

The Altar In-Between Altar Series Part 3

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to **offer your bodies as a living sacrifice**, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. **Romans 12:1 (NIV)**

In Genesis 12:8 Abraham builds what the Bible calls... another altar. At this altar worship is what Abraham offers and Grace is God's response. It models this principle that worship releases grace!

WORSHIP RELEASES GRACE!

After that, Abram traveled south and set up camp in the hill country, with **Bethel to the west** and **Ai to the east**. There he built another altar and dedicated it to the Lord, and he worshiped the Lord. **Gen. 12:8 (NLT)**

Abraham builds this altar **in-between** two cities: **Bethel** to the west and **Ai** to the east. Now even though the Bible records the names of these two cities neither city actually existed at the time Abraham came here to build an altar. They are provided, in part, to paint a prophetic picture of the altar for us.

- Bethel means "House of God." — It is a picture of the Kingdom of Heaven and everything God desires for us.
- Ai means "a heap." — It is a picture of the Kingdom of Earth, the world, and all that is in the world.

Abraham actually used this altar at least two times — Genesis 12:8 and Genesis 13:4.

- What is **noted both times** though... is that **Abraham worshiped God** on both occasions.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US?

"Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God... Let us then **approach God's throne of grace** with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." **Heb. 4:14, 16 (NIV)**

Worship was the inspiring action of Abraham that released the grace of God into his life for that season.

- The NT equivalent of this altar is a place of INTERCESSION, AND PRAYER, AND WORSHIP!
- The NT believer's response to God's grace needs to be the same as Abraham's... one of prayer, of worship, of intercession, of repentance (when needed), of thanksgiving, of sacrifice, etc...

Going deeper...

Abraham being **camped between** Bethel (House of God) and Ai (the world) suggests that:

- (1) He needed regular intercession from God into his life to protect him, to provide for him, to cleanse him; and
- (2) He needed to regularly guard himself from becoming entangled in the affairs of the "world."

"By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, **camping in tents...**" **Heb. 11:9**

- **He lived between two kingdoms...** *The Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of Earth – so do we!*
- He lived in **tents** demonstrates his willingness to have **no roots in this world.**
- We also live in the **in-between.**
- Our prayers and worship are our version of Abraham's second altar.
- This altar can also be a picture of the **Temple altar of incense**, too.

Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. **Ephesians 6:18 (NLT)**

PERSONAL CHALLENGE: THE CHALLENGE THE **ALTAR IN-BETWEEN** PRESENTS TO US IS TO BUILD OUR OWN ALTARS OF WORSHIP!

WORSHIP RELEASES GRACE!