

TORAH, GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS
EXODUS 30 - ALTER OF INCENSE
EXODUS 31 - SKILLED CRAFTSMEN OR ARTIFICERS
PART 5

Say - Welcome to Sabbath School class. Let's bow our head and ask God for understanding as we continue our study of the book of Exodus. Our lesson is on the instructions for worshipping God and the men God chose to build the tabernacle and construct the furniture for the tabernacle.

Exodus 30

Say - Verses 1-10 is of the alter of incense. The alter of incense was inside the holy place where the candlestick and table of shewbread were; the alter of incense was just before the veil which separated the holy place from the most holy place. The sweet incense was symbolic of our prayers to God. Now through Jesus Christ, our High Priest, listens to our prayers as a mediator on behalf of His people and presents them to God when we sincerely ask forgiveness of our sins. This is what goes on around the throne in heaven. The Bible tells us "**Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense...**" Psalm 141:2. Just like the incense on the alter which was to burn forever, Exodus 30:8, the Bible tells us to "**Pray without ceasing**" I Thessalonians 5:17.

¹And thou shalt make an altar to burn incense upon: of shittim (acacia) wood shalt thou make it. ²A cubit shall be the length thereof, and a cubit the breadth thereof; foursquare shall it be: and two cubits shall be the height thereof: the horns thereof shall be of the same (all one piece). ³And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, the top thereof, and the sides thereof round about, and the horns thereof; and thou shalt make unto it a crown of gold round about (the "crown" was a edge around the alter). ⁴And two golden rings shalt thou make to it under the crown of it, by the two corners thereof, upon the two sides of it shalt thou make it; and they shall be for places for the staves to bear (carry) it withal. ⁵And thou shalt make the staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold.

⁶And thou shalt put it before the veil that is by the ark of the testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the testimony, where I will meet with thee (remember the "vail" separated the holy place from the most holy place or holy of holies).

⁷And Aaron shall burn thereon sweet incense every morning: when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it ("Morning" meant sunrise; the Bible tells us "³The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me (Jesus Christ), He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God (Aaron was a just man because God had chosen him to be the high priest.) ⁴And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds; as the tender

grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain" 2 Samuel 23:3-4. It is a pleasant experience with a righteous leader. Also there could be no incense or acceptable worship to God prior to the altar of burnt offering where the sacrifice was offered for atonement for the covering of their sins. The incense also took away the smell of the flesh which came from the altar of burnt offering and gave a sweet smell in the courtyard and sanctuary; everything smells good with God.).

⁸And when Aaron lighteth the lamps at even, he shall burn incense upon it, a perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations (The incense was accepted as righteousness to God from the people.).

⁹Ye shall offer no strange incense thereon nor burnt sacrifice, nor meat offering; neither shall ye pour drink offering thereon (The sweet incense God wanted is written for us in verse 34 of this chapter. In the Bible we are told of Aaron's sons offering "strange incense" to God in the tabernacle, "¹And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, ("Strange fire" is not sanctified or holy to God; it is unlawful and He would not accept the strange incense.) which he commanded them not. ²And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD" Leviticus 10:1-2. They were doing what seemed right in their own eyes; they had too much to drink, vs. 9, they needed a clear head. It is the same today for we have not learned our lesson; many are disobedient to the instructions from God and bring in false doctrine and deceive many. As God's people before God is going to hear our prayers, we must repent of sin or He does not hear us because it is "strange incense" to Him; the Bible tells us "²But your iniquities (lawlessness) have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear" Isaiah 59:2.)

¹⁰And Aaron (the high priest) shall make an atonement upon the horns of it once in a year with the blood of the sin offering of atonements (Which purified the altar with the blood of the sin offering in the most holy place or holy of holies): once in the year shall he make atonement upon it throughout your generations: it is most holy unto the LORD (On the tenth day of the seventh month the Bible tells us "¹⁸And he shall go out unto the altar that is before the LORD, and make an atonement for it; and shall take of the blood of the bullock, and of the blood of the goat, and put it upon the horns of the altar round about. ²⁹And this shall be a statute for ever unto you: that in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, ye shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all (Day of Atonement is an annual holy day of God or a Sabbath of rest and we "afflict" ourselves with fasting; if we want to be in His Kingdom we are to keep His Sabbaths.), whether it be one of your own country, or a stranger that sojourneth among you: ³⁰For on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before the LORD" Leviticus 16:18, 29, 30.).

