BDCL: LESSONS FROM THE TABERNACLE

We must now delve deeper in our study of true worship, and there's no better place to start from, than Moses and the Tabernacle.

Exodus 24:12 NKJV

"Then the LORD said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written, that you may teach them."

God called Moses up to heaven and showed Him a pattern for worship. Then God commanded Moses to build and establish an exact replica of what he had been shown, with its peculiar instructions and laws, in order to demonstrate the whole worship experience to the people of Israel.

Hebrews 8:4-5 NLT

"[4] If he were here on earth, he would not even be a priest, since there already are priests who offer the gifts required by the law. [5] They serve in a system of worship that is only a copy, a shadow of the real one in heaven. For when Moses was getting ready to build the Tabernacle, God gave him this warning: "Be sure that you make everything according to the pattern I have shown you here on the mountain.""

• Moses carefully built and established a ritualistic form of worship, as instructed by the Lord.

A TABERNACLE

First of all, Moses built a tabernacle, which consisted of the following:

- 1. The Outer Court in which there were the Brazen Altar and Brazen Laver
- 2. The Holy Place in which there were the Golden Lampstand, Table of Showbread and Altar of Incense
- 3. The Most Holy Place in which there was the Ark of the Covenant (with a veil separating it from the Holy Place)

A PRIESTHOOD

Secondly, Moses was instructed to carefully institute a priesthood to attend to the rituals of worship in the three components of the tabernacle. Thus, the tribe of Levi was chosen and Aaron and his sons were chosen as High Priest and Priests to serve the Lord in worship.

• We need to bear in mind that what Moses was shown by God in heaven was the real and original pattern for worship; and the tabernacle that Moses built and established on the

earth was an exact copy or shadow of that heavenly one. This means that Moses' tabernacle (the copy) can teach us critical lessons about what God expects from us, to whom the heavenly pattern of worship has been made available in Christ.

Colossians 2:17 (ESV)

"These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ."

Romans 15:4 (NKJV)

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope."

• It is important for us, who are in Christ, to know these things because, we have been made a royal priesthood in Him. The Bible tells us that we have been made kings and priests to our God, and that is why we must understand what God expects from us in worship, especially, as His priesthood on the earth, not after the pattern of Aaron (the copy), but after Christ (Melchizedek, the true one).

1 Peter 2:9 NASBS

"But you are a CHOSEN RACE, A royal priesthood, A holy NATION, a PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvellous light."

Revelation 5:9-10 NKJV

"[9] And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, [10] and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."

LEARNING FROM THE OLD

The disciples of Jesus did not have the Bible, as we do now; they only had the Torah, the Old Testament. Jesus taught them from the Torah, and even after He left, they studied it, in order to understand the things which had now been given to them in Christ. Therefore, we also can study and learn from the Old Testament, to understand what God requires from us.

To have a deeper understanding of worship, we must turn to the Old Testament and examine what has been written. In particular, we must turn to Moses and the Tabernacle, and the pattern of worship which he built and established by divine revelation. (Hebrews 8:4-5)

Let's see what we can learn from the components of the Tabernacle

• For Further Reading: Read from Exodus Chapters 24 to 40; Deuteronomy 19; Hebrews Chapters 8 and 9.

THE OUTER COURT

The Outer Court was the first compartment of the Tabernacle in the wilderness. God gave specific instructions for its construction.

Exodus 27:9-11

"[9] You shall also make the court of the tabernacle. For the south side there shall be hangings for the court made of fine woven linen, one hundred cubits long for one side. [10] And its twenty pillars and their twenty sockets shall be bronze. The hooks of the pillars and their bands shall be silver. [11] Likewise along the length of the north side there shall be hangings one hundred cubits long, with its twenty pillars and their twenty sockets of bronze, and the hooks of the pillars and their bands of silver."

Within the Outer Court were the Brazen Altar and the Brazen Laver; worship began in the Outer Court with these.

