

Beloved Sisters and Brethren

In this study I have taken a wide view of the Patriarchs from Noah to Joshua and have looked at the instances where an altar was used. But there is very little embellishment by my own words of the circumstances

NOAH Gen 8v20-21 And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

Gen 8:22 While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

With Promise-YHWH had smelled a **sweet savour** of the burnt offering. That is, pleasant; abstractly delight: - sweet (odour).

Total KJV occurrences: 43

ABRAHAM Gen 12v1-3 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Gen 12:8 And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, YHWH and called upon the name of the LORD. YHWH

Abraham went from there to Egypt because of a famine and after a stay there:

Gen 13:3-4 And he went on his journeys from the south even to Bethel, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Hai; Unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the LORD. YHWH

He then dwelt in Canaan but separated from Lot and was promised the land afresh to his seed also.

In chapter 22 Elohim tested Abraham. He passes the test and a ram is provided so that he does not have to sacrifice his son. Gen 22:14 *And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, "In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen"*

At this time was the declaration by Yahweh that He had sworn by HIMSELF
Gen 22:17-18 *That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.*

Jacob then journeyed in the land of the Philistines having been told not to go down to Egypt

Gen 26:24-25 *And the LORD appeared unto him the same night, and said, I am the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for I am with thee, and will bless thee, and multiply thy seed for my servant Abraham's sake. Jacob went up from there to Beersheba.-The Well of The oath And he builded an altar there, and **called upon the name of the LORD, Yahweh** and pitched his tent there: and there Isaac's servants digged a well.*

Jacob met Esau . After leaving him he went to Succoth a place where he built a house and booths for his cattle

Gen 33:18-20 *And Jacob came to Shalem, a city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Padanaram; and pitched his tent before the city. And he bought a parcel of a field, where he had spread his tent, at the hand of the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for an hundred pieces of money. And he erected there an altar, and called it Elelohe-Israel. 'êl 'êlôhêy yiśrâ'êl*

From H410 EL-denoting strength and H430 Elohiym and H3478; the *mighty God of Jisrael; El Elohi Jisrael*, the title given to a consecrated spot by Jacob: - El-elohe-israel.

Total KJV occurrences 1

Gen 35:1-7 *And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother. Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments: And let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there*

an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went. So Jacob came to Luz, which is in the land of Canaan, that is, Bethel, he and all the people that were with him. And he built there an altar, and called the place El bethel: The God of Bethel because there God appeared unto him, when he fled from the face of his brother.

After that it is for Moses to build an altar as the nation of Israel were in Egypt **and NO ALTARS TO Yahweh were built in Egypt.** Thus the next account of an altar is by Moses after Joshua defeats Amalek who resisted their passage to the Promised Land

Exo 17:13-15 And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovahnissi: Yahweh is my banner. This Title or address is not found again in the Scriptures

Exo 17:16 For he said, Because the LORD hath sworn that the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.

Moses and seventy elders. Here we see the nation of Israel, God's people, included in the sacrifice, united in the altar in that the blood was sprinkled upon them.

Exo 24:1-3 And he said unto Moses, Come up unto the LORD, thou, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel; and worship ye afar off. And Moses alone shall come near the LORD: but they shall not come nigh; neither shall the people go up with him. And Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which the LORD hath said will we do.

Here we see the nation Israel "Israel is My Son and out of Egypt have I brought My son"

Exo 24:4-8 And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD, and rose up early in the morning, and builded an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. And he sent young men of the children of Israel, which offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen unto the LORD. And

Moses took half of the blood, and put it in basons; and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient. And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these words.

Exo 20:24-25 An altar of earth thou shalt make unto me, and shalt sacrifice thereon thy burnt offerings, and thy peace offerings, thy sheep, and thine oxen: in all places where I record my name I will come unto thee, and I will bless thee.

And if thou wilt make me an altar of stone, thou shalt not build it of hewn stone: for if thou lift up thy tool upon it, thou hast polluted it.

The word for polluted has many applications but one is “prostitute”. Thus the stones must be as virginal and have no alteration by man. In this we may think of the House Of God built of lively stones where they are affected by the hand of God and not the influences of man. Here, as with making of an altar, the stones are carefully chosen.

Exo 20:26 Neither shalt thou go up by steps unto mine altar, that thy nakedness be not discovered thereon.

There is nothing wrong with the nakedness per se as in the beginning all was very good but since the fall it is associated outside of marriage with sin.

Exo 21:13 And if a man lie not in wait, but God deliver him into his hand; then I will appoint thee a place whither he shall flee. But if a man come presumptuously upon his neighbour, to slay him with guile; thou shalt take him from mine altar, that he may die.

