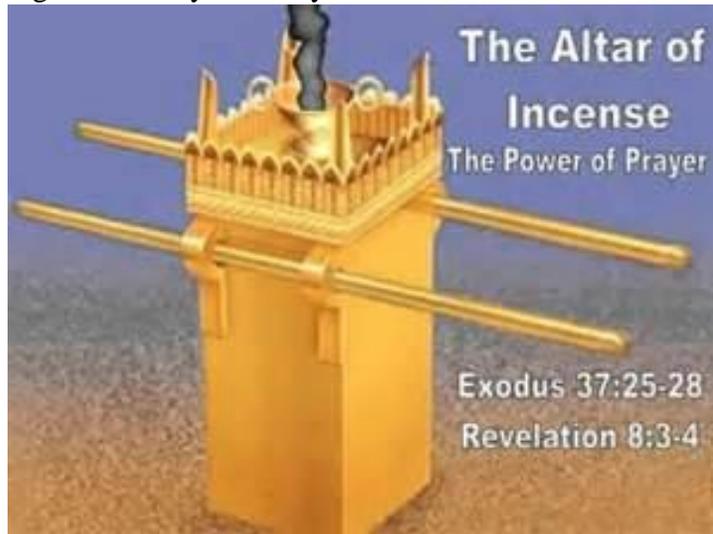
“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”

Feb. 16, 2016

- Exodus 37-38 – Construction of the furnishings in the Tabernacle.
- John 6:35-51 – Jesus the Bread of Life
- Song of Solomon 5:1-4 – Consummation of the marriage; later problems.

Commentary:

1. Exodus 37-38. Six furniture items are discussed: 1) the ark, 2) the table of acacia wood, which is “the table of the bread of the Presence,” 3) the lampstand, 4) the altar of incense; 5) the altar of burnt offering, and 6) the bronze basin. Each of these items refers to some aspect of life with God. The Israelites had so many reminders of God’s presence with them through grace. It is unfortunate that these reminders lost their meaning and reality and became ritual. This is a constant danger for all the people of God. Without a 2nd person living relationship with God, the believer just goes through rituals day after day become dead and dead to the things of God. It is the 2nd person relationship with God that enables us to get the spiritual realities. Take the altar of incense. Suppose we had been in that court when in the morning or in the evening the priest came with the glowing pan of coals from another altar in the outer court, and laid it on this altar, and heaped upon it the sticks of incense, we should have seen the ‘the House was filled with smoke,’ as a prophet once saw it.



Of course, that incense is the symbol of prayer. That that is so is plain enough, not only from the natural propriety of the case, but because you find the identification distinctly stated in several places in Scripture, of which I quote but two instances. In Psalm 141:2 we read, ‘Let my prayer come before Thee as incense.’ In Revelation 5:8 we read of ‘golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of saints.’ Our prayers are the most important conversation we will have each day. We are all sinful and needy creatures always in need of God’s grace. Prayers are acts of devotion and love as we come to Him. They should never be reduced to a laundry list designed to help us in our temporal pursuits. It really is all about the Lord, not stuff! Our daily life should be diffused with prayers as we walk with the Lord.

2. John 6:35-51. When Christ had fed the five thousand on the five barley loaves and the two small fishes, most were quite unaffected by His wisdom or Him as the Messiah. The miracle gave them food that they wanted, but they missed the whole point of Him as the true bread of life. And Jesus did not care for their superficial attitude one bit. Therefore, Jesus withdrew Himself, and the people followed Him, all full of expectation, to get some more loaves and see some more miracles. They pointed to the miracle of the manna, and hinted that, if He expected them to accept Him, He must do as Moses had done, or something like it. Probably there was a Jewish tradition in existence then to the effect that the Messiah was to repeat the miracle of the manna. But, at all events, Christ lays hold of the reference that they put into His hands, and He said in effect, 'Manna? Yes; I give, and am, the true Manna.' He claims to be the true Food for a starving world. Only He supplies the great primal needs of man, the hunger of the heart. To find Christ is to find nourishment for an otherwise sick and malnourished soul.



3. Song of Solomon 5:1-4. In this section we see the beautiful consummation of the marriage (5:1) as well as hints of later trouble and resolution in the following verses. The fact that the lover no longer addressed her as "my bride" indicates there is a time lapse between verse 1 (the wedding night) and verse 2. The couple should no longer be regarded as newlyweds. But he did address her by other affectionate terms: my darling my dove, and my flawless one. In verses 3-4 she said in her dream that she had already gotten ready for bed. But this trivial excuse for not opening the door perhaps revealed her indifference or apathy toward her husband. Somehow she had grown cool toward his advances. But he did not accept her excuse. He tried to open the door but failed and then left. Then her compassion was aroused for him and she decided to open the door.



On the Glory Road,

Pastor Don