

The mystery of altars – Part 1

Altars Are Gateways for The Spirit Realm

For it came to pass when the flame went up toward heaven from the altar, that the angel of the Lord ASCENDED IN THE FLAME OF THE ALTAR (Jud. 13:20).

There are certain places that are most significant in the spirit realm. They act as contact and entrance points, pathways, and gateways to the spirit realm. ALTARS and thrones are two such entities.

Abraham raised up an altar unto the Lord in a place called Bethel. “And he (Abraham) removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel...and there he built an altar unto the Lord, and called upon the name of the Lord,” Gen. 12:8.

He later revisited the altar he raised at Bethel, Gen. 13:1,3,4. Two generations later, his grandson Jacob while running away from Esau passed through the exact location and tarried there for the night. As he slept, the heavens tore open, and he had a Divine visitation. A pathway had been opened by Abraham into the spirit realm. Hence, as he slept on that spot, angels of God ascended and descended upon him through the night. When he woke up, Jacob immediately raised up an altar. (Gen. 28:18-19).

What Jacob experienced was not just one angel but a traffic of angels ascending and descending not just on him but on that very spot. Traffic is meant for roadways and pathways. When Abraham raised an altar generation ago, a pathway was opened in the spirit. That place became a gateway. Jacob himself as he awoke declared: “This is none other but the house of God, AND THIS IS THE GATE OF HEAVEN,” (Gen. 28: 17b).

In Genesis 35, we see Jacob going back to that same spot. “So, Jacob came to...Bethel...And he built there an altar and called the place Elbethel...” (Gen. 35:6-7).

Note what happened next: “And God appeared unto Jacob again...and blessed him.” (Gen. 35:9). So, Bethel was a gateway to Heaven. It was the raising of an

altar that made it so. The patriarchs seemed to understand this very well. Hence, they built so many; Abraham raised at least, four. (Gen.12:6 and 7; Gen. 12:8; Gen. 13:18; Gen. 22:9). Isaac, at least one- (Gen. 26:25), Jacob at least two – (Gen. 33:20 and Gen. 35:7). More importantly, whenever, and wherever God appeared to them at a spot, they would raise an altar there establishing it as a gateway. You should do likewise.

And the Lord appeared unto Abram, and said, unto thy seed will I give this land: AND THERE BUILDED HE AN ALTAR UNTO THE LORD, WHO APPEARED UNTO HIM. (Gen. 12:7).

When God sent an angel to destroy Jerusalem, David's eyes saw the angel standing between Heaven and earth. It was at that same spot that David was ordered to set up an altar unto the Lord (1 Chron. 21:16-18). It is also on that very spot that David instructed Solomon to raise the altar of God's temple. "Then Solomon began to build the house of the Lord at Jerusalem in mount Moriah WHERE THE LORD APPEARED UNTO DAVID HIS FATHER..." (2 Chron.3:1).

In so doing, this altar became established as a major gateway. So much so that when Solomon offered, God also appeared to him (1 Kings 9:1-3). Moreover, the cloud of God's glory filled the house so that the priests could not stand to minister (I Kings 8:10-11). In another instance, Solomon in a dream was handed so many blessings. Note what Solomon did: "And Solomon awoke; and behold, it was a dream. And he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of covenant of the LORD and offered up burnt offerings..." (I Kings 3:15).

The mystery of altars – Part 2

Whenever God reveals Himself to you, you are meant to raise an altar there. Whenever God speaks to you in the dream or otherwise presenting gifts, blessings, and favour, you need to secure those blessings by going straight to your established altar or raising an altar there at that spot and sealing the revelation with a sacrificial offering. You can sacrifice your money as a vow, your time, your food, your worship, etc. But for goodness' sake, do something. Do not just allow that sacred visitation to pass by without maximising the purpose of such a visitation. So, it is not a physical altar.