¹¹And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, ¹²When thou takest the sum of the children of Israel after their number, then shall they give every man a ransom (to make atonement/cover, vs. 15) for his soul (himself) unto the LORD, when thou numberest them; that there be no plague among them (A plague from God for we are all dead in our sins but through God and Christ we are alive when we receive their spirit.), when thou numberest them.

¹³This they shall give, every one that passeth among them that are numbered (this is how the people were counted or a census), half a shekel after the shekel of the sanctuary: (a shekel is twenty gerahs:) an half shekel shall be the offering of the LORD.

¹⁴Every one that passeth among them that are numbered, from twenty years old and above, shall give an offering unto the LORD. ¹⁵The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less than half a shekel, when they give an offering unto the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls (himself).

What did they use the atonement money for? ¹⁶And thou shalt take the atonement money of the children of Israel, and shalt appoint it for the service of the tabernacle of the congregation (the money was used to provide for the oil, flour for the shewbread, incense, wine and priest's garments); that it may be a memorial unto the children of Israel before the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls (himself).

Say - Verses 17-21 are of the laver of brass the priests were to wash in.

¹⁷And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, ¹⁸Thou shalt also make a laver of brass, and his foot also of brass, to wash withal: and thou shalt put it between the tabernacle of the congregation and the altar, and thou shalt put water therein (The laver comes after the altar of burnt offering and the laver was right before the entrance to the tabernacle/tent or sanctuary. Now God's people are given the life-giving spirit of God to cleanse us from our sins and "...**washed** us from our sins in his own **blood**" Revelation 1:5 when we repent of sin and are baptized.).

¹⁹For Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet thereat: ²⁰When they go into the tabernacle of the congregation, they shall wash with water, that they die not; or when they come near to the altar to minister, to burn offering made by fire unto the LORD: ²¹So they shall wash their hands and their feet, that they die not (This is what will happen if they do not wash meaning they were to be clean and pure for the service of worshipping God. When we say this and that doesn't matter to God then we are saying He is not our God and we take the place of Him; we need to think about every word that comes out of the mouth of God.): and it shall be a statute for ever to them, even to him and to his seed throughout their generations (The washing was for the purpose of His people being pure and holy before God; the Bible tells us "Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity (sin or lawlessness; wash us as in baptism), and **cleanse** me from my sin" Psalm 51:2. "But if we walk in the light (truth), as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son **cleanseth** us from all sin" I John 1:7.).

Say - Verses 22-33 are of what God wanted as the anointing oil.

²²Moreover the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, ²³Take thou also unto thee principal spices, of pure myrrh (gum of Arabian thorny shrubs) five hundred shekels, and of sweet cinnamon half so much, even two hundred and fifty shekels, and of sweet calamus (lemon grass of India) two hundred and fifty shekels, ²⁴And of cassia (bark of a kind of Indian cinnamon) five hundred shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary, and of oil olive an hin (about 5 quarts):

²⁵And thou shalt make it an oil of holy ointment, an ointment compound after the art of the apothecary: it shall be an holy anointing oil. ²⁶And thou shalt anoint the tabernacle of the congregation therewith, and the ark of the testimony (With God everything smells good.) ²⁷And the table and all his vessels, and the candlestick and his vessels, and the altar of incense, ²⁸And the altar of burnt offering with all his vessels, and the laver and his foot. ²⁹And thou shalt sanctify them, that they may be most holy: whatsoever toucheth them shall be holy.

³⁰And thou shalt anoint Aaron and his sons, and consecrate (sanctify, be made holy) them, that they may minister unto me in the priest's office. ³¹And thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel, saying, This shall be an holy anointing oil unto me throughout your generations (Everything that comes before the throne of God must be holy to Him. The Bible tells us "Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. ⁸All thy garments smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia, out of the ivory palaces, whereby they have made thee glad" Psalm 45:7-8.).

