



PRACTICALITY OF ALTARS (NOAH'S ALTAR)



key scripture:
Genesis 8:20
Genesis 9:17

In our previous study on altars we established that an altar is a platform or a place of contact or exchange where the spirit realm makes contact with the physical realm. It is a place of opportunity to connect with the spirit realm based on a legal ground.

For more preliminary understanding of altars refer to the devotional on Understanding Alters Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3 (Published in January 2024). In this study, we will focus on the Altar Noah built

Background: Noah and the Flood

Text: Genesis 8:20 - 9:17

After God destroyed the earth with flood, Noah, his family, and all the animals emerged from the ark into a completely new world. The first earth had been wiped away—they were likely in an entirely different place. This was the setting for a new beginning.

Noah's First Action: Building an Altar

Genesis 8:20: "Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it."

The bible didn't record that God instructed Noah to build an altar.

The Critical Question: Why Did Noah Build This Altar? The answer reveals the purpose of altars:

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- Noah built the altar to aid communication with God. Once Noah built the altar and offered sacrifice on it, God began communicating with him.
- To consecrate the new place to God
- As thanksgiving - for sparing their lives from the flood
- To mark a new beginning

The primary purpose of an altar is to aid communication/interaction between God and man, between heaven and earth.

For an altar to be effective, it requires two things:

The physical altar - the structure/place

The sacrifice - what is offered on the altar

Critical principle: If you have an altar without sacrifice, the altar becomes dead, ineffective, and useless.

What makes an altar powerful is the sacrifice placed on it. This is why the devil fights to prevent sacrifice on altars—because consistency of sacrifice over time is what activates the altar's power.

God's Response to Noah's Sacrifice

Genesis 8:21: "The Lord smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart, 'Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood.'"

Because of the sacrifice on Noah's altar, God made a promise:

- Never to destroy the earth with flood again
- To establish permanent cycles: seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night

The famous scripture about seedtime and harvest came into existence because of an altar with proper sacrifice.



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The Covenant Established Through the Altar

God's Pattern After Making Promises

When God says "I will not do this thing again because of you," His next step is always to establish a covenant.

Why?; To make His promise official and long-lasting - so the covenant will remind Him of what He said, even hundreds of years later.

Genesis 9:9-10: "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you, and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals."

The above scripture shows the scope of the covenant God established with Noah. Notice how comprehensive this covenant is:

With Noah directly

With descendants after him - people not yet in existence

With every living creature - birds, livestock, wild animals

With all living creatures on earth.

This is also why we preach the gospel to every creature - they are included in the covenant. When praying for nations, we pray for the animals, water bodies, and everything, because they are all included in the covenant.

The Sign of the Covenant The Rainbow Genesis 9:12-16

God established a visible, perpetual sign - the rainbow - so that:

He would always remember His covenant

Humanity would be reminded of God's faithfulness

The promise would remain for all generations to come

The rainbow appears whenever clouds come over the earth, exactly when flooding might occur, serving as God's reminder not to destroy the earth with flood.

It is evident from this study that God has an unchanging nature

The covenant established is so detailed and specific that no matter what generation comes, when you return to God's Word, you'll find it unchanged.



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God is a never-changing God who keeps His promises across all time. Even if the devil comes and says, "These people have sinned—destroy them with flood," God's response will be: "I already made a covenant. I settled this matter. I cannot go back on My word because the covenant is in existence."

Application: Altars Today

In modern spiritual application, particularly in intercessory ministry:

If you have an altar but no one consistently pray on it the altar loses its power, becomes ineffective and eventually dies.

The sacrifice in our (IWMI) altars today is:

Consistent prayer

Fasting

Specific seed Sowing such as seed of Establishment and first fruit.

This is why the devil fights to prevent consistency - he knows that an altar without consistent sacrifice becomes powerless.

There are key Lessons About Altars that every intercessor must keep in mind.

- Altars are places of divine communication - where heaven meets earth
- Altars require sacrifice - without sacrifice, they are dead
- Consistency activates the power of an altar- regular sacrifice over time
- Altars lead to covenants - God establishes lasting promises through altar encounters
- Covenants are generational - they affect descendants and creation itself
- God never changes - He remembers and honours His covenantal promises

Conclusion

The story of Noah's altar teaches us that proper worship, sacrifice, and covenant relationship with God have generational impact. What happens at an altar doesn't just affect the present moment—it establishes patterns and promises that endure for all time.

When we understand altars properly, we recognize them not as religious rituals but as strategic points of divine communication and covenant establishment that shape the future of humanity and all creation.