



# **THE PRAYER ALTAR**

**ASHFORD – STEP OUT IN THE SPIRIT**



# INTRO....

All over the world, homes, streets, villages, towns and cities are in a spiritual battle of ownership. Like Elijah to Israel on Mount Carmel, the question is will you bow to the Almighty God or to other gods?

We are in the Last Days where great darkness threatens to engulf the whole planet. Will you stand and fight or run and hide?



## **Isaiah 60:1-3**

*Arise, shine;*

*For your light has come!*

*And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you.*

*<sup>2</sup> For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth,*

*And deep darkness the people;*

*But the LORD will arise over you,*

*And His glory will be seen upon you.*

*<sup>3</sup> The Gentiles shall come to your light,*

*And kings to the brightness of your rising.*



We are living in a world where many people are in darkness. The bible describes the enemy as the prince of darkness. People's minds, paradigms and worldviews are full of darkness. However the scriptures tell us that we the redeemed are the light of the world. The people of God are called to bring illumination to those who are held captive and overwhelmed by darkness



Many years ago the Lord granted me a vision of the nation I live in. There were many groups of people in numbers I can best describe as fives, fifties, five hundreds and five thousands. Each group was praying the Lord's Prayer. Over each praying unit was a visible fire ball of light which glowed brightly as the people prayed. The balls of fire were all the same size irrespective of the team numbers. As I looked, I saw the words Healing and Light as the whole nation was covered in LIGHT and looked like a dazzling Christmas tree. I believe the Lord gave me a visual strategy for taking over regions, cities and nations which I will discuss later.



# WHAT IS AN ALTAR?

- Matthew 6:6

*But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.*

- Exodus 25:22

*There I will meet with you and, from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are upon the ark of the Testimony, I will speak intimately with you of all which I will give you in commandment to the Israelites.*



# WHAT IS AN ALTAR

- Exodus 20: 23-24

*You shall not make [gods to share] with Me [My glory and your worship]; gods of silver or gods of gold you shall not make for yourselves. <sup>24</sup> An altar of earth you shall make to Me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen. In every place where I record My name and cause it to be remembered I will come to you and bless you.*



- The biblical definition of an altar is multilayered and broad. For the sake of this study, I will define an altar as:
- The place, platform and principle where Man communes with God tangibly so that communication flows both ways. This facilitates a living, viable and dynamic relationship between humanity and divinity. The Altar is a place of worship, sacrifice, connection and an embassy of the Kingdom.



- In the Old Testament God gave special instructions to the Israelites through Moses and others how the altar was to be built and what to do with it. We find that locations and places of altars were important for Abraham, Isaac and Jacob during their sojourn in Canaan and subsequently for the nation Israel. On these altars sacrifices were made to God and heaven would respond with instructions and blessings.



In the New Testament the principle remains and the Believer is now called the Temple of God. This implies that Christians are mobile altars of worship and wherever they are sacrifices can be offered to God.

- **Leviticus 6:13.** *The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar: it shall never go out.*
- **Romans 12:1** *I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service.*
- **Hewbrew 13:15** *Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.*



- Christianity as a religion is not primarily a set of rules and regulations but a relationship. Every healthy bond needs time investment of spirit, body and soul to make it stay vibrant. This is the same in our alliance with God.
- In the Old Testament, the Tabernacle or Temple was the centre of worship for Israel. The centrepiece in the temple was the altar in the Holy of Holies where the Presence of God was. In the outer court, the Priesthood were required to offer daily sacrifice upon the altar and not allow the fire to ever go out. In the middle court of the temple was the lampstand which was continually lit whilst in the most inner court was the perpetual Presence of God.



All these are a parallel of the Christian life where our bodies are to continually offer God worship. We are to serve God from the heart where the perpetual Presence of the Holy Spirit resides. However to keep the fire burning, each Christian is required to bring the sacrifice of wilful submission to the Spirit....daily.

- **Luke 9:23** – *And He said to them all, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross DAILY, and follow me.*



# FOUR DIFFERENT TYPES OF ALTARS

## Personal Altar

- **Mark 1:35** – *and in the morning rising up a great while before day, Jesus went out and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.*

## Family Altar

- **Matthew 18:20** – *For where two or three are gathered together in my Name, there am I in the midst of them.*

## Church Altar

- **Acts 1:14** – *These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.*

## City/National Altar

- **1 Chronicles 7:14** – *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*



# THE PERSONAL ALTAR

Using the Prayer Life of Jesus as a model, let us examine this private altar.

- *Mark 6:46* – and when He had sent them away, He departed into a mountain to pray.
- *Luke 6:12* – and it came to pass in those days, that He went out into a mountain to pray and continued all night in prayer to God.
- *Luke 11:1* – and it came to pass, that, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, one of His disciples said unto Him, Lord teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples
- *Luke 3:21* – Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened.
- *Mark 3:13* – Afterward Jesus went up on a mountain and called out the ones He wanted to go with Him and they came to Him.



