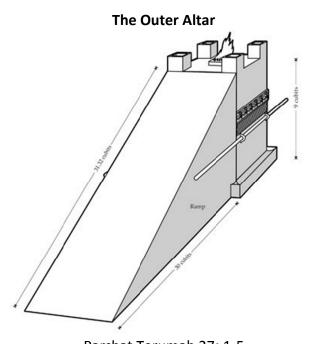
Commentaries on the Torah

Traditional Interpretations of the Bible

By Rabbi Moshe New

Two Altars - Two Hearts

Two altars -- one inner, one outer; one of gold, one of copper – as they correspond to two very different versions of our emotional experience of life.

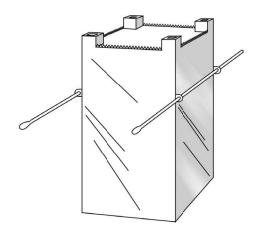


Parshat Terumah 27: 1-5

- 1. And you shall make the altar of acacia wood, five cubits long אָבְי שָׁשִּׁים חָמֵשׁ אַמּוֹת and five cubits wide; the altar shall be square, and its height אֶרֶךְ וְחָמֵשׁ אַמּוֹת רֹחַב רָבוּעַ יִהְיֶה הַמִּזְבֵּחַ [shall be] three cubits.
- 2. And you shall make its horns on its four corners; its horns בּ. וְעָשִּׂיתָ קַרְנֹתָיו עַל אַרְבַּע פִּנֹתִיו מִמֶּנוּ תִּהְיֶין shall be from it, and you shall overlay it with copper.
- 3. And you shall make its pots to remove its ashes, and its וְּעָשִּׂיתָ סִּירתָיו לְדַשְׁנוֹ וְיָעָיוֹ וּמְזְרְקֹתִיו וּמִזְלְגֹתָיו וּמַחְתֹּתִיו לְכָל כֵּלָיו תַּעֲשֶׂה נְחֹשֶׁת:
 shovels and its sprinkling basins and its flesh hooks and its scoops; you shall make all its implements of copper.
- 4. And you shall make for it a copper grating of netting work, דָּ וְעָשִּׂיתָ לוֹ מִכְבָּר מֵעֲשֵׂה רֶשֶׁת נְחֹשֶׁת וְעָשִּׂיתָ and you shall make on the netting four copper rings on its four עַל הַּרֶשֶׁת אַרְבַּע טַבְּעֹת נְחֹשֶׁת עַל אַרְבַּע ends.
- **5.** And you shall place it beneath the ledge of the altar from הּ. וְנָתַתָּה אֹתָהּ תַּחַת כַּרְכֹב הַמִּזְבֵּחַ מִלְּמָטָּה below, and the net shall [extend downward] until the middle of וְהִיְתָה הָרֶשֶׁת עַד חֲצִי הַמִּזְבַּחַ: the altar.