This accords with presumptuous sin as John says: 1 Jn 5:16-18 *If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it. All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death. We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.*

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The Altar then becomes the receptacle for the sacrifice and the blood was sprinkled around it and upon the people linking the whole congregation of Israel with the altar and the sacrifice upon the altar.

The Bronze Altar

Exo 27:1-8 And thou shalt make an altar of shittim wood, five cubits long, and five cubits broad; the altar shall be foursquare: and the height thereof shall be three cubits. And thou shalt make the horns of it upon the four corners thereof: his horns shall be of the same: and thou shalt overlay it with brass. And thou shalt make his pans to receive his ashes, and his shovels, and his basons, and his fleshhooks, and his firepans: all the vessels thereof thou shalt make of brass.

And thou shalt make for it a grate of network of brass; and upon the net shalt thou make four brasen rings in the four corners thereof. And thou shalt put it under the compass of the altar beneath, that the net may be even to the midst of the altar. And thou shalt make staves for the altar, staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with brass. And the staves shall be put into the rings, and the staves shall be upon the two sides of the altar, to bear it. Hollow with boards shalt thou make it: as it was shewed thee in the mount, so shall they make it.

All the instructions needed were given for the altar that was to be mobile and accompany them on their journey to the Promised Land. This is the situation of every man or woman whom God calls, that they are on a journey. That life is but a sojourn and to have hope of being near to God, who is Holy, the meaning of the altar and sacrifice must be understood and believed with the whole heart.

Once set up inside the court of The Tabernacle it showed that no one could approach God except by sacrifice, it was to show the Holiness of God and that by his very nature man is of sin. Yet it showed the way to be near to God and have the hope of dwelling in His Presence forever. This was acknowledged in every sacrifice brought.

Then there was the incense altar in the first chamber of the Holy Place where God would meet with the priest.

Exo 30:34-36 And the LORD said unto Moses, Take unto thee sweet spices, stacte, and onycha, and galbanum; these sweet spices with pure frankincense: of each shall there be a like weight: And thou shalt make it a perfume, a confection after

the art of the apothecary, tempered together, pure and holy: And thou shalt beat some of it very small, and put of it before the testimony in the tabernacle of the congregation, where I will meet with thee: it shall be unto you most holy.

In this is seen the acceptable nature of prayer that it was to be a sweet fragrance but that such could be offered by no one but the priest, hence the need for a Mediator is established.

Deu 16:21 Thou shalt not plant thee a grove of any trees near unto the altar of the LORD thy God, which thou shalt make thee.

When Israel had entered the Land and destroyed Ai (Joshua 8), because the whole nation of Israel was contaminated by Achan's sin, upon victory Joshua built an altar in Mt Ebal and ensured that it conformed to the Law and was made from whole stones.

Jos 8:31-35 As Moses the servant of the LORD commanded the children of Israel, as it is written in the book of the law of Moses, an altar of whole stones, over which no man hath lift up any iron: and they offered thereon burnt offerings unto the LORD, and sacrificed peace offerings. And he wrote there upon the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he wrote in the presence of the children of Israel.

And all Israel, and their elders, and officers, and their judges, stood on this side the ark and on that side before the priests the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, as well the stranger, as he that was born among them; half of them over against mount Gerizim, and half of them over against mount Ebal; as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded before, that they should bless the people of Israel. And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessings and cursings, according to all that is written in the book of the law. There was not a word of all that Moses commanded, which Joshua read not before all the congregation of Israel, with the women, and the little ones, and the strangers that were conversant among them.

Jos 22:1-9-10 Then Joshua called the Reubenites, and the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh, praised them for their loyalty in assisting the other tribes to conquer the Land and blessed them and sent them home to their own inheritance. And when they came unto the borders of Jordan, that are in the land of Canaan, the children of Reuben and the children of Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh built there an altar by Jordan, a great altar to see to.

But this was misunderstood and they sent Phinehas the son of Eleazar the Priest and ten princes to investigate but were assured that the altar was built to evidence their being part of Israel even though they were largely on the east side

of Jordan but the answer was clear that it was not an altar for offerings to God but to remind anyone that they are just as much part of Israel as the other tribes.

Jos 22:27-28 But that it may be a witness between us, and you, and our generations after us, that we might do the service of the LORD before him with our burnt offerings, and with our sacrifices, and with our peace offerings; that your children may not say to our children in time to come, Ye have no part in the LORD. Therefore said we, that it shall be, when they should so say to us or to our generations in time to come, that we may say again, Behold the pattern of the altar of the LORD, which our fathers made, not for burnt offerings, nor for sacrifices; but it is a witness between us and you.

Jos 22:34 And the children of Reuben and the children of Gad called the altar *Ed*: for it *shall be* a witness between us that the LORD *is* God.

Love to all

Brother Ken