

Message Three

**Praying at the Golden Incense Altar
for the Formation of an Army to Fight for God's Move on Earth**

Scripture Reading: Exo. 30:1-16; 2 Chron. 16:9; Heb. 7:25; Rev. 8:3-5; Eph. 4:13; 6:10-12

- I. The spiritual significance of the relationship between the incense altar and the expiation silver in Exodus 30:1-16 is that at the incense altar we pray for the formation of an army to fight for God's move on earth.**
- II. The tabernacle signifies God embodied in His chosen people for His move on earth; the tabernacle and everything related to it is for God's move—25:8-9:**
 - A. The prayer at the incense altar is for God's move; because of all the enemies that oppose God's move, God moves by fighting—Num. 10:35.
 - B. In particular, God's people need to pray for the formation of an army to fight for God's move on earth to accomplish His purpose—Eph. 6:10-12.
 - C. This intercessory prayer issues in the numbering of God's people to form an army to fight against God's enemies, who oppose His move, that is, against the rulers and authorities in the heavenlies, typified by the inhabitants of the good land—Exo. 30:11-16; 23:23; Eph. 6:12.
 - D. When God has such an army, He is able to move on earth for His interests.
- III. According to the type of the expiation silver, the Christ by whom we fight is the ascended Christ, the Christ in the heavens—1:20-23; Exo. 30:12-13:**
 - A. The half shekel as a heave offering typifies the ascended Christ experienced by God's people and given by them as the expiation silver—v. 13; Eph. 1:21; 4:10; Heb. 4:14; 7:26; 8:1.
 - B. In order to fight the spiritual warfare, our experience of Christ must reach the highest point, the point where we are sitting with Him in the heavenlies and are fighting not in ourselves but in the ascended Christ—Eph. 1:20-21; 2:6; 6:10-12; S. S. 4:8.
- IV. The spiritual significance of the age of the males qualified to be in the army is that if we would be in the army to fight for God's move, we need maturity—Exo. 30:14; Heb. 5:14—6:1; Phil. 3:15; 1 Cor. 2:6:**
 - A. The intercession offered at the incense altar is for the growth and maturity of the believers so that an army can be formed—Eph. 4:13; 6:10-12.
 - B. Only when such an army is formed will God be able to move on earth for His purpose; apart from an army formed of mature ones, there is no way for God to move—4:13; 6:10-12.
 - C. The half-shekel of silver to be paid by every male over the age of twenty signifies that it takes maturity in life to fight the spiritual warfare—Exo. 30:13-14:
 1. In order to be in the army to fight for God's move, we need to be strong in spirit and grow until we come to the spiritual age of twenty—Eph. 4:15.
 2. To be transformed is to be changed in our natural life; to be matured is to be filled with the divine life that changes us—Heb. 6:1.

3. God will sovereignly use persons, things, and events to empty us of everything that has filled us and to take away every preoccupation so that we may have an increased capacity to be filled with God—Luke 1:53; Matt. 5:6; Rom. 8:28-29.
- D. In the Lord's recovery today, there is the desperate need of maturity; there is an urgent need for more of us to grow, reach maturity, and thereby become qualified to be formed into an army—Heb. 6:1; Phil. 3:15, note 1.
- E. The more we pray at the incense altar, the more we will realize that the need for maturity is desperate, and the greater will be the urgency to pray for the growth in life unto maturity—1 Cor. 2:6; 3:1-2; 14:20; 16:13.