The Inner Altar



Parshat Tetzaveh 30: 1-10

- 1. You shall make an altar for bringing incense up in smoke; you א. וְעָשִּׂיתָ מִזְבֵּחַ מִקְטַר קְטֹרֶת עֲצֵי שִּׁטִּים shall make it out of acacia wood.
- 2. It shall be one cubit long and one cubit wide, a square, and ב. אַפָּה אָרְכּוֹ וְאַפָּה רָחְבּוֹ רָבוּעַ יִהְיֶה וְאַפְּתַיִם two cubits high; its horns shall be [one piece] with it.
- 3. You shall overlay it with pure gold, its top, its walls all around, גּ. וְצִפִּיתָ אֹתוֹ זָהָב טָהוֹר אֶת גַּגּוֹ וְאֶת קִירֹתָיוּ and its horns; and you shall make for it a golden crown all סָבִיב וְאֶת קַרְנֹתָיו וְעָשִׂיתָ לּוֹ זֵר זָהָב סָבִיב: around.
- 4. You shall make two golden rings for it underneath its crown אָ מָב תַּעֲשֶׂה לּוֹ מִתַּחַת לְזֵרוֹ עַל on its two corners, you shall make [them] on its two sides, so שְׁתֵּי צַלְעֹתָיו תַּעֲשֶׂה עַל שְׁנֵי צִדְּיו וְהָיָה לְבָתִּים לְבַדִּים לָשֵׂאת אֹתוֹ בָּהֵמָּה: לְבַדִּים לָשֵׂאת אֹתוֹ בָּהַמָּה:
- 5. You shall make the poles out of acacia wood and overlay ה. וְעָשִׂיתָ אֶת הַבַּדִּים עֲצֵי שִׁטִּים וְצִפִּיתָ אֹתָם them with gold.
- 6. And you shall place it in front of the dividing curtain, which is וּ נְנַתַּתָּה אֹתוֹ לִפְנֵי הַפָּרֹכֶת אֲשֶׁר עַל אֲרֹן הָעֵדֶת upon the Ark of Testimony, in front of the ark cover, which is לְפְנֵי הַכַּפֹּרֶת אֲשֶׁר עַל הָעֵדֶת אֲשֶׁר אָנָעד לְךָּ upon the testimony, where I will arrange to meet with you.
- 7. Aaron shall make incense of spices go up in smoke upon it; זְּ וְהָקְטִיר עָלָיו אַהֶּרֹן קְטֹרֶת סַמִּים בַּבּקֶר בַּבֹּקֶר every morning when he sets the lamps in order, he shall make it בְּהֵיטִיבוֹ אֶת הַנֵּרֹת יַקְטִירֶנָּה: go up in smoke.
- 8. And when Aaron kindles the lights in the afternoon, he shall ח. וּבְהַגְעְלֹת אַהֶּרֹן אֶת הַנֵּרֹת בֵּין הָעַרְבַּיִם make it go up in smoke, continual incense before the Lord for יַקְטִירֶנָּה קְטֹרֶת תָּמִיד לִפְנֵי יְ־הֹוָ־ה לְדרֹתֵיכֶם: your generations.
- 9. You shall offer up on it no alien incense, burnt offering, or טָּ. לֹא תַעֲלוּ עָלָיו קְטֹרֶת זָרָה וְעֹלָה וּמִנְחָה וְנֵסֶךְ meal offering, and you shall pour no libation upon it.
- י. וְכָּפֶּר אַהָּרֹן עַל קַרְנֹתָיו אַחַת בַּשָּׁנָה מְדַם with the blood of the sin offering of the atonements, once a יַבְּפֶּרִים אַחַת בַּשָּׁנָה יְכַפֵּר עָלִיו with the blood of the sin offering of the atonements, once a חַשַּאת הַכִּפְּרִים אַחַת בַּשָּׁנָה יְכַפֵּר עָלִיו year he shall effect atonement upon it for your generations; it is a holy of holies to the Lord.



Summery

Altar:	Inner Altar	Outer Altar
Described In:	Exodus 30: 1-10	Exodus 27: 1-5
Made of:	Gold	Copper
Used for:	Incense	Animal sacrifice
Location:	Kodesh	Courtyard

The Incense

Parshat Ki Tisa 30: 34-38

- **34.** And the Lord said to Moses: "Take for yourself aromatics, לד. וַיֹּאמֶר יְ־הֹוֶ־ה אֶל מֹשֶׁה קַח לְךְ סַמִּים נָּטָף [namely] balsam sap, onycha and galbanum, aromatics and pure וּשְׁחֵלֶת וְחֶלְבְּנָה סַמִּים וּלְבֹנָה זַכָּה בַּד בְּבַד יִהֹיֶה:
- **35.** And you shall make it into incense, a compound according to לה. וְעָשִּׂיתָ אֹתָהּ קְטֹרֶת רֹקַח מַּגְשֵׂה רוֹקֵח the art of the perfumer, well blended, pure, holy.
- **36.** And you shall crush some of it very finely, and you shall set לו. וְשְׁחַקּתָּ מִמֶּנָה הָדֵק וְנָתַתָּה מְמֶנָה מְמֶנָה לְפְנֵי some of it before the testimony in the Tent of Meeting, where ו הָעֵדָת בְּאֹהֶל מוֹעֵד אֲשֶׁר אִוּעֵד לְךְ שָׁמָּה קֹדֶשׁ will arrange meetings with you; it shall be to you a holy of קָדָשִׁים תִּהְיֶה לָכֶם: holies.
- **37.** And the incense that you make, you shall not make for לז. וְהַקְּטֹרֶת אֲשֶׁר תַּעֲשֶׂה בְּמַתְכֻּנְתָּהּ לֹא תַעֲשׂוּ yourselves according to its formula; it shall be holy to you for לָבֶם קֹדֶשׁ תִּהְיֶה לְךְ לִַי־הֹוָ־ה: the Lord.
- **38.** Any person who makes anything like it, to smell it[s לח. אִישׁ אֲשֶׁר יַצְשֶׂה כָמוֹהָ לְהָרִיחַ בָּהּ וְנִכְרַת fragrance], shall be cut off from his people.

