

“Living as a Worshiper – Building Altars” – Part 3

I. COMING TO AN ALTAR OF WORSHIP

- A. In the Old Testament the **first altars** were a PILE of ROCKS.
- B. **Later in the History** of Israel, God gave some very specific instructions to **Moses** concerning the construction of a **permanent altar** made with BRONZE metal within the **Tabernacle** grounds.
- C. Hundreds of years before, in the **life** of **ABRAHAM**, at each of the pivotal junctures in his life he built ALTARS.

II. ABRAM’S FIVE ALTARS OF WORSHIP

- A. The Altar of PROMISE: Accepting GOD’S promises.
- **Genesis 12:5-7 (NKJV)** *“Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan. ⁶ Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanites were then in the land. ⁷ Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.” **And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.**”*
 - Worshiping the **promise giver** reminds us of His POWER to PERFORM and His FAITHFULNESS to KEEP His promises.
- B. An Altar of INTIMATE Worship: Learning more of the PROMISER.
- **Genesis 12:8 (NIV)** *“From there he went on toward the **hills east of Bethel** and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. **There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the NAME of the LORD.**”*
 - Abram’s calling on the **NAME** of the **LORD** points to a GROWING KNOWLEDGE of God. The name of the LORD reflects His NATURE, His **person** and His CHARACTER.
- C. The Altar of COMMITMENT to God. (**Genesis 13:3-4**)
- **Genesis 13:3-4 (NKJV)** *“And he went on his journey from the South as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between*

*Bethel and Ai, ⁴ **to the place of the altar** which he had made there at first. And there Abram called on the name of the Lord.”*

1. By all accounts it appears **Abram** was **presumptuous** in his descent into Egypt DRIFTING outside of the WILL of God.
 2. And when he came out of Egypt he **RETURNED** to **Bethel** to the **place of His BEGINNINGS** at the **ALTAR!**
- D. The Altar of POSSESSION of the Promises. (**Genesis 13:14-18**)
- **Genesis 13:14-18 (NIV)** *“¹⁴ The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, “Look around from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west. ¹⁵ All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. ¹⁶ I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. ¹⁷ Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you.” ¹⁸ So Abram went to live near the great trees of Mamre at Hebron, where he pitched his tents. **There he built an altar to the LORD.**”*
1. AFTER Abraham had SEPARATED himself from **Lot** and his **herdsmen**, THEN Abraham **built another altar**.
 2. An **ALTAR** is WAITING for those who are WILLING to RID THEMSELVES of the LOTS that they THINK are so important.
 3. It’s ONE THING to have a REVELATION of a **PROMISE**. It’s ANOTHER thing to ACCEPT the **REVELATION** of the promise as **being YOURS**, and to CLAIM your **PROMISE**.
 4. He will **bring us to an ALTAR** at which we CONFIRM our **acceptance** of the **implications** of the **promise** and COMMIT our life to the PURSUIT of the promise’s full outworking.
- E. The Altar of SURRENDER (at **MORIAH**) — **Genesis 22:2**
- **Genesis 22:2 (NKJV)** *“Then He said, “Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the **land of Moriah**, and **offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains** of which I shall tell you.”*
 - **2 Chronicles 3:1 (NKJV)** *“Now **Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem on Mount Moriah**, where the LORD had appeared to his father David, at the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.”*

1. Many scholars believe that Mt. **CALVARY** or **skull's Hill** (Golgotha) was the **SAME** mountain in the **land of Moriah** that **Isaac** was to be offered as a sacrifice.
 2. Moriah demands **ALL** of our **COMMITMENT** to **TOTAL SURRENDER** to the **Will** of God.
- **Hebrews 13:10 (NLT)** *"**We have an altar** from which the priests in the Tabernacle have no right to eat"*
 - **Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)** *"Let us therefore **come boldly** to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."*