³²Upon man's flesh shall it not be poured, neither shall ye make any other like it, after the composition of it: it is holy, and it shall be holy unto you. ³³Whosoever compoundeth any like it, or whosoever putteth any of it upon a stranger, shall even be cut off from his people (God wants His people to come out of the confusion of Babylon's religion spiritually and emotionally or it will defile us.).

Say - Verses 34 are of the perfume the apothecaries were to make.

³⁴And the LORD said unto Moses, Take unto thee sweet spices, stacte, and onycha (a sweet-smelling shell found on the shores of the Red Sea and Indian Ocean), and galbanum; these sweet spices with pure frankincense: of each shall there be a like weight (Symbolic of the perfection of Christ.)

³⁵And thou shalt make it a perfume, a confection after the art of the apothecary, tempered together, pure and holy (Symbolic of the holiness and purity of Christ.):

³⁶And 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. ³⁷And as for the perfume which thou shalt make, ye shall not make to yourselves according to the composition thereof: it shall be unto thee holy for the LORD. ³⁸Whosoever shall make like unto that, to smell thereto, shall even be cut off from his people (God does not want us to take any of His instructions lightly for His

things are not to be used for everyday things for they are sacred and holy unto Him; this was only for God, the priests and the tabernacle/temple.).

Exodus 31

Say - Verses 11-6 are of the skilled craftsmen or Artificers

¹And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, ²See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur of the tribe of Judah (Hur was a chief assistant to Moses and Aaron or the one in charge when Moses was talking to God, Exodus 24:14. Remember Hur and Aaron held up Moses' hands in battle against the Amalekites, Exodus 17:12. Bezaleel means "in the shadow or protection of God"; he was skilled in metal, wood and stone and an architect of the tabernacle.):

Say - God qualifies Bezaleel by giving him His spirit, knowledge and wisdom for all manner of the workmanship of the tabernacle.

³And I have filled him with the spirit of God (The Creator, Jesus Christ), in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship (God will guide Bezaleel's thoughts and actions as he constructs the tabernacle and furniture.), ⁴To devise cunning works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, ⁵And in cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of timber, to work in all manner of workmanship (God called a certain person, Bezaleel, and put His spirit, wisdom and knowledge in him and that is how God does to His people down through the ages who are busy doing the work of God. The Bible tells us "And He called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits" Mark 6:7; are we a disciple of God.).

⁶And I (Jesus Christ, not Moses), behold, I have given with him Aholiab (Means my father's tent; Aholiab was the assistant to Bezaleel in making the tabernacle. The Bible tells us "¹Then wrought Bezaleel and Aholiab, and every wise hearted man, in whom the LORD put wisdom and understanding to know how to work all manner of work for the service of the sanctuary, according to all that the LORD had commanded" Exodus 36:1.), the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan: and in the hearts of all that are wise hearted I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded thee;

(Here is what they were to make.). ⁷The tabernacle of the congregation, and the ark of the testimony, and the mercy seat that is thereupon, and all the furniture of the tabernacle, ⁸And the table and his furniture, and the pure candlestick with all his furniture, and the altar of incense, ⁹And the altar of burnt offering with all his furniture, and the laver and his foot, ¹⁰And the cloths of service, and the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons, to minister in the priest's office, ¹¹And the anointing oil, and sweet incense for the holy place: according to all that I have commanded thee shall they do (Every aspect of the ministry is to be as God says not man-made thoughts or ideas.).

Say - Now that God has chosen the priests and workers for the tabernacle, He has something to tell His people. God talked with His people about the Sabbath rest again because they might think that the tabernacle was a sacred place of God and that they could work on the tabernacle on the Sabbath day; God told them no, this is My day with you. Remember "the Sabbath was made for man" a day to rejuvenate with God, Mark 2:27.

¹²And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, ¹³Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep (The word "keep" means to treasure, observe, protect, wait for and celebrate. God is saying this is not a suggestion; it is a law of Mine.): for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you (makes you holy, no one else).

