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Exodus 27 verses 1 through 8. These are God's words. You shall make an altar of acacia wood. Five cubits long and five cubits wide. The altar shall be square and its height shall be three cubits.

You so make its horns on its four corners. Its horn shall be of one piece with it. And you shall overlay it with bronze. Also, you shall make its pans to receive, its ashes. And its shovels, and its basins. And its forks. And its fire pans. You shall make all its utensils of bronze.

You shall make a great for it, a network of bronze. And on the network you shall make four bronze rings at its four corners. You shall put it under the rim of the altar beneath that, the network may be midway up the altar. And you shall make poles for the altar poles of occasion, wood.

And overlay them with bronze. The poles shall be put in the rings and the poles shall be on the two sides of the altar to bear it. You shall make it hollow with boards. As it was shown you on the mountain. So, shall they? Make it. So, for the reading of god's inspired, and And errant worked.

The tabernacle is, Wonderful indeed. Uh, not so much for The earthly design and dimensions and materials, although certainly those things were impressive. Uh but wonderful and that it communicates the presence of god himself in the holy of holies. God, the one who addresses his people. The arc of the testimony saves his people.

It's an ark of testimony. That god who atons for his people. The cover of the arc being the atonement cover. Called the one who rules, his people who sits and thrown above the terrabune. And not only god himself, but in particular, the experience of god, that is one of fellowship, putting in the holy place.

On the right hand side, as you enter. Uh, the table for bread. With utensils as as if the table is set, although no meal would ever be eaten there. But there is a meal coming. Uh, still the wedding supper of the lamb. Uh, with in which it'll be even more intimate than that, which took place on the mountain just before all of this instruction began.

When the leaders of Israel saw the god of israel and they ate, and they drank. And then on the left hand, not just favor on the right hand or fellowship on the right hand, but favor on the left hand, the shining of the lamp. The lamps that looks like a tree and a setting like unto Eden.

With the Uh, with the scriptures resounding in our ears, may he make his face to shine upon you And there in what is an earthly display or as much of an earthly display as there is Of being before the face of god, there is the shining. Uh, that's harkins.

Not just back to eden, but forward to the place. When god to the point when god himself and the lamb are the light of the place. And there is no sun or moon for the father of light, who has given us lights that never stop shining day or night.

There is always light because the favor of god is Uninterrupted towards us and is communicated to do us. Light itself is created as an analogy to something in god. His favorite towards us, this wonderful. Tent. But how can a creaturely, man? How can a creaturely men have fellowship? With god.

And how can a sinful man? Have the favor of god. And so, there is the screen that is At the, The east side, the front side as you enter from the east, the tabernacle into the holy of play the holy place, like we heard last week and the veil that Separates the holy place from the holy of holies.

Uh, which has as part of its purpose, a great part of its purpose. The fact that christ would go through the veil and be an anchor and forerunner for us that we have access. Now to a throne that is a throne of glory but is unto us throne of grace.

Like we heard last week. So there's the, the screen and the veil but still how as man admitted Through the screen and through the veil. Well, the answer of course, is jesus as Uh, your children from your earliest days of answering questions and family worship. No. Um, and we have seen that already as we have Tried to take wherever it.

Is that the New testament makes use of and application of. These particular portions of scripture and what we keep finding is that It's all about christ. Even when we hear at the end of our passage this afternoon, according to the pattern, it was shown you on the mountain. We're reminded of The book of hebrews telling us that That was because there is a reality.

Uh, which is in christ of which these things were and anticipatory copy. To. To teach us about christ and make us to look forward to him. And immediately for the priests. And for the people, the answer to the question of how can a creature Have fellowship with the creator.

And how can the sinner? Have the favor of the holy god. Is through atonement. It was already. A significant distinction between The creator and the creature in the garden. And how much worse it was. When Adam sinned. And we in him and he sinned and fell. Now he wasn't just a creature but a sinner.

He knew that he couldn't have fellowship with god and so what did he do? He sewed together. Fig leaves. This turned out not to. Not to be. All that helpful. And, Is still. Hiding from god. There's afraid he says, because he was naked, but it's not the nakedness. Of his skin.