THE BRAZEN ALTAR

The Outer Court was the place of sacrifice. It was the place where sin was dealt with. The burnt offering, a "sweet, soothing aroma to Yahweh" was made on the Brazen Altar, to make atonement on behalf of the worshipper. The entire sacrifice was offered up in fire on the altar. It was a complete and whole burnt sacrifice to God to make atonement for sin on behalf the people

- Together with the peace offerings and grain offerings, the burnt offerings are all described as a sweet and pleasant smell to God. Sometimes this soothing aroma was used to avert judgment.
- Worship therefore begins with the atonement for sin. Sin must be dealt with to make us acceptable to God. It was there, in the Outer Court, on the Cross at Calvary, that Jesus Christ was crucified and died, a perfect and whole sacrifice, to make atonement for sin on our behalf, and reconcile us to God.

1 Corinthians 15:3 NKJV

"For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures."

1 Peter 3:18 NKJV

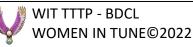
"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit."

Hebrews 13:12 NKJV

"Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate."

• When we come into Christ, sin is dealt with once and for all. Therefore, as believers and worshippers, we must endeavour to live beyond the Outer Court, a place of constant struggle with sin - fornication, adultery, idolatry, addictions, lying, slander, gossiping, drunkenness, etc. The book of Romans describes the victory we have over sin!

Romans 6:6-14 NLT



"[6] We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. [7] For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. [8] And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him. [9] We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him. [10] When he died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God. [11] So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus. [12] Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. [13] Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. [14] Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace."

- This is the beginning of true worship! We can overcome sin and press on in our worship, by leaving the Outer Court, to dwell in the "Holy Place." However, the way to the Holy Place, is by washing in the Brazen Laver, the second component of the Outer Court, which we shall discuss next time.
- For Further Reading: Leviticus 1:9,13,17; Leviticus 2:2,9; Leviticus 3:5,16; Leviticus 1:3-4; Job 42:7-8; Genesis 8:20-21

THE BRAZEN LAVER

The Brazen Laver was found in the Outer Court, between the Brazen Altar and the entrance to the Holy Place. The Brazen Laver was a washbasin for the priests to wash before entering the Holy Place. After dealing with the sacrifices for sin at the Brazen altar, the priests washed their hands and feet before entering the Holy Place.

Exodus 30:17-21 NLT

"[17] Then the LORD said to Moses, [18] "Make a bronze washbasin with a bronze stand. Place it between the Tabernacle and the altar, and fill it with water. [19] Aaron and his sons will wash their hands and feet there. [20] They must wash with water whenever they go into the Tabernacle to appear before the LORD and when they approach the altar to burn up their special gifts to the LORD-or they will die! [21] They must always wash their hands and feet, or they will die. This is a permanent law for Aaron and his descendants, to be observed from generation to generation.""

- Hands represent our acts and deeds, service and works. These were to be holy, hence the continuous daily cleansing of their hands. Feet represent our walk and ways. Their walk had to be a holy walk, so their feet were washed always and every day. This ritualistic cleansing shows the importance of purity, in approaching God in worship.
- The Brazen Laver represents our own sanctification. Christ dealt forever with sin by offering Himself once and for all as a total sacrifice and atonement for sin. In Christ we have overcome sin and have been sanctified by the Blood and made holy unto God.

Hebrews 10:10 NLT

"For God's will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time."

- However, we no longer need a ritualistic washing with water to come before God, because Jesus Christ has "provided purification for sins." (Hebrews 1:3). Now we can "approach the throne of grace with confidence," being sure that we are acceptable to Him because we are spiritually clean.
- It is important to know, however, that although Christ gave Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma, and we are also required to make a sacrifice, not with bulls, sheep, etc, but with our lives.

Romans 12:1-2 NASBS

"[1] Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. [2] And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 NKJV

"[3] For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; [4] that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, [5] not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God."

Although, in Christ we have been set free from sin and He has provided purification for our sins, we still continue to commit acts of sin. Therefore, we must daily surrender ourselves to God to continue the work of sanctification in us - cleansing, purifying and perfecting our thoughts, conduct, ways, deeds, through His word and His Spirit.

Hebrews 10:22 NKJV

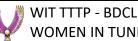
"Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."

LESSONS OF THE OUTER COURT

As true worshippers of the Most High God, the lessons of the Outer Court should firmly be embedded in our hearts.