¹⁴Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people (Many people do their own thing on God's Sabbath Day and wear any old thing but that is not how God wants His Sabbath to be as we have studied.).

¹⁵Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD: whosoever doeth any work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death (God gives His people six days to do their own thing but the 7th day is My day with you.).

¹⁶Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant (forever).

¹⁷It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever (That we are betrothed to God): for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.

¹⁸And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God (by God's power).

MEMORY VERSE

"Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense..."
Psalm 141:2

BELOW IS THE SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON FOR TOTS AND YOUTH

ALTER OF INCENSE AND SKILLED CRAFTSMEN

THE ALTER OF INCENSE WAS INSIDE THE HOLY PLACE WHERE THE
CANDLESTICK AND TABLE OF SHEWBREAD WERE PLACED;
THE ALTER OF INCENSE WAS BEFORE THE VAIL WHICH SEPARATED
THE HOLY PLACE FROM THE MOST HOLY PLACE.

AARON, THE HIGH PRIEST, WAS TO BURN SWEET INCENSE EVERY
DAY TO GOD; THERE WAS TO BE SWEET INCENSE TO GOD
FOREVER;
SWEET INCENSE TO GOD ON THE ALTER COULD NOT BE DONE
UNTIL THE PEOPLE HAD SACRIFICED OR MADE ATONEMENT
TO COVER THEIR SINS ON THE ALTER OF BURNT
OFFERING.

THE SWEET INCENSE WAS SYMBOLIC OF OUR PRAYERS TO GOD; THE
SWEET INCENSE WAS ACCEPTED AS RIGHTEOUSNESS TO GOD
FROM HIS PEOPLE;
JESUS CHRIST IS OUR HIGH PRIEST AND LISTENS TO OUR
PRAYERS AS THE MEDIATOR OR A GO-BETWEEN TO GOD FOR
HIS PEOPLE WHEN WE SINCERELY ASK FORGIVENESS OF
OUR SINS.

THE BIBLE TELLS US "LET MY PRAYER BE SET FORTH BEFORE THEE
AS INCENSE..." GOD WANTS US TO "PRAY WITHOUT CEASING"
OUR PRAYERS WOULD BE "SWEET INCENSE" TO HIM
JUST LIKE FROM THE ALTER OF INCENSE;
THERE WAS TO BE NO "STRANGE INCENSE" TO GOD FROM THE ALTER
OF INCENSE OR HE WOULD NOT ACCEPT THE PRAYERS OR
FORGIVE THEIR SINS AND IT IS THE SAME TODAY;
"STRANGE INCENSE" MEANS UNHOLY PRAYER TO
GOD INSTEAD OF HOLY PRAYER TO HIM.

BEFORE THE HIGH PRIEST COULD ENTER THE HOLY PLACE HE MUST
WASH HIS HANDS AND FEET IN THE LAVER THAT HE DIE NOT!
THE WASHING WAS TO IMPRESS UPON THEM TO BE PURE
AND HOLY TO DO THE SERVICE FOR GOD;
NOW GOD'S PEOPLE ARE GIVEN THE LIFE-GIVING SPIRIT OF GOD TO
CLEANSE US AND WHEN WE ACCEPT HIS SACRIFICE AS THE
"LAMB OF GOD" WE ARE SYMBOLICALLY "...WASHED BY
HIS BLOOD". REV. 1:5

GOD WANTS US TO BE AT OUR BEST WHEN WE COME BEFORE GOD TO
WORSHIP HIM; HE WANTS US CLEAN AND PURE "WITHOUT
BLEMISH" OR FREE FROM SIN THROUGH REPENTANCE;
REMEMBER WE ARE TO PRESENT OURSELVES AS A "LIVING
SACRIFICE" TO GOD; THE BIBLE TELLS US "WASH ME
THOROUGHLY FROM INIQUITY OR LAWLESSNESS AND
CLEANSE ME FROM SIN." PSALM 51:2, I JOHN 1:7

