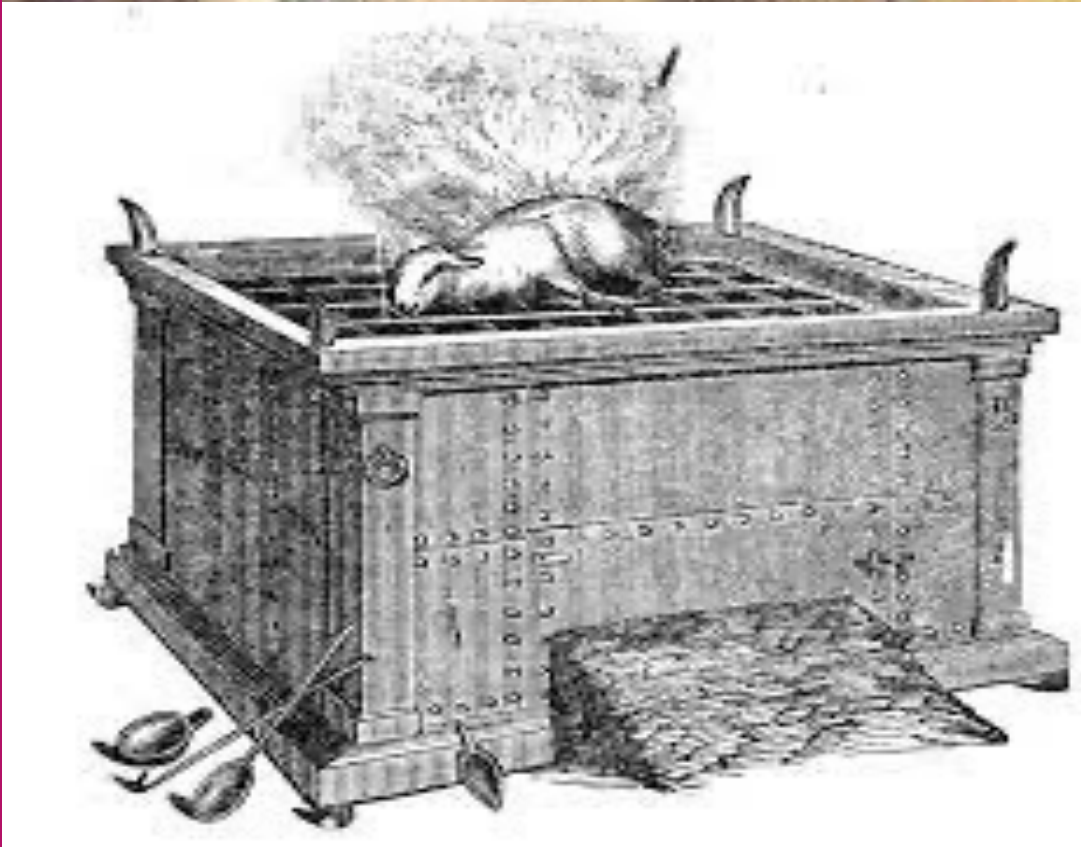


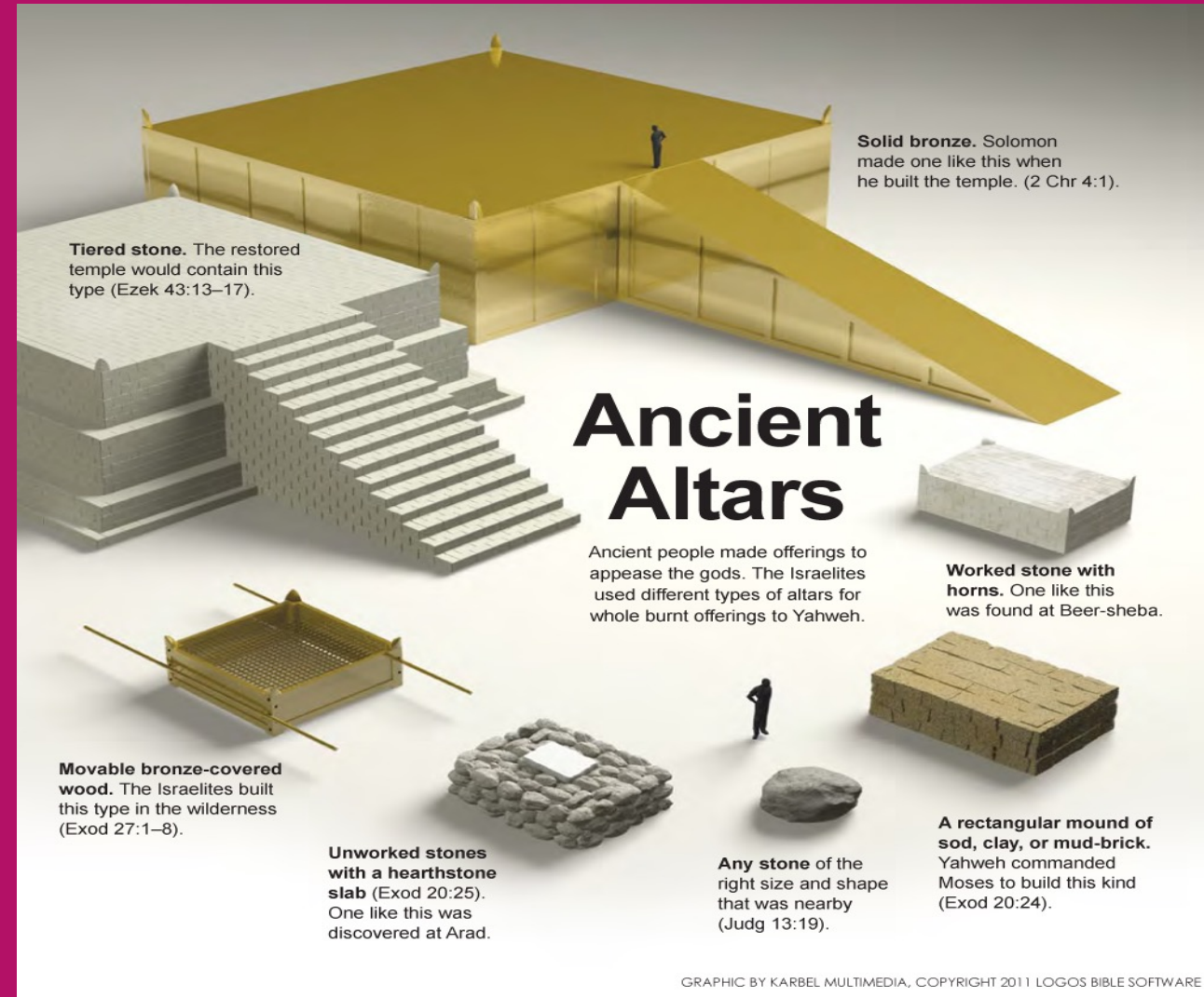
# AN ALTAR UNTO GOD

Brainstorming the Topic:

WHAT PICTURE IS FORMED IN YOUR MIND WHEN YOU THINK OF  
**ALTAR?**



# The Old Testament Altar Structure



## WORKING DEFINITION OF THE OBJECT

An Altar is a place of prayer or worship  
UNTO GOD

Genesis 8:1-20 (V\*20)

# WORKING DEFINITION OF THE OBJECT

A Place of Dialogue - **Gen. 12:6-8**

A Place of Communication - **Lk. 24:49**

Topic Connection:

**The foundation for a successful Christian life and ministry is rooted in the altar of prayer.**

# Comparative view

## OLD TESTAMENT ALTARS

Here an altar is used to be built on the land where you could kindle fire and burn the animal offered in sacrifice. Other common sacrifice in the old testament references, were grain, (Leviticus 2:1-16) and Incense (Exodus 30:1-10). God smells the aroma from it as the burnt sacrifice ascends unto Him and thereby comes to grant the requests of those who had built the altar and offered sacrifices on it.

### Biblical References of Old Testament Altars

Noah Altar - **Gen. 8:21-22; 9:1-3**

Abrahams Altar - **Gen. 12:6-8; 13:17-18**

Isaac's Altar - **Gen. 26:23-25**

Jacob's Altar - **Gen. 28:10-15, 16-19; 33:18-20** Mosaic Altar - **Ex. 20:23-26; 33:7-11**

David's Altar - **2 Sam. 24:18-25; Ps. 55:17**

Daniel's Altar - **Dan. 6:10, 16, 22, 26-28** \* Elijah's Altar - **1 Kings 17:1; 18:30-39, 42-45**



# Comparative view

## NEW TESTATMENTS ALTARS

In the New Testament, an altar is that place of contact with God; you are no longer commanded to build physical altar but spiritual ones of prayer, praises and worship unto God.

Jesus Christ is considered as the ultimate sacrifice who puts us right with God and is ever making intercession for us. And as such we do not require any further sacrifice of material things to make atonement for our sins.

**Heb. 10:1-14, 19-25; Heb. 13:9-15.**

What we require now is offering unto God fervent praises, worship, prayers, supplications unto God in spirit and in truth.

Jesus talked of the new altar in **Jn. 4:19-24; Matt. 6:5-13; Lk. 18:1;**

James, the Apostle talked about it in **James. 5:16-18.**