- 1. That the sacrifice for sin has been made for us Jesus Christ made atonement for us with His own Blood on the Cross.
- 2. That Christ has purified us from our sins so we do not need the ritualistic cleaning of "hands and feet."
- 3. However, whilst in Christ we have been set free from sin, because we are in this human flesh, we still commit acts of sin, therefore, we must daily offer ourselves to God, to continue the work of sanctification - consecrating us and making us holy - cleansing, purifying and perfecting our thoughts, conduct, ways, deeds.

This is the same as growing and maturing in the Lord; and requires our obedience to the word of God and the leading and direction of the Holy Spirit. This will transform us, making us more like Christ and produce His character and nature in us. - Galatians 5:16-26



Hebrews 10:14-17 ESV

"[14] For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. [15] And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, [16] "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds," [17] then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.""

- It is important and necessary, therefore, that we continue to grow, mature and be transformed in our daily walk with the Lord forsaking worldly ways, and striving to think right, speak right, behave and act right, do right, walk right and work right, according to the Word and the Spirit. This is the essence of true worship.
- To be able to do this effectively, we must press on to leave the Outer Court (worldliness) and enter the Holy Place, the first compartment of the Tabernacle (which God had shown Moses in heaven and instructed him to build a replica of, as a place of worship for the Israelites in the wilderness).
- For Further Reading: John 15:3; John 17:17, 19; Ephesians 5:2, 26; 1 Peter 1:2; Hebrews 1:3; Hebrews 4:14-16

THE HOLY PLACE

The Tabernacle was a 'tent,' a portable sanctuary, consisting of two rooms - the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. The outer sanctuary, the Holy Place was the room you stepped into, when you left the Outer Court, after washing in the Brazen Laver.

The Holy Place contained the Table of Shewbread, the Golden Lampstand and the Altar of Incense. Only the priests, were allowed to enter the Holy Place and attend to these things, which were essential for worship. Within the Holy Place, the priests acted as representatives of the people of Israel before God. What do these things mean to us, in Christ?

THE TABLE OF SHEWBREAD

The table of showbread was a small table made of acacia wood and overlaid with pure gold, and it held 12 loaves of bread.

- 1. The priests baked the bread with fine flour and it remained on the table before the Lord for a week; every Sabbath day the priests would remove it and eat it in the Holy Place, then put fresh bread on the table.
- 2. Only the priests could eat the shewbread, and it could only be eaten in the Holy Place, because it was holy.

- 3. The shewbread also was called "bread of the presence" because it was to be always in the Lord's presence and eaten in His presence. The shewbread represents the word of God.
- 4. Therefore, the Table of Shewbread was an open invitation by God to fellowship with Him and partake of His word. It was a continuous fellowship with God in the word.

The Word of God certainly plays a very important and active role in worship. To be effective in worship we must engage with the word of God, reading it, studying it and living it, and teaching others to do so.

Ezra 7:10 NASBS

"For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the LORD and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel."

THE GOLDEN LAMPSTAND

The Golden Lampstand was made of solid gold and had seven lamps on it, which provided light in the Holy Place. The Tabernacle had no windows; therefore, the Golden Lampstand was the only source of light in the Holy Place.

• The Golden Lampstand was attended to by the High Priest and priests, who trimmed its wicks and changed the oil. The seven lamps were to burn continually and were never to be turned off. God instructed the people to bring special pressed olive oil to make the lamps burn continually. No other oil was to be used to fuel the lamps. This was set as a law and statute for Israel, for many generations.

Exodus 27:20-21 NLT

"[20] Command the people of Israel to bring you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to keep the lamps burning continually. [21] The lampstand will stand in the Tabernacle, in front of the inner curtain that shields the Ark of the Covenant. Aaron and his sons must keep the lamps burning in the LORD's presence all night. This is a permanent law for the people of Israel, and it must be observed from generation to generation."

• As the only source of light in the tabernacle, the Golden Lampstand represents Jesus Christ as the Light of the world. Indeed, Jesus Christ must be our only Source of light in this world.

John 8:12 NASBS

"Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.""

• The pure pressed olive oil represents the Holy Spirit. For the light of Christ to shine on us, in us and through us, we need the continuous, daily infilling of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, true worship is to let the Holy Spirit fill our hearts and have control of our lives and lead us continuously, illuminating our lives, until Christ shines through us.

Ephesians 5:18 AMP

"Do not get drunk with wine, for that is wickedness (corruption, stupidity), but be filled with the [Holy] Spirit and constantly guided by Him."