ON THE DAY OF ATONEMENT, IN THE 7TH MONTH ON THE TENTH
DAY OF THE MONTH, AARON THE HIGH PRIEST WAS TO GO
THROUGH THE VAIL BEHIND THE ALTER OF INCENSE
TO THE MOST HOLY PLACE;
THE DAY OF ATONEMENT IS AN ANNUAL SABBATH TO GOD; IF WE
WANT TO BE IN GOD'S KINGDOM WE ARE TO KEEP HIS WEEKLY
AND ANNUAL SABBATHS; THEY WERE TO AFFLICT
THEMSELVES BY FASTING AS IT IS TODAY. LEV. 16:29

GOD WANTED ANOINTING OIL MADE AS WELL FROM MYRRH, SWEET
CINNAMON, SWEET CALAMUS, CASSIA AND OLIVE OIL: THIS
WAS THE HOLY ANOINTING OIL OF GOD;
THEY WERE TO ANOINT OR MAKE HOLY THE TABERNACLE, THE ARK,
THE TABLE OF SHEWBREAD, THE CANDLESTICK AND ALL THE
VESSELS USED IN WORSHIP, THE ALTER OF INCENSE,
ALTER OF BURNT OFFERING AND THE LAVER.

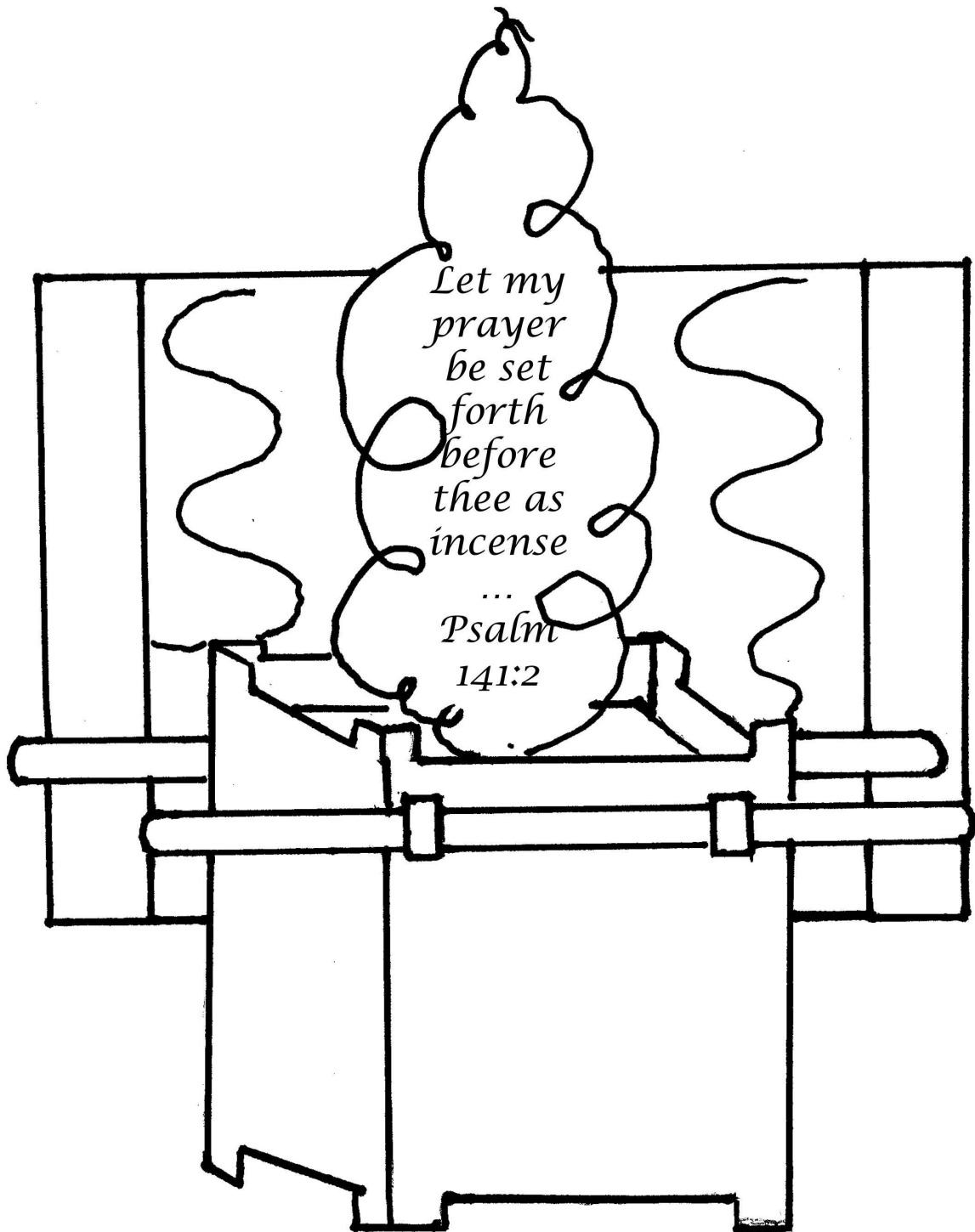
AARON THE HIGH PRIEST AND HIS SONS WERE TO BE ANOINTED OR MADE HOLY TO GOD BY THE ANOINTING OIL; THE ANOINTING OIL WAS SYMBOLIC OF GOD'S SPIRIT; NOW GOD PUTS HIS HOLY SPIRIT IN HIS PEOPLE AFTER BAPTISM; GOD TELLS HIS PEOPLE "YOU LOVE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATE WICKEDNESS THEREFORE GOD HAS ANOINTED YOU WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS ..." HE SAID ALL YOUR GARMENTS SMELL OF MYRRH AND ALOES AND CASSIA... WHEREBY THEY HAVE MADE ME GLAD". PS.45:7-8