When God's angel revealed himself unto Manoah and her husband, Sampson's parents, they did not waste time to raise an altar and offer a sacrifice: (Jud. 13:19). Gideon did likewise when he had an angelic encounter. He said to the angel: "Depart not hence, I pray thee, until I come unto thee and bring forth my present and set it before thee." (Judges 6:18a).

Altars As Fountains of Power

Jesus our forerunner went every morning to His established place of prayer in the Mount of Olives. That was His personal altar. As a result of daily visitation at His altar, He experienced constant open heavens (Mk.1:35).

In the history of mankind, He stands out as the most significant personality of all times. His secret was that He drew power and strength daily from His personal altar. No man is greater than the altar that he is connected to. You too need to raise up your own altar that is connected to the Lamb's altar in Heaven where you run to daily to draw strength.

Altars Act as Control Towers and Transmitting Stations

And the whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled at SHILOH and set up the tabernacle of the congregation there. AND THE LAND WAS SUBDUED BEFORE THEM (Josh.18:1).

When God's altar was raised at Shiloh, the result of that was that the entire land was subdued before them. Because altars, act as control towers, Moses built an altar in the top of the hill when fighting against Amalek (Exo. 17:15). It was in that same hill with the help of Aaron and Hur that he lifted his hands unto the Lord, while in the valley Joshua and his troops slew Amalek with the edge of the sword. The altar of prayer he raised became the control tower for the victory below for Joshua and his troops.

When Noah came down from the ark, he built an altar unto the Lord, and offered sacrifices and the Lord smelled a sweet savour. The odour of that sacrifice transmitted appeasement and a stay of any further judgment by flooding on future generations. Just as the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross of Calvary transmits mercy, when altars of prayer are raised, incense goes into the atmosphere: "...And there was given unto him much incense that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God..." (Rev. 8:3-4).

These odours released into the atmosphere fumigate the environment from demonic entities. They make the environment uncondusive for demons to dwell therein. "Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice," (Psalm 141:2). There is a very intriguing scripture I want us to consider now: "The king of Moab took his oldest son who would have been the next king and sacrificed him as a burnt offering on the wall. So, there was anger against Israel, and the Israelites withdrew and returned to their own land." (2Kings 3:26-27) N.L.T

The Moabites worshipped Molech amongst other gods. Molech required the first-born son or daughters from its worshippers. The king of Moab was simply enacting and fulfilling this requirement. As a result of this sacrifice, which he did on the wall i.e., in full view of, and facing the oncoming armies of Israel, great indignation was released against Israel so much, so they were forced to withdraw. Israel was smitten. He raised an altar that transmitted Judgment against his enemies.

Israel could not withstand the satanic attack released from this diabolical altar. Why? Because one man offered a higher sacrifice to the devil than what an entire nation were prepared to do. Are you aware that the spirit realm is open to the highest bidder? Any altar that transmits dominance takes control.

What are you doing about it? I challenge you to raise up a formidable altar unto the Lord that will transmit God's glory and fear over your locality. Raise up a formidable altar that will enable the Church of Jesus Christ take control and be in the lead politically, financially, and otherwise.

The mystery of altars – part 3

Input Determines Output

Roads are for cars to drive on. Rivers are for ships to sail.

Rails are for trains to ply on. Hospitals are for patients.

Maternity wards are for pregnant women to be delivered. Stadiums are for athletes and sportsmen.

Runways are for airplanes to land and take off.

Altars are for spirits to ascend and descend.

Legacy format detected for design:

TEMPLATE NOT FOUND FOR

The moment an altar is raised, spirit beings hover in the atmosphere.

If it is unto the Lord, angels of God superintend.

If unto the devil, demons superintend.

What brings those spirits out of the atmosphere to the earth realm is sacrifice.

Spirits receive and take goods and services from earth to Heaven.

These services are offered as various sacrifices.

Then in return, they also from Heaven reciprocate with blessings back to the earth.

Negative altars attract negative forces and demand negative sacrifices.