• As true worshippers, we must lead Spirit-filled and Spirit-led lives, which would cause the light of Christ to shine through us, in this dark and dreary world.

Matthew 5:14-16 NKJV

"[14] You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. [15] Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. [16] Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

Revelation 21:23-24 NKJV

"[23] The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. [24] And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it."

• For Further Reading: Exodus 25:31-40; Zechariah 4:1-6; Isaiah 50:10; Revelation 1:12-13

THE ALTAR OF INCENSE

The altar of incense occupied the middle space in the Holy Place, close to and in front of the veil leading to the Most Holy Place. This altar was reserved exclusively for the burning of incense to God, every morning and evening. The High Priest would burn the incense whenever he attended to the Lamps, by putting it in a gold bowl or censer, adding fire to it and placing it on top of the altar.

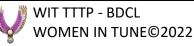
Exodus 30:7-9 NKJV

"[7] Aaron shall burn on it sweet incense every morning; when he tends the lamps, he shall burn incense on it. [8] And when Aaron lights the lamps at twilight, he shall burn incense on it, a perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations. [9] You shall not offer strange incense on it, or a burnt offering, or a grain offering; nor shall you pour a drink offering on it."

A LIFESTYLE OF PRAYER

The Altar of Incense represents a lifestyle of prayer, an essential part of worship. God commands us to pray, therefore, prayer must become a daily and continuous discipline in the life of the believer.

- Just as the High Priest burnt incense before the Lord daily, morning and evening, prayer must become a lifestyle. Indeed, we are told to pray at all times with all types of prayer. (Ephesians 6:18)
- Prayer is spending time in God's company and presence, talking and listening to Him. It is a two-way communication/interaction between Father God and His children, in order to express love and thanks, or in order to ask for something or know the Father's will and plans. Prayer includes SUPPLICATION, WORSHIP, PRAISES, THANKSGIVING and INTERCESSION.



Revelation 5:8 NKJV

"Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints."

THE FIRE FOR BURNING THE INCENSE

The fire used for burning the incense came from the Brazen Altar. No other fire was to be used to burn the incense. We must bear in mind that that fire was not kindled by man, it had fallen from heaven, so was kindled by God. The same fire that was used to burn the sacrifice for sin was used to burn the incense and bring out the fragrance of worship.

In the same manner, our prayers must be fuelled by the sacrificial work of the Christ's Atonement and the ongoing work of sanctification in us. Prayer like everything else must be ongoing, and done daily and continuously.

THE INCENSE

Exodus 30:34-38 NKJV

"[34] And the LORD said to Moses: "Take sweet spices, stacte and onycha and galbanum, and pure frankincense with these sweet spices; there shall be equal amounts of each. [35] You shall make of these an incense, a compound according to the art of the perfumer, salted, pure, and holy. [36] And you shall beat some of it very fine, and put some of it before the Testimony in the tabernacle of meeting where I will meet with you. It shall be most holy to you. [37] But as for the incense which you shall make, you shall not make any for yourselves, according to its composition. It shall be to you holy for the LORD. [38] Whoever makes any like it, to smell it, he shall be cut off from his people.""

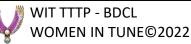
The incense was made with equal amounts of four sweet spices, and was called "the perpetual incense." It was holy and not to be used for any other purpose, except the worship of Yahweh.

Like the four essential ingredients of the incense, our prayer life should be cultivated with four essential attitudes:

- 1. FAITH (assurance and confidence)
- 2. OBEDIENCE (humility),
- 3. COMPASSION (Love)
- 4. FERVENCY (passion and commitment)

Revelation 8:3-5 NKJV

"[3] Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. [4] And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand. [5] Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire



from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake." AMEN!!!

• For Further Reading: Exodus 30:1-6; Exodus 30:34-38; Exodus 37:25-28; Exodus 40:5; Leviticus 16:12, 18; Numbers 16:46; Luke 18:1; Hebrews 13:15.

THE MOST HOLY PLACE

As you moved deeper into the Tabernacle, beyond the Holy Place, was the second room, the Most Holy Place. The two rooms were separated by a veil.