So what does god do for him? Once god has announced that there's They're not dying that day. They have died spiritually. But they're not perishing from the earth that day because god is going to give his wife the woman seed still. And from among that seed, will come one who crushes, the serpent's head and he believes that promise and he renames her from mrs.

Dirt to Eve mother of all the living. And, God. Adds to the promise that has been made and the faith that has been given something of a sacrament a sign. He doesn't allow Adam and Eve to be covered. Uh, by their own fig leaves. It would be just as ridiculous as a sinner thinking that he can waltz into the tabernacle if only he covers himself with big leaves.

So also are all efforts of atonement, that originate with man. That's all of your and my Really meaning better this time and the new thing that we're going to do that's going to really show and Show god. How how much we honor him and that this is going to be what makes things better between me and god.

That's all just fig leaves. That's to put it more pointedly who are not going to get to Leviticus 10 for a while that's strange fire. Isn't it trying to produce from ourselves? Uh, that which only god can give But god had provided a sacrifice. Animals had to die. For Adam.

And Eve now. Praise god. To recovered with the skins. It was according to faith that able offered his sacrifice. Not only because he was sincere in his heart, but because he was following god's revelation, For what god wanted. In sacrifice. That's what faith is. It's not mere sincerity of heart.

It is a receiving. What god says as true and right. And so as you come to the tabernacle and is you're about to enter the screen, what you find there is an altar Uh, another piece of furniture, but this is a different sort. Of furniture. The furniture that we've seen so far has been mostly for show.

It looks like it could be functional but it's covered with gold. It looks like it's from heaven. The table that nobody ever sits sits at a lamp stand in a room where nobody just goes and hangs out. This. However, This piece of furniture although it's the same shape. It's larger size, but it's approximately the same shape as the table or the arc.

This is a working piece of furniture. It's the one you can use Um, Maybe this will connect with, with no one but myself and my brothers or my parents if they happen to stream or Or listen to this, but Uh, we had A room in our house as you entered, that was right on the right hand side so that you could clean a third of the house and get away with it.

If some who's, who at Visit in our house for the purpose of my dad's work or whatever. That room was clean. It had the baby grand piano and it had the furniture that was for show. Certainly i and my two brothers who are separated by a total of two and a half years.

Uh, we're not allowed to sit or breath on that furniture because we were not allowed to enter those rooms. If you went deeper into the house and took a left and to where we actually uh you know lived there was furniture for sitting on and there was a table that you could sit at not the formal dining room which was attached to that one.

That was the table. You couldn't sit at or breathe on because you were in allowed to enter that room. You know, there was there was another place that where there's a table, you could actually sit at and eat and stuff. Well. This altar is not just for show. It is from work.

It is for receiving the carcasses of animals whose throats have been slit and whose blood has been drained and for putting them on top of a great underneath which are coals of fire. That would be used for the consuming of the flesh of the carcass and the collection. Of the The fat, which is, you know what?

What you're really after the, As you see here, we've sorry we've gotten Past the The shape with the corners that had, The. The, the merits of the atonement that were provided there. You find out later that If someone was coming, For refuge. He could cling to the corner of the altar.

Um, But now in verse 3, you have that this is a working altar. The word that's translated pans is more as a word that we would probably more likely translate pots. It's for filling with melted and burned, especially fat. I'm not sure why. It's translated to ashes here in verse 3, when it is fat, i mean, it would be full of ash, right as you scoop it out.

With the, with the shovels. Which are for refuse and This is. Uh, this is a very utilitarian here. This is going to be much used. The word that's translated basins. Uh, comes from a root that means to throw, it's for the collection of blood so that it can be thrown on objects.

Why? Because that's how a tending blood was applied. Uh, by it's being poured or thrown or splattered. Um, depending on what translation and in what passage and the the application of blood. And so you have the the packs for the collection of the burnt fat, reminding you that there is burning fire.

That is going to consume creatures. Uh, in the place of sinners here. And then you have the the throwing things for the application of blood. And you have the The forks and the fire pins, what are those for? For making sure that the burning gets to be complete. These are turning forks for turning the meat on top of the grate, the fire pans are not now for the collection of ashes and fat.