As such, they attract God's wrath. The three major things that attract God's wrath are (1) Idolatry; (2) Shedding of blood especially human blood; and (3) Sexual perversion /immorality.

When all these are done on one altar, the result is disastrous. This is precisely what satanists do.

They even break into church buildings to carry out these very perversions on altars originally raised unto the LORD to desecrate and release God's judgment.

We should not be ignorant of the devices of the devil. Even the altar of your own local church is not beyond desecration.

Multiple satanic altars in the land increase the traffic of demons.

The sacrifice of blood empowers an altar far beyond any other sacrifice.

Power is the ultimate purpose of an altar. Everybody likes power because it makes you feel in control.

Those that can drive often do not like another person to drive them. Why? They like to be in control.

Solomon did what no other man hitherto had done: "A thousand burnt offerings did Solomon offer upon that altar". (1 Kings 3:4b).

That night God appeared to him in a dream and offered him an open cheque.

By this sacrifice, he became world famous, rich beyond measure and wiser than any man. It is obvious that input determines output.

He later dedicated the altar of the newly built temple with a mind boggling 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep (1 Kings 8:63). God showed up again (1 Kings 9:2).

His commitment to God's altar did not end here with these two extraordinary sacrifices.

"And three times in a year did Solomon offer burnt offerings and peace offerings upon the altar which he built unto the Lord..." (1 Kings 9:25).

Altars Are Spiritual Banks

Where you deposit prayers, instructions, commands, praises, intercession and withdraw strength, wisdom, direction, revelations, mercy etc. As such, altars act as recording and retrieval systems.

They receive the words spoken to them, record them and play them back into the environment or to the group of people targeted. Altars are prayer banks.

And behold there came a man of God...unto Bethel...and he cried against the altar; thus saith the word of the Lord, and said.

O altar, altar, thus saith the Lord, Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee. (1 Kings 13:1-2).

When this prophet spoke to this altar, it recorded those words 200 years later those exact words spoken were fulfilled to the letter. (2 Kings 23:15-17).

Altars have ears. They hear. They record words spoken to them.

They receive instructions and commands given, because behind the physical altars are spirit beings and angels.

“And another angel came out from the altar” (Rev. 14: 18a). (Rev. 8:3a).

And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar. (Luke 1:11).

The duty of these angels is to obey the commands that line up with God’s Word.

“Bless the Lord, ye his angels that excel in strength that do his commandments, HEARKENING UNTO THE VOICE OF HIS WORD.” (Psa. 103:20).

In Deuteronomy 27, Israel was ordered on entering the Promised Land to raise up an altar in Mt. Ebal. Deut. 27:4-6.

Six tribes were to release curses on the inhabitants of the land that obeyed God’s Word.

The other six tribes were to release curses on all those who went contrary to His Word.

The altar stood as a recording device and retrieval system. Do you have an altar?

What words, commands and instructions are you giving to your altar? This is how you take dominion over a land.

The mystery of altars – Part 4

These Scriptures are most revealing: First, he stood in the gateway into the city; before he entered physically, he entered it spiritually.

Before he took dominion physically, he took it spiritually.

Second, he used divination. In divination, altars are raised. This is clearly seen in Balaam’s modus.

Num. 22:7 helps us to know he was into divination. Num. 23:1-2, 13, 14, 27-30, reveal that he built a total of 21 altars, offered a total of 21 oxen and 21 rams on them.

So, for the king of Babylon to effectively use divination, he had to, as a matter of necessity, raise altars to the devil.

Thirdly, before they fired physical arrows, they released them spiritually.

Legacy format detected for design:

TEMPLATE NOT FOUND FOR

Jameson Fausset Brown's Commentary says: "Divination by arrows is here referred to -They were put into a quiver marked with the names of particular places to be attacked..." Again, God revealed in Ezekiel how an image or altar of jealousy had been placed at the entrance of the Temple of God to provoke Him. (Ezekiel 8:5).

The purpose of placing that altar there was to cause God's presence to go far from the sanctuary. (v6).

