

First use - Genesis 8:20 ¶ Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

Last Use - Revelation 16:7 And I heard the altar saying, "Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Thy judgments."

228x in Scripture -24x in NT – “a place of sacrifice” or “a place to meet with God”. Christians should have such a place (Mt. 5:23-24; Heb. 13:10; Rom 12:1-3) An altar stood for the benefits of the sacrifices. In Christianity, it stands for the benefits of the death of Christ; animals being burnt without the camp and Christ crucified without the gates of Jerusalem. (Dakes 4, 256 NT)

Matthew 5:23 "If therefore you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your offering there before the altar, and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

Heb. 13: 9 Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, through which those who were thus occupied were not benefited. 10 We have an altar, from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. 11 For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside the camp.

12 Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate. 13 Hence, let us go out to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach.

14 For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking the city which is to come.

15 Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. 16 And do not neglect doing good and sharing; for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Rom 12: 1 ¶ I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

16 Builders of Altars

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| 1. God – (Heb.8:5; 9:23; Rev. 6:9) | 8. Gideon – (Judg. 6:24-32) |
| 2. Noah – (Gen. 8:20) | 9. Israel – (Judges 21:4) |
| 3. Abraham – (4-Gen. 12:7,8; 13:18; 22:9) | 10. Samuel – 1 Sa 7:15 |
| 4. Isaac – (Gen. 26:25) | 11. Saul – 1 Sam. 14:35) |
| 5. Jacob – (2-Gen 33:20; 35:1-7) | 12. David – (2 Sam. 24:18-35; 1Ch 21:26) |
| 6. Moses – (4 – Ex. 17:15; 24:4 ; 27:1-8; 30:1-10) | 13. Solomon – (2 - 1Kings 9:25; 2Ch 8:12) |
| 7. Joshua – (2 – Josh 8:30,31; 22:10) | 14. Elijah – (1Kings 18:30) |
| | 15. Urijah – 2Ki 16:11 |
| | 16. Jeshua & Zerubbabel – (Ezra 3:2,3) |

Before the cities of refuge, the altar was a place of refuge – 1Ki 1:50-53; 2:28,29

Deut 24:4 – the 12 pillars that supported this altar showed the acceptance of Israel of the covenant that had been made between God and man thru the law – 12 showing the acceptance and support of each of the tribes...this also represented the restored access to God that would come thru the covenant...

Altar (Easton's Bible Dictionary)

(Heb. mizbe'ah, from a word meaning "to slay"), any structure of earth #Ex 20:24 or unwrought stone#Ex 20:25 on which sacrifices were offered. Altars were generally erected in conspicuous places #Ge 22:9 Eze 6:3 2Ki 23:12 16:4 23:8 Ac 14:13 The word is used in#Heb 13:10 for the sacrifice offered upon it--the sacrifice Christ offered. Paul found among the many altars erected in Athens one bearing the inscription, "To the unknown God" #Ac 17:23 or rather "to an [i.e., some] unknown God." The reason for this inscription cannot now be accurately determined. It afforded the apostle the occasion of proclaiming the gospel to the "men of Athens." The first altar we read of is that erected by Noah#Ge 8:20 Altars were erected by Abraham#Ge 12:7 13:4 22:9 by Isaac #Ge 26:25 by Jacob#Ge 33:20 35:1,3 and by Moses#Ex 17:15 "Jehovah-nissi". In the tabernacle, and afterwards in the temple, two altars were erected.

1. The altar of burnt offering#Ex 30:28 called also the "brassen altar" #Ex 39:39 and "the table of the Lord" #Mal 1:7 This altar, as erected in the tabernacle, is described in#Ex 27:1 -8 It was a hollow square, 5 cubits in length and in breadth, and 3 cubits in height. It was made of shittim wood, and was overlaid with plates of brass. Its corners were ornamented with "horns" #Ex 29:12 Le 4:18 In#Ex 27:3 the various utensils appertaining to the altar are enumerated. They were made of brass. (Comp.) #1Sa 2:13,14 Le 16:12 Nu 16:6,7 In Solomon's temple the altar was of larger dimensions#2Ch 4:1 Comp. #1Ki 8:22,64 9:25 and was made wholly of brass, covering a structure of stone or earth. This altar was renewed by Asa#2Ch 15:8 It was removed by Ahaz#2Ki 16:14 and "cleansed" by Hezekiah, in the latter part of whose reign it was rebuilt. It was finally broken up and carried away by the Babylonians#Jer 52:17 After the return from captivity it was re-erected#Ezr 3:3,6 on the same place where it had formerly stood. (Comp. 1 Macc. 4:47.) When Antiochus Epiphanes pillaged Jerusalem the altar of burnt offering was taken away. Again the altar was erected by Herod, and remained in its place till the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans (70 A.D.). The fire on the altar was not permitted to go out#Le 6:9 In the Mosque of Omar, immediately underneath the great dome, which occupies the site of the old temple, there is a rough projection of the natural rock, of about 60 feet in its extreme length, and 50 in its greatest breadth, and in its highest part about 4 feet above the general pavement. This rock seems to have been left intact when Solomon's temple was built. It was in all probability the site of the altar of burnt offering. Underneath this rock is a cave, which may probably have been the granary of Araunah's threshing-floor #1Ch 21:22

2. The altar of incense#Ex 30:1-10 called also "the golden altar" #Ex 39:38 Nu 4:11 stood in the holy place "before the veil that is by the ark of the testimony." On this altar sweet spices were continually burned with fire taken from the brazen altar. The morning and the evening services were commenced by the high priest offering incense on this altar. The burning of the incense was a type of prayer#Ps 141:2 Re 5:8 8:3,4 This altar was a small movable table, made of acacia wood overlaid with gold#Ex 37:25,26 It was 1 cubit in length and breadth, and 2 cubits in height. In Solomon's temple the altar was similar in size, but was made of cedar-wood#1Ki 6:20 7:48 overlaid with gold. In#Eze 41:22 it is called "the altar of wood." Comp. #Ex 30:1 -6 In the temple built after the Exile the altar was restored. Antiochus Epiphanes took it away, but it was afterwards restored by Judas Maccabaeus (1 Macc. 1:23 4:49) Among the trophies carried away by Titus on the destruction of Jerusalem the altar of incense is not found, nor is any mention made of it in#Heb 9:1ff It was at this altar Zacharias ministered when an angel appeared to him#Lu 1:11 It is the only altar which appears in the heavenly temple#Isa 6:6 Re 8:3,4