These are for the maneuvering of the hot coals. And the burning wood. To make sure that The Animal is consumed. So there's there's not just death. Displayed in the setting of the blood of the animal, but there's wrath displayed in the consuming by fire. Of that which has died.

And especially for the whole burnt offering in particular, the entire animal would be entirely consumed. Which is actually a converse of what is being pictured there. Because the wrath of god has never going to entirely. There's never going to finish consuming. A sinner in hell. But the wrath of god, Was consent.

As it burnt itself out on Jesus Christ at the cross. We're in just a few hours. He for the multitude. For whom he was dying, bore the full wrath of god. And was able to say a phrase that will never be heard in hell. It is finished. And then he breathed his last.

Diet. So this is a working altar. This is matter. But points us forward to a great glory that Um, we can all probably anticipate because even as we came to god asking for help in the preaching, why? Because we draw near to god in the preaching. This is how he is appointed now, For his people to be gathered to himself.

From earth in our assemblies at this time. When there's only through the finished sacrifice of Jesus that you, and I sit here and god addresses us by his spirit, with his son, as our prophet. Not the servant who's been called to preaching, but Jesus, who addresses us from heaven and the preaching of the assemblies As we learned and Hebrews chapter 2, would Hebrews chapter 12.

We come and god gives himself to us. Yes, we are spiritual stones being assembled into a spiritual temple where we we offer spiritual sacrifices and you and I give ourselves to god the offering up of our souls and hearing his word believingly. Willingly. By his grace willingly and tenderheartedly and believingly.

But the worship of god is worship, not so much in which he has given us ways by which we offer ourselves to him. That is true. But he alone is the living in true god, who can define design worship in which it's, he who gives himself to us. And so he's filled his worship with the means of his grace.

And there's a sense in which, as we were hearing last week, That we come nearer. Not a sense in which the reality is that we come nearer now than they ever did. Then. That the least of the saints. In a new testament church assembly. Comes nearer than the high priest did on earth.

On the day of returnment. And that every single week, How much more? Do we need to be aware of and come only through. The ones for all sacrifice. Of the Lord Jesus Christ. So that was a working altar. But we have a greater altar and That's language. That is starting to anticipate Hebrews 13, where Lord willing, we will end up But it's also a moving altar.

Uh, Oh, we didn't mention the great gR8. Not gr-e-a. Eight. The The network around the outside. To make sure that anything that That was falling off and wasn't quite consumed. Could be picked up with the fork and put back on. So that it could be burnt. So that the, the wrath, Would fully.

Uh, consume it as it were. In the far. So it was a working alter, but it was also a mobile ultra, a moving altar and we've grown accustomed to this. You should make polls for the altar poles of acacia wood. And overlay them with bronze. The polls shall be put in the rings and the poles beyond the two sides of the altar to bear it.

You shall make it hollow with boards. I'm certainly the priests, i'm sure we're glad. Uh, for that due to its size and it's acacia wood and being covered with boards. You shall make it hollow with boards. And so you see the the point? Uh, the That's the presence of god as we've seen has been designed to To move around with his people, the communication.

Of his presence and the tabernacle. So also the atonement that makes it safe. That makes it possible for creatures. Let alone sinners. To have god in their midst. It's It's telling that every once in a while, the The wrath of god is displayed in such a way that the people say, oh no, we shall all die.

Every once in a while, they got the message that was there in front of the tabernacle all the time. But they were a sinful people. And as they continue to move around, they would continue to be sinners. And yet, god has already shown us that he intends to continue communicating his presence to them.

And they will therefore continue to need sacrifice. So, why didn't we? Have an altar this morning. Are we extremely intentional to make sure we call the lord's table? The lord's table, and not the altar. And to To make it clear that we're having a meal together. Not a sacrifice.

And even, you know, i'm careful that i don't raise the The. The bread higher than you would, when offering somebody. You know, another helping at the table and i don't raise the cop, any higher than you would to offer a toast. Well, that's because There are actual things that profess to be.

Churches have The lord jesus christ. And, That's a discussion for another day, but The, the antichrist is in the church, so maybe, There are, there are actual things that profess to be the church of jesus christ where they think they are offering sacrifice. And jesus is being sacrificed again.