NOW THAT GOD HAD CHOSEN THE PRIESTS OR MINISTERS FOR HIS SERVICE NOW IT WAS TIME TO CHOOSE BEZALEEL AND QUALIFY HIM WITH HIS SPIRIT OF KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM FOR ALL THE WORKMANSHIP OF THE TABERNACLE;
GOD WOULD GUIDE AND DIRECT ALL OF BEZALEEL'S THOUGHTS AND ACTIONS FOR BUILDING THE TABERNACLE; GOD DOES THE SAME TODAY FOR HIS PEOPLE HE HAS CALLED DOWN THROUGH THE AGES WHO ARE DOING THE WORK OF GOD;

REMEMBER THE BIBLE TELLS US "GOD CALLED 12 DISCIPLES UNTO HIM AND SENT THEM FORTH TWO BY TWO AND GAVE THEM POWER OR HIS SPIRIT OVER UNCLEAN SPIRITS" MARK 6:7
GOD ALSO GAVE BEZALEEL A HELPER NAMED AHOLIAB TO HELP WITH THE WORKMANSHIP OF THE TABERNACLE AND GAVE HIM WISDOM FROM GOD; THEY HAD MANY THINGS TO MAKE FOR THE TABERNACLE.

THEY WERE TO CONSTRUCT THE TABERNACLE OR TENT, THE ARK, THE COVER OF THE ARK OR MERCY SEAT, THE TABLE FOR THE SHEWBREAD, THE CANDLESTICK AND THE ALTER OF INCENSE;
THEY WERE TO CONSTRUCT THE ALTER OF BURNT OFFERING, THE LAVER FOR WASHING, THE GARMENTS FOR AARON AND HIS SONS, THE ANOINTING OIL AND THE SWEET INCENSE FOR THE ALTER OF INCENSE.

NOW GOD HAD SOME THINGS TO SAY TO HIS PEOPLE; HE SAID, "MY
SABBATHS YOU SHALL KEEP OR TREASURE MY SABBATHS,
PROTECT THEM AND CELEBRATE WITH ME ON MY
SABBATHS"; "FOR MY SABBATHS ARE A SIGN
BETWEEN YOU AND ME THAT YOU ARE MINE";
I AM THE GOD WHO MAKES YOU HOLY"; "MY SABBATHS ARE HOLY
UNTO YOU FOR THE 7TH DAY IS THE SABBATH OF REST AND
HOLY TO GOD; IT IS A COVENANT OR AN AGREEMENT
BETWEEN ME AND MY PEOPLE FOREVER" EXODUS 31:12



GOLDEN INCENSE ALTAR