A glossary glance through the scriptures shows us that Jesus was a man of prayer. He was always in communion with the Father before, during and after ministering to people. This gives us a visual pattern for our own spiritual lives.

The Believer is like a lighthouse which emits light constantly. The energy and life needed by the Christian comes via the Altar. It is in the Presence of God that the Word comes alive, The Holy Spirit guides and power comes.





## The Ark of the Testimony

And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which *are* on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.

Exodus 25 vs 22



Then with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD; and he made a trench around the altar large enough to hold two seahs of seed.

1 Kings 18 vs 32

## The Drought Ends

- <sup>42</sup> So Ahab went up to eat and drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees, <sup>43</sup> and said to his servant, “Go up now, look toward the sea.” So he went up and looked, and said, “*There is nothing.*” And seven times he said, “Go again.”

1 Kings 18 42-45



- Then it came to pass the seventh *time*, that he said, “There is a cloud, as small as a man’s hand, rising out of the sea!” So he said, “Go up, say to Ahab, ‘Prepare *your chariot*, and go down before the rain stops you.’”<sup>45</sup> Now it happened in the meantime that the sky became black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain. So Ahab rode away and went to Jezreel.

- 1 Kings 18 42-45



- Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

- James 5 v 17 & 18



# The Context

Arise, shine;

For your light has come!

And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup>For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth,

And deep darkness the people;

But the LORD will arise over you,

And His glory will be seen upon you.

Isaiah 60:1-2

# The Context

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons..... **1 Tim 4:1**

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: <sup>2</sup> For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, <sup>4</sup> traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup>having a form of godliness but denying its power. **2Tim 3:1-5**

# The Context

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. [Matt 24:14](#)

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: [Matt 28:18-19](#)

# So should Christians look like this?



© Chris Radburn/PA Wire



**JOIN US  
FOR YACHTS AND MUSIC!**

**LONDON SCHOOL OF  
PRAYER & MINISTRY**

Or like this...?





**LONDON SCHOOL OF  
PRAYER & MINISTRY**

# Are you AWOL?

Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

<sup>2</sup> And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

<sup>3</sup> Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup> No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. **2 Tim 2:1-4**

# Go into all the World....

**Ye are the salt of the earth:** but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

**Ye are the light of the world.** A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

**Let your light so shine before men,** that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 5:13-16

# You are not on Holiday..!

And from the days of John the Baptist until the present time, the kingdom of heaven has endured violent **assault, and violent men seize it by force** [as a precious Prize — a share in the heavenly kingdom is sought with most ardent zeal and intense exertion]. **Matt 11:12**

- 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:
- 4 (For **the weapons of our warfare are not carnal**, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)
- 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; 2Cor 10:3-5

# 1. The NAME of JESUS

And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!. And he came out the same hour. **Acts 16:18**

Then Peter said, silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk!. **Acts 3:6**

# The NAME of JESUS

that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,

Phil 2:10

If you ask<sup>[a]</sup> anything in My name, I will do it.

John 14:14

## 2. The Blood of JESUS

“For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.... For it is the life of all flesh; the blood of it is for the life thereof ...”

Leviticus 17:11, 14 (Deuteronomy 12:23)

# The Blood

the blood of Jesus Christ his Son  
cleanseth us from all sin.” 1 John 1:7”...

“And they overcame him (Satan) by the  
blood of the Lamb, and by the word of  
their testimony ...” Revelation 12:11

# 3.The Holy Spirit

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me<sup>[a]</sup> in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8

And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness. Acts 4:31

# The WORD of GOD

The voice of the LORD is over the waters;  
The God of glory thunders;  
The LORD is over many waters.

<sup>4</sup>The voice of the LORD is powerful;  
The voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

<sup>5</sup>The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars,  
Yes, the LORD splinters the cedars of Lebanon.

<sup>6</sup>He makes them also skip like a calf,  
Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox.

<sup>7</sup>The voice of the LORD divides the flames of fire **Ps 29**

# ANGELS

Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge,  
Even the Most High, your dwelling place,

<sup>10</sup> No evil shall befall you,

Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;

<sup>11</sup> For He shall give **His angels charge over you,**

To keep you in all your ways.

<sup>12</sup> In their hands they shall bear you up,

Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

<sup>13</sup> You shall **tread upon** the lion and the cobra,

The young lion and the serpent **you shall trample underfoot.**

# ANGELS...

The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them.

The angel of the Lord surrounds those who fear him, and he delivers them.

God's angel sets up a circle of protection around us while we pray. **Psalm 34:7**

# Worship & Praise

The king “appointed those who sang to the Lord and those who praised Him in holy attire, as they went out before the army and said, ‘Give thanks to the Lord, for His lovingkindness is everlasting.’ When they began singing and praising, the Lord set ambushes against the [enemies], who had come against Judah; so they were routed” (2 Chron. 20:21-22 NASB).

# Worship & Praise

“But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them; and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were unfastened” (Acts 16:25-26).