

STATION 6

ALTAR OF SACRIFICE

Our Purpose: Help each visitor feel the Spirit and learn that God loves them. God wants us to prepare to be with Him.

Your Role: Share the story below in your own words in 2–3 minutes. Let the Spirit guide you. Have fun and show your excitement!

Main Message

Welcome to the Altar of Sacrifice!

The real altar was made of wood and covered with brass (a type of metal). It was different from the one you see here.

This is where the Israelites brought their best animals to offer to God.

Making a sacrifice was a way to show God their faith, love, and obedience. It also helped them say sorry for their sins, become clean, and thank God for their blessings.

The prophets taught that these sacrifices were symbols of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. They helped people understand that Jesus would one day sacrifice His life for us.

Ask Visitors:

When you look at the Altar of Sacrifice, what do you think God was trying to teach the Israelites? What does He want us to learn?

Possible Answer: Because Jesus Christ suffered and died for us, we can repent and be forgiven of our sins.

How Did Animal Sacrifices Work?

If you were an Israelite bringing an animal to the altar, here is what you would do:

1. Bring an Animal: You would bring your own animal to the gate.
2. Have the Animal Checked: A priest would check the animal to make sure it was healthy and had nothing wrong with it. If it was acceptable, you would offer it to God. The animal would represent you.
3. Stay with the Animal: You would stay with your animal during the sacrifice. This helped you understand that the sacrifice was personal and had a special meaning.
4. The priest collected some of the animal's blood and put it on the horns (corners) of the altar. Just as the animal's blood covered the altar, Jesus Christ's blood covers our sins and helps us become clean.

5. The priest burned some or all of the animal on the altar. This depended on the type of sacrifice. Any meat that was not burned could be shared as a meal with the priests, families, and people worshiping God.

Does this remind you of the sacrament?

Animal sacrifices continued until Jesus Christ died for us.

Answers to Common Questions

- Adam and Eve: After Adam and Eve left the Garden of Eden, the Lord taught them to offer sacrifices.

- Day of Atonement: On this special day, the High Priest offered two goats. One goat was sacrificed, and its blood was sprinkled on the Mercy Seat (a special place on the Ark of the Covenant). The second goat, called the scapegoat, was sent into the wilderness. This showed that God could take away the people's sins. You can learn more about this in the visitors' center.

- Peter's Teaching: Peter taught that we are saved through the precious blood of Jesus Christ, not through silver or gold. Jesus was perfect, like a lamb without any flaws. (1 Peter 1:18–19)

- Learn More: You can read more about animal sacrifices in Leviticus chapters 1 and 16.

- Horns of the Altar: Horns stood for strength and power. Jesus is called the "horn of salvation" because He has the power to save us. (Luke 1:69)

Short Teaching Outline

1. Why did people offer sacrifices?

- To show faith in God.
- To obey God's commandments.
- To ask forgiveness for sins and become clean.
- To thank God for His blessings.
- To remind people that Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, would one day sacrifice Himself for us.

2. The Five Steps of Animal Sacrifice

Explain the five steps and how they remind us of Jesus Christ.

3. When Did Animal Sacrifices End?

Animal sacrifices continued until Jesus Christ died for us. His sacrifice changed the way we worship God and seek forgiveness today.