THE VEIL

Exodus 26:31-32

"[31] "You shall make a veil woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen. It shall be woven with an artistic design of cherubim. [32] You shall hang it upon the four pillars of acacia wood overlaid with gold. Their hooks shall be gold, upon four sockets of silver."

The veil was an embroidered screen, which God asked Moses to install as a divider between the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. The veil represented the separation between God and man, as a result of sin.

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT.

Within the Most Holy Place, beyond the veil, was the Ark of the Covenant, which God had instructed Moses to carefully build, as a meeting place and the sign of His covenant with His people. The Ark was a box made of acacia wood and overlaid with gold. It contained the two stone tablets of the Ten Commandments, a jar of manna and Aaron's rod, and was to be carried on the shoulders of the priests. (Hebrews 8:4)

Exodus 25:21-22 NKJV

"[21] You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you. [22] And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel."

- The Ark had a special lid called the Mercy Seat. The lid had two cherubim with their wings spread out but touching in the middle. Beneath the wings of the cherubim rested the "Shekinah Glory," the visible symbol of the divine presence. God was seated at the Mercy Seat and, from there, dispensed mercy to His people when the blood of the atonement was sprinkled upon it.
- Once a year, on the Day of Atonement, the high priest would enter the Holy of Holies and sprinkled the blood of animals sacrificed for the atonement of the sins of God's people. (Leviticus 16). At NO OTHER TIME was anyone allowed to enter the Holy of Holies, because the presence of God dwelt with the Ark of the Covenant.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MERCY SEAT



The Mercy Seat on the Ark was a symbolic foreshadowing of the ultimate sacrifice for all sin - the Blood of Jesus Christ, shed on the Cross for the remission of sins.

Romans 3:24-25 NLT

"[24] Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. [25] For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood..."

Just as the Mercy Seat of the Ark of the Covenant was the only one place for atonement of sins in the Old Testament, the Cross of Jesus Christ is the only one place for atonement in the New Testament. Therefore, as Christians, we no longer look to the Ark but to the Lord Jesus Himself as the propitiation and atonement for our sins.

Jeremiah 3:16 NKJV

"[16] Then it shall come to pass, when you are multiplied and increased in the land in those days," says the LORD, "that they will say no more, 'The ark of the covenant of the LORD.' It shall not come to mind, nor shall they remember it, nor shall they visit it, nor shall it be made anymore."

THE TORN VEIL

Matthew 27:50-51

[50] And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. [51] Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,

When Jesus was crucified and died, the veil between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies in the temple ripped from top to bottom. The veil symbolised the separation between God and man, caused by sin. However, just as He fulfilled for all time the sacrificial requirements, Jesus Christ removed the barrier of sin and ushered us into the presence of God.

Hebrews 10:19-22 NKJV

"[19] Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, [20] by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, [21] and having a High Priest over the house of God, [22] let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."

Hebrews 4:16 NKJV

"Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

We can now boldly enter the Most Holy Place in heaven, the very presence of the Living God, by the Blood of Jesus. We can worship God freely, empowered by His Spirit and His Word. HALLELUJAH!!! AMEN!!!

• For Further Reading: *Exodus 25:10-22; Exodus 26:31-35; Matthew 27:51; Hebrews 4:14-16; Hebrews 9:11-15*

THE PRIESTHOOD

One cannot think of the worship associated with Moses's Tabernacle without thinking about the Priesthood. This is because without the Priesthood, there would be no worship. All the various articles in the Tabernacle would be mere showpieces, if there were no priests to attend to them and use them for the worship and glory of God.

• The whole tribe of Levi was chosen and set apart for the service of God. However, God asked Moses to set his brother Aaron and his sons apart and consecrate them as priests to minister before Him in the sanctuary, and attend to the sacred things in the Tabernacle. It was also their responsibility, as priests, to ensure the continuous worship of God by the people.

Exodus 28:1 NLT

"Call for your brother, Aaron, and his sons, Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. Set them apart from the rest of the people of Israel so they may minister to me and be my priests."

Leviticus 6:12-13 NLT

"[12] Meanwhile, the fire on the altar must be kept burning; it must never go out. Each morning the priest will add fresh wood to the fire and arrange the burnt offering on it. He will then burn the fat of the peace offerings on it. [13] Remember, the fire must be kept burning on the altar at all times. It must never go out."

