

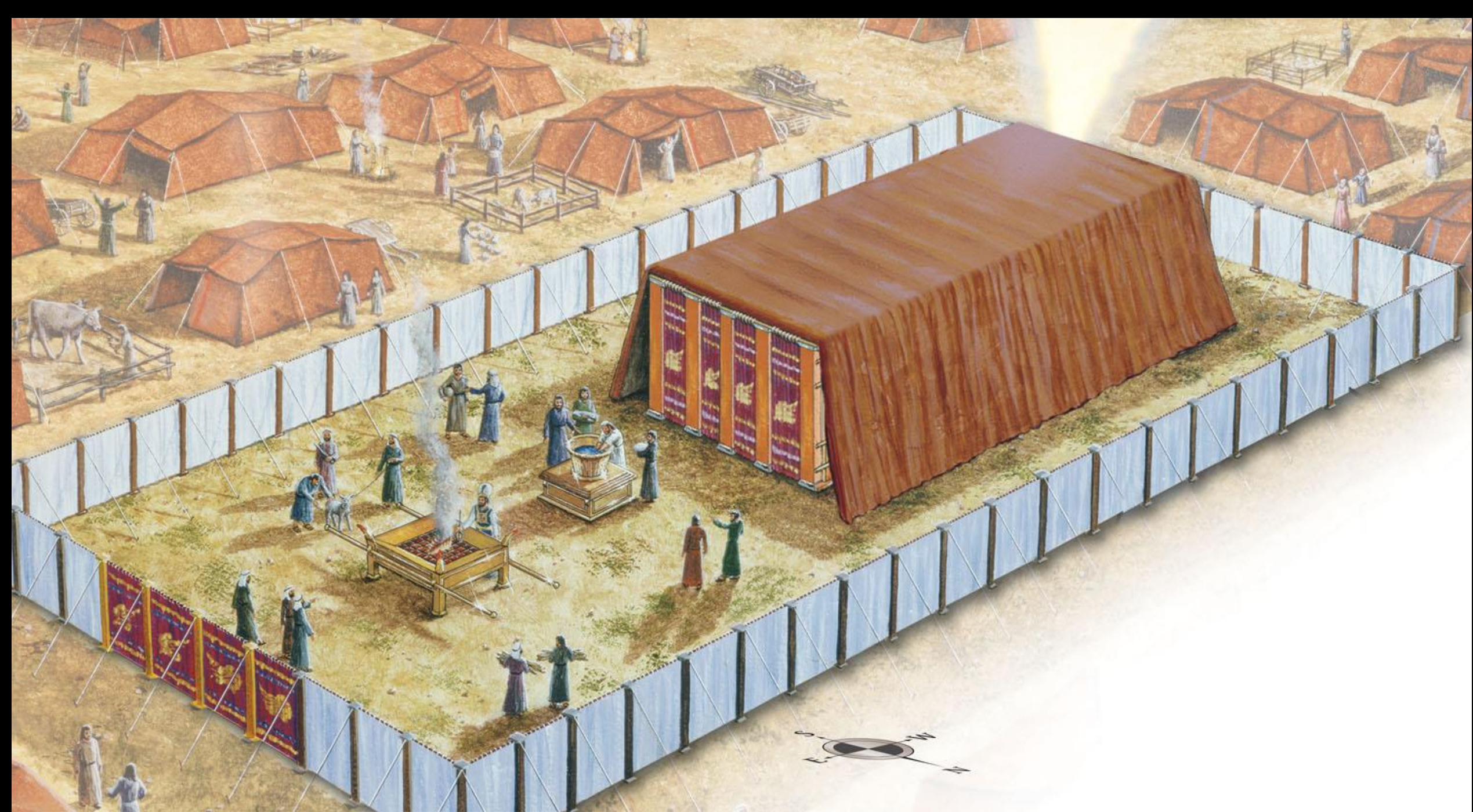
Exodus 30:1-10 & 34-38

## 3 Steps To Close Communion With Jesus



# Background/Context

- 1446 BC, nation of Israel delivered from 400 years of Egyptian slavery; God's appointed leader – Moses
- Moses directed by God to lead Israel to desert region in S. Arabia; directed to Mt. Sinai
- There Moses shown visually, and given instructions verbally, for movable worship complex called Wilderness Tabernacle
- God's priorities with Tabernacle; reveal Himself, extend invitation for relationship/fellowship, invite to know
- In "Holy Place", there furnishing called, "Altar of Incense"
- Here Incense burned; gave off sweet aroma and smoke rising was symbol of prayers rising to God





# Accepting The Invitation To Close Communion

- (Ex. 30:1-6 & vv.34-35) Moses given command to build smaller Altar but similar to Bronze Altar in Courtyard
- Altar: 1 ½ ft. long, 1 ½ ft. wide, 3 ft. high, made out of Acacia wood covered in pure gold (had golden rings and poles for transport), each corner had metal “horn” extending upward
- Very special incense burned; Stacte (myrrh resin), Onycha (shell found near Dead Sea), Galbanum (fennel plant), Frankincense (Boswellia tree)
- The presence of this Altar; symbol of relationship, fellowship, communion, communication, and friendship
- One party reaching out for connection with another

- Is. 55:1 & 3, “Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. (v.3) Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you...”



# Acknowledging The Identification With Close Communion

- (Ex. 30:7 & vv. 9-10) Altar of Incense pointed directly to Jesus, the Messiah
- High Priest was Moses' brother, Aaron; he intercessor/mediator for the people
- Every morning/evening, offered incense to God on Altar
- This symbol of ministry of Intercession of Jesus; He is the ultimate Mediator between God and people
- Because of Jesus and His sacrificial life and death, we can have personal relationship with God and commune with Him

- Heb. 7:25, “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”
- I Tim. 2:5, “For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all,…”





# Activating The Imperatives For Close Communion

- (Ex. 30:7-8) Altar symbol of communion, fellowship, and communication between the Creator-Savior God and us
- The burning of incense was continual and perpetual; was to be lived out consistently, faithfully, daily
- Incense, symbol of prayer ascending to God; this to be lifestyle of believer; constant connection with Jesus
- Growing closer to Jesus is consistent lifestyle choice lived out daily
- Believer lives daily with awareness of God's presence and is in constant communication with Him

- Col. 4:2, “Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;...”
- I Thess. 5:17, “Pray without ceasing.”
- Ps. 141:2, “Let my prayer be set before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.”

<b>As</b>	<b>ADORATION</b> — Praise for who God is and his love for us.
<b>The</b>	<b>THANKSGIVING</b> — Gratitude for our blessings.
<b>Christian</b>	<b>CONFESSION</b> — Admitting our sins and burdens.
<b>I</b>	<b>INTERCESSION</b> — Praying for others.
<b>Pray</b>	<b>PETITION</b> — Praying for ourselves