When altars of darkness are placed at gateways or entry points into cities, they usher demonic traffic into the cities.

As such, gateways of cities and nations are under constant contention.

They represent ports or doorways for demonic forces to invade the land.

God's people need to constantly visit such entrance points periodically, cleansing the entrance points, demolishing altars raised, and raising fresh altars unto the Lord.

In the city I reside, I do this periodically, mostly in the night when people are asleep.

Occasionally, I have taken permission to enter institutions that serve as gateways such as the airport, seaport, television and radio stations, stadiums etc. for this very purpose. (Isa. 28:5, 6).

Why do you think the Church has so little influence? It lacks both political and economic control in the land.

The Church lacks a voice in the land because it does not understand the principles of taking dominion and control at the gates.

While you are busy sleeping, they are visiting these major gateways in the midnight hours, carrying out acts of divination and sorcery.

The true landlords in every nation and city are the men who raise altars in the gateways.

As already seen, the king of Moab sacrificed his son on the walls of Moab. Altars are not just raised anyhow. They are strategically raised.

David strategically raised the altar of God's temple at the site, where God revealed Himself to him.

The Church is so busy having Church that it has failed to be the altar it is supposed to be, as the early Church was.

The Need to Raise Multiple Altars unto The Lord In Each City And Nation

I visualise God on His throne, radiating with glory, light and splendour and a blanket in the mid-heavens or a sheet spread over your city and nation hindering and blocking the light and glory of God from penetrating and reaching your land.

Further visualise a scenario of altars being raised unto the Lord on earth below all over your city and all over your nation. See each of these altars igniting and emitting fire into the atmosphere.

Envision the fire from each of these altars ascending to the blanket in mid heavens and making a small hole.

The more altars raised, the more holes are perforated in the blanket and the more of God's light and glory is now able to shine through these perforations and His glory rays hit the earth below.

As the glory rays hit the earth, transformation begins to take place.

If multiple altars are raised, they cause perforations in the heavens, so numerous that the blanket tears and God's glory breaks forth in its fullness. That is full-scale revival. That is what Isaiah cried for:

Oh, that thou wouldest rend the heavens, that thou wouldest come down... As when the melting fire burneth, the fire causeth...to make thy name known to thine adversaries, that the nations may tremble at thy presence. (Isa. 64:1-2).

If one major altar is raised in the heart of your city or nation, an altar that burns constantly and emits so much fire and heat, equal to that of many multiple altars, this altar will not make just one tiny perforation in the blanket. It will tear and rend the heavens open.

The mystery of altars – Part 5

What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you... (1 Cor. 6:19).

Ultimately, We All Are Altars of The Living God

Every temple has an altar. Your heart is God's altar. Every one of us is to be portable moving altars of God. The Ark of the Covenant, in the Old Testament had staves which enabled it to be carried from one place to another on the shoulders of the priests. The altar of incense and the brazen altar could be dismantled for convenience and transported from place to place. The sum total of all that has been said, is that God wants you and I to be living, moving altars carrying the fragrance of the Lord everywhere we go, transmitting and sending signals of His majesty wherever we dwell and opening up gateways, drawing down power, taking control and dominion over the jurisdiction we find ourselves, depositing and recording prayers, fasting, worship, money, etc. and retrieving grace, honour, strength and glory.

Now thanks be unto God, which always causes us to triumph in Christ, and makes manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place (2 Cor. 2:14).

The Power of Your Personal Altar

In the first place as earlier said, as believers our body is the temple of the Holy Ghost. 1Cor.6:19, meaning you're automatically a mobile altar. However, scriptures teach the importance of us having a location as our personal altar.

Ezra 3:2 reads, "Then Joshua the son of Jozadak and his brethren the priests.... arose and built the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings on it..."

