

The Brazen Altar.

[ORIGINAL.]

BY GEO. W. SOLTAU.

HIS large Altar of Brass stood inside the Court Gate of the Tabernacle, and was the first object that met the eye of the worshipping Israelite as he approached the Tabernacle. Further than this no man save of the tribe of Levi was allowed to go. Here he brought his offering or sacrifice, and handed it to the priest for presentation to God. Had he sinned, he here confessed his sin and offered his sin-offering. Had he a desire to bring a free-will offering to God, as an expression of thankfulness for some deliverance from trouble, or for some mercies received, he must do so at the Brazen Altar. It was the appointed meeting place between the Israelites



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and their High Priest. Here, too, by Divine appointment, the burnt-offering of a lamb was offered morning and evening daily, to remind the people of the nearness of God to them, of their sin that could only be kept covered by the shedding of blood, and of the promise of a faithful God to be with them, protect them, guide them, and bring them into the land whither they went.

This Altar, then, is to remind us of the Lord Jesus Christ in His coming to earth to make it possible for us to meet with God. No man can approach God save by Jesus Christ, and then he must acknowledge the Lord Jesus as the sacrifice for his sin. In this sense He is both Altar and Sacrifice. The brass was a metal that would be uninjured by the heat of the fire continually

burning. So the Son of God was not consumed by the fire of God's wrath, though He went down into death for us, but God raised Him from the dead. "He endured the cross." Now a sinner may come and plead the death of Jesus as the ground of his forgiveness, and acceptance with God. In the name of Jesus, too, he is to offer his "sacrifice of praise to God continually." "Whatever ye shall ask the Father in My name, I will give it you." It is Jesus who comes between God and us, to make known to us the love and mercy, and resources God has for us, and to make known to God the needs we have, and our claims on Him for help. God delights thus in our acknowledging Jesus as our Sacri-

ficial High Priest, and delights in the finished work of His Son, and He never withholds any needed blessing. "Let us draw near in full assurance of faith." The Ark with its Mercy Seat stood at the farthest point

from the door, the Brazen Altar at the nearest point to the door. By the Altar the animal's life was taken, and from the Altar the precious blood was carried into the Holy of Holies and sprinkled on the Mercy Seat, thus uniting the sinful worshipper with the mercy of a Holy God. The Altar was twice the height of the Ark, and half way up, on the inside, was fixed a grating, on which the bodies of the animals offered in sacrifice were burned. Thus the sacrifice for the sinner and the Mercy Seat sprinkled by blood were on the same level, and the blessing of God could reach the needy one. How wonderfully has the mercy of God in Jesus come down to the level of our weakness and sin; and how wonderfully has the power of God raised us up to the level of the