And they hold up the bread. Why? Because if the bread's actually turning into jesus, so you can be sacrificed again. You better worship the bread. Then, hold up the cup. Why Because well, if the wine is actually turning into the jesus jesus's blood, So that you can be sacrificed again.

You better worship the cup. We don't worship the bread. We don't worship the cop. And the bread and the cup are not what bring us near god. That's not a sacrifice that takes place here because jesus's blood has been shed once for all And jesus has, Endured the fullness of god's wrath for our sin once and for all.

And you don't have to have. That dreadful experience. Every lord's day, thinking that he's being resacrificed because something more has to be done for sin. You're sinful nature that refuses to believe god about the completeness of christ. Sacrifice your own sinful nature is telling you that plenty Something more has to be done for sin.

The bronze altar. Kept telling them. That something more had to be done for sin. Because it was an ultra for, it was a working altar and it was a moving altar and the blood of those bulls. And those goats could not take away saying, how did they know? Because the sacrifice has had to be offered here after year.

The sin had not been taken away. And now there is no more altar and there is no more sacrifice. Because the sin has been taken away. And you when you feel the guiltiness of what you have just done because you are still sitting One of the things that you can remember from Exodus 27, And from your worshiping in the way that the lord has commanded us weak by weak.

Is there wasn't an altar at church. On the lord's day. There wasn't a sacrifice. Because jesus christ. Has shed his blood and born the wrath. Once and for all completely, What there was was a table. With bread and wine instead of a body and blood Because i still get the benefits.

Of that sacrifice. Of that altar. That was built, not out of acacia. Wood to overlaid with bronze. But whatever timber the Roman soldiers could find. For a cross. That afternoon.

This is why. Feel the pleading. Of the apostle, the holy pleading with the holy spirit. In hebrews 13. As he's He's gone through this entire book. Proclaiming the supremacy of the lord jesus. And therefore, the unsurpassable glory of worshiping in him and through him. And, and why would you ever go back?

To Old Testament worship. Why would you go back to the shadows when you have the reality? That is in jesus.

Neighbors, i'll start in verse eight, although i think it's You know, it's referenced beginning in verse 10, And your Outline. Jesus christ is the same. Yesterday today, and forever. Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good, that the heart be established by grace.

We won't take all of the sermon time now to define it, but all of christ, all that god is to us in christ. For all that, we are needing of him to be the whole of god for the whole of our need. We'll just leave it at that for it as good, that the heart we established by grace, not with foods.

Which have not profited those who've been occupied with them. Same problem as the sacrifices. We have an altar. From which those who serve the tabernacle. Have no right? To eat. For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary. By the high priest for sin are burned outside the camp.

Therefore jesus also that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, Suffered outside the gate and now there's a difference. Isn't there? Jesus was sacrificed on the outside that His blood might be brought all the way in, whereas we Heard applied with the with hebrews's treatment of the veil.

Uh, from last week so that his blood might be brought all the way in where he is our anchor and where he is our foreigner and where we go with him. His body has not come out. The carcasses had to be discarded. The fat pods had to be filled, the, the shovels had to be used to remove the refuge because there were going to be more and more, and more, and more and more and more sacrifices.

The, the throwing The things that your translated basins are text, they'd be filled with blood and the blood would be applied and then they'd be filled with blood. Again, it would and it

would over and over and over again. But Jesus Christ, suffered once. Outside. And we still eat from that altar.

And that sacrifice today. Because we don't eat Jesus. We are strengthened. We are established. Our hearts are established by grace. By Jesus himself. And the virtue of his once-for-all sacrifice still being applied to us. By his word. But his sacraments, By the prayer that is offered at his throne of grace.

Praise be to God. Let's pray.

The Lord. We praise you, Lord Jesus. For giving yourself as our sacrifice. So that you who are very God of very God. Became true man in order to do so. Are the one who has attended for us. With the full value of your divine person. Even as you did.

So in your human nature. Oh, help us, Holy Spirit. To understand the greatness of what it means. That your church was purchased by the blood of God. And grant to us to know, not only the greatness. Of what has been done. But the greatness of what has been gained.

Minister to us, we ask Holy Spirit. The glory of that fellowship and that favor. That you have given us the glory, That you have given us yourself. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And the person of your Son, our Lord Jesus. In his name, we ask him. Amen.