Just as rebuilding the altar and making sacrifices was very important to the Israelites, so it is to us. When we pray, we are making an offering to God; turning

away from our own lives and agenda to acknowledge God's sovereignty and influence over everything including those things that concern us. Prayer can transform our homes, workplaces, churches, schools, and communities; our health, our nation, government leaders and our marriages can all be affected by prayer if we use it. I want to make mention that Daniel had an altar of prayer; He prayed three times a day. Abraham also built a personal altar where he sought the Lord "Abraham gets up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the LORD: Gen. 19:27.

There is a reason why so much darkness is coming into our land and into our individual home and families. The wall is broken down. We need God to show us how to build up the wall again. We must create an atmosphere for Him to come and abide with us so that the real work of restoration and redemption can begin in our land. "I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none." (Ezekiel 22:30-31, NIV)

What conditions did God give David? He said, 'David, go build me an altar, and I will not just stop the destroying angel, but will remove the plague completely.' (2 Samuel 24:18-25).

When Elijah rebuilt the altar at Mount Carmel, this singular event caused ripples in the nations. According to 1 Kings 18:39 fire came down and fear came back to the house of God. When altars are repaired, God will judge wickedness in the land and in our families and a new season begins.

Building a prayer altar is foundational in our pursuit of God's Presence. It is the starting place, the consistent place, the fuelling place where we meet with God and create an environment for Him to come. This needs to happen personally, first. We then establish similar altars in our home as families and in our churches. It's from this place of personal encounter that we have the anointing and authority to counter the darkness in our communities and create a place for God to come and dwell.

Creating a sacred time and sacred place takes practice; it takes discipline. As we keep the fire burning in our own lives, we become the kindling for the corporate altars that must be established within our communities.

Prayer altars consist of reading God's Word, worship, listening, journaling, studying, waiting, and "soaking" in His Presence.

The mystery of altars – Part 6

Altars could be classified into four, mainly:

No man is greater than his altar. Show me your altar and the commitment you make therein, and I will tell you whom you are. Who you are today is a direct reflection of the altar you have raised. Your speed in life depends on the power of your altar. If you don't raise your own altar, you'll become a victim of another man's altar. What makes one man more powerful than another is the quantity and quality of sacrifices he offers consistently upon his altar. What makes one man of God supersede another can be traced to his personal altar life. Quite evidently, those families that take their altars seriously live more notable lives and stand out in the community. This, therefore, lends credence to the fact that one's personal altar is the taproot of his spiritual life. The deeper this taproot, the taller your life grows; the more resilient you get, the more you boom and flourish, and the more relevant you are to your world – just like the palm tree.

Finally, we learnt that it is sacrifice that makes an altar. Without sacrifices, an altar is powerless. There's no access to the spiritual that costs nothing! This is why spiritual men like David said, "I cannot appear before God empty-handed."

I think one of the most distinct symbols of Abraham's life was this thing called an altar. On four distinct occasions at four distinct stages in his pilgrimage, we are told that Abraham responded to God by building an altar. You read about the first one in Genesis, chapter 12:7 at Shechem. And then the next verse between Bethel and Ai. Then in chapter 13:18 at Hebron, he built another altar to God. And then the fourth time on a mountain called Moriah, this man, who was called the friend of God, built yet one more altar. And I want us to notice that all those earlier altars of sacrifice and surrender and faith, each one of those had been preparing Abraham for the moment when he would be called upon to make the supreme sacrifice.

And so, when Mount Moriah came, Genesis 22, Abraham had a track record with God and that's what enabled him to step out in faith and surrender. And, likewise,

each small step of surrender you take, it may be just getting out of bed in the morning, when the alarm clock goes off and getting up in time to spend some time with the Lord in His Word and in prayer.

You see, altars speak of sacrifice, of devotion, of surrender, of being consumed. They speak of a life that is wholly given up to the One for whom the altar is built. What sacrifices are you laying upon your altar? Your altar is the place you first dedicate your offerings, tithes, and your seeds to God before taking them to church. How seriously do you take your altar? The place you first lay out your plans ever before embarking on any project; the place where covenants are cut, and vows are made.