## Significance of the Fire on the Altar

Leviticus 6:12-13, "The fire on the altar shall be kept burning; it shall not go out. (v 9,.12,13)

God appeared to Moses “in flames of fire” from within a bush. The bush was on fire it did not burn up (Exodus 3:2).

Later, when God was leading the Israelites out of Egypt, He appeared as a pillar of fire at night (Exodus 13:21–22).

### Topic Connection

What then does the fire represent? \_\_\_\_\_

# Significance of the Fire on the Altar

The fire on the altar, therefore, served as a constant reminder of God's power

“Fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the fat portions on the altar. And when all the people saw it, they shouted for joy and fell facedown” (Leviticus 9:24)

The Fire is a gift from heaven .

No other source of fire was acceptable to God (Numbers 3:4).

God is a consuming fire” (Deuteronomy 4:24).

## **TopicConnection:**

John the Baptist predicted that the Messiah would baptize with the Spirit and with fire (Matthew 3:11; Luke 3:16). Fire served as a sign of judgment and refining, but it also reminds us of the Holy Spirit's coming at Pentecost in the form of “tongues of fire” (Acts 2:3).



# God Still desires an Alter.

## If your Body is a living sacrifice then where is the altar

- A place of worship where sacrifices are brought and offered by men to God
- A meeting point between God and men
- A gate into the realm of the Spirit
- A place where God reveals Himself to men
- A place where covenant is carried out between God and men
- A place of revelation where God speaks to men
- A place where promises are made
- A place of power and authority in the grace of God
- A place where men draw strength from God
- A place of holiness by encountering the presence of the living God

# The Christian duty

## 1. Personal Altar

- ▶ Apostle Paul spoke to the Church in Corinth, *"For we are the temple of the living God"* (2 Corinthians 6:16); and "your bodies are a temple" (1 Corinthians 3:16). If our bodies are to be considered the temple,

## ▶ 2. The Family Altar

Joshua put it this way – "As for me and my household, **we will serve the Lord!**"  
**Joshua 24:15**

- ▶ 3. Community Altar  
(*Ephesians 2:21*).