The mystery of altars – Part 7

Why has this been such a big deal to me?

- Because God will open a portal to Heaven in a place that's dedicated to Him.

A meeting point between human and spirit beings ensue: God cares about land.

He cares about places. When a place is dedicated to Him, you can feel the difference.

He will open a gateway to and from Heaven over that place, and you'll have supernatural encounters with Him there.

(Genesis 28:16-17) describes one such instance. A gate into the spirit world to make way for angelic traffic, a spiritual highway was opened.

Legacy format detected for design:

TEMPLATE NOT FOUND FOR

I believe there is an open portal to Heaven over my altar.

It may be a small one, but you would not believe how pregnant the atmosphere is there. It's saturated with God's glory.

- Because having a dedicated altar in a quiet place feeds your spirit's need for separation and solitude: Jesus was huge into taking time alone with God.

You can see this especially if you read through the Gospel of Mark.

It seems like almost every few verses in that book, you read something about Jesus taking the disciples and going away into a deserted place; Jesus going up to a mountain alone to pray; Jesus spending all night alone in prayer to God, over and over.

After ministry, after a big day, after a lot of excitement, etc. off goes Jesus to spend time alone with God.

He had a familiar prayer resort- His personal prayer altar. John 18: 1&2.

“When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples over the brook Cedron, where was a garden into which he entered and his disciples.

And Judas also, which betrayed him, knew the place: for Jesus oft times resorted thither with his disciples.”

The garden, which Jesus often went, was called Gethsemane, located on the Mount of Olives.

Repeatedly, you see Jesus going to this specific place for personal prayer. Luke 22:39-41; Luke 21: 37; John 8: 1&2. And Jesus is our example.

Making an altar in your home gives you a dedicated place to separate from the chaos of life and commune face to face with God.

How To Raise an Altar

- Locate a spot and make it a place of worship and consecration.
- Demolish old altars and repent over idolatry. In raising an altar unto the Lord, we must ensure that we are not building on an existing altar that was raised to Satan. That is why we begin with repentance.
- Hallow it by prayers. If you are so led, you might further hallow it by pouring anointing oil, wine, or water on it. Gen. 28: 18; Gen. 35: 14; Lev. 8: 10
- Call upon the name of the Lord and ask the three to bear record on earth and in heaven to take note that you are raising an altar to Him on that spot. 1 John 5: 7&8.

Are you ready to do this, but you don't know how to start? Here's how to make an altar in your home:

- Pick a place that's quiet and away from everything else.
- Make it a place where you're not staring at piles of laundry or dirty dishes. Make it a place where you can hide from your kids, your spouse, your phone, your computer, or anything else that screams for attention.
- Clean it up. Believe it or not, the Holy Spirit rests on order, not on chaos. You will feel a tangible difference if you clean your spot out.

Even if you must start with a 2foot by 3foot spot on the floor, if that's all you can clean, do it anyway. Make your spot clean and orderly, no matter how tiny it is.

- Place your Bible and study materials in your altar, so you can always find them.

An altar is an instrument of legislation. The corporate altar of the church is the strongest legislature on earth. Matthew 16: 18.

In the realm of the spirit, there is a clear network of altars. The smaller altars network with the bigger and stronger ones.

An individual's personal altar links up with the community altar, which links with the overall altar ruling the territory or nation.

If you desire to have greater victory in your spiritual legislation, then begin to network with other "watchmen" in your location to raise territorial altars. They are stronger.

Through the corporate altar in your city, you can help defend and strengthen the territorial church.

God is building a people of power. From your altar, you can enforce God's judgment on the workers of iniquity in your nation.

Part 8

My personal altar happens to be in our upstairs parlour. I often get to it anytime between the hours of 2-5am. However, my entire house has been dedicated unto the Lord as an altar. Meaning I can pray freely in any room. Get connected to God like never before and watch work great things for you.

God bless you.