

Prayer Altars



Demolishing un-Godly altars!



Amanda Buys' Spiritual Covering

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Introduction

God is raising a militant Church that will possess our cities for Him, people who will take the spiritual responsibility over their communities, cities and nations. God is looking for men and women who will check the advance of wickedness, violence, satanism, corruption, idolatry, oppression, occultism, injustice and perversion in our cities and nations.

God is looking for dedicated people who will monitor the spiritual climate of their cities and forbid, in the spirit, all activities that give glory to satan and allow only activities that glorify the Name of the Lord. God is conducting a serious recruitment exercise for people who will pursue, overtake and recover all that the enemy has stolen from our communities and cities, and because of our carelessness, the enemy has stolen so much. Unfortunately, he is still busy stealing (even from the Church!).

Ezek 22:30 *“30 And I sought a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, that I should not destroy it, but I found none.”*

May God not give this verdict concerning us. May we be available to stand in the gap for perishing souls in our communities and cities. God says further that because He could not find anyone to stand in the gap for the land and the people, He had to pour out His fury and wrath to destroy the land.

Church, should we continue to fold our arms and have a good time “possessing and claiming” things that are perishable while satan is having a good time plundering God’s people by stealing, killing, and destroying? God gave a commission concerning cities that the Church needs to give heed to:

Jer 29:7 *“7 And seek (inquire for, require, and request) the peace and welfare of the city to which I have caused you to be carried away captive; and pray to the Lord for it, for in the welfare of [the city in which you live] you will have welfare.”*

God is recruiting people who will enforce His will and rule on earth as it is in Heaven, people who will set free those who have been held captive by the enemy and people that will demonstrate Kingdom lifestyle even here on earth.

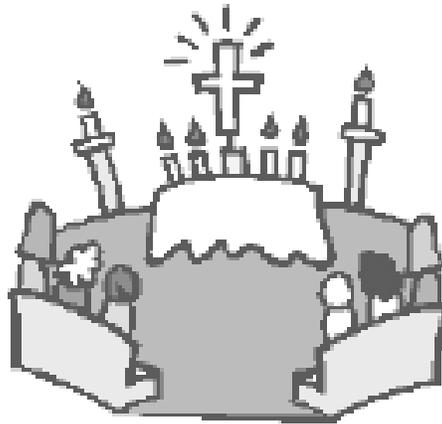
God has given every city or people group talents, skills, mineral resources, etc, for their survival, sustenance, social and economic upliftment. These are their redemptive gifts for the fulfillment of God’s purposes for the city and the people. However, when the people live in rebellion against God, the land will refuse to yield her increase and rain will be withheld.

All manners of curses, tragedies, famine, violence, wickedness, sorrows, pain, misery and destruction begin to manifest until the Nehemiah’s begin to repent on behalf of the people and pray for things to turn around.

God is calling forth His Church in every city to stand in the gap. The strength of the Church is dependent on the strength of each individual believer's prayer life.

The major reason why so many believers today are unsuccessful, stagnant, and amount to nothing in life is because they do not have an **altar of prayer**. This approach to the concept of altars of prayer as a basis and foundation of victory and breakthrough in life is worth considering.

A believer is not greater than his altar. The success, advancement, increase and consequently breakthrough in every area of the life of a believer is dependent upon his altar.



Chapter 1 – The Prayer Altar

Many people build their lives without a **foundation**. This can be fatal when confronted by the storms the Lord Jesus warns us about in:

Matthew 7: 27 *“27 And the rain fell and the floods came and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great and complete was the fall of it.”*

The **foundation** of the Christian life is in the altar of prayer.

Exodus 20 : 24 *“24 An altar of earth you shall make to Me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen. In every place where I record My name and cause it to be remembered I will come to you and bless you.”*

Here God **COMMANDED** the Israelites to build an altar of earth, and He promised that He would come to bless them there.

In other words, **God blesses us at the altar of prayer**. Without an altar of prayer you cannot be blessed or attract the presence of the God of Heaven.

WHAT IS AN ALTAR OF PRAYER?

1. It is simply a **place of contact** with the spirit world.
2. It is also a **place of sacrifice** and a **place of covenant**.



In the Old Testament, when God gave the promise of a _____ land to Abraham, he quickly built an altar of prayer on the land and sacrificed to the Lord there. ***What is the implication?*** Whenever you build an altar of sacrifice upon a piece of land, **you are drawing that land into a covenant relationship** with the god you are serving. From that time on, you are putting that land directly under the control of that spirit/spirits. From that time on he/they have a hold over that land or property.



In the New Testament however, an altar is simply a place of contact with our God. We are no longer commanded to build physical altars unto God, only spiritual ones. It is just simply a particular place at a particular time of the day when and where an individual child of God meets with his Maker.

The Old Testament altar was made of stones and wood but now, the Word teaches us in:

John 4 : 24 *“24 God is a Spirit (a spiritual Being) and those who worship Him must worship Him in **spirit** and in **truth** (reality).”*

We must make contact with Him in the Spirit. Your **altar location** can be in your bedroom, lounge, a garden, a mountaintop, the beach, or where ever it is convenient for you. There you can say for example: *“Dear Father, I am going to be meeting with You here everyday between 5 : 30 – 7 am.”*

That constitutes an altar and as you visit that place to pray, to worship and meditate, you can **be sure the Almighty God will regularly come to pay you a visit there.**

Nobody in the Word was called a friend of God or prophet of God who did not have a strong prayer life. God does not only want us to work for Him but also to walk and talk with Him. God wants us to be workers together with Him, **know Him and understand Him** just like Moses did.

Your **attitude** to prayer will determine **your altitude in the spirit**. You are limited by your altar.

May your heart thirst for God. May your heart cry for the Living God. All the men and women in the Bible such as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Deborah, Esther, David, Isaiah, Ezekiel, John, James, Paul, etc, had solid and strong altars of prayer.



Make prayer your top priority in your daily schedule.

WHO CAN BUILD AN ALTAR AND WHEN CAN WE BUILD AN ALTAR?

Usually, an altar is built after a revelation knowledge of God. You cannot build an altar to an unknown God. Such an altar will be useless and ineffectual.

Examples of Altars in the Word.



1. Noah’s Altar

In *Genesis 8*, God tells us about the **first altar**. After Noah’s ark rested on dry land and everybody came out of it, God revealed Himself to Noah. Noah, as a result, made contact with the spirit world by building an altar. He burnt a sacrifice on it. God responded:

Gen 8 : 21, 22 *“21 When the Lord smelled the pleasing odor [a scent of satisfaction to His heart], the Lord said to Himself, I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the imagination (the strong desire) of man’s heart is evil and wicked from his youth; neither will I ever again smite and destroy every living thing, as I have done. 22 While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.”*

Because Noah's sacrifice pleased God, the Lord spoke the following blessings .

Gen 9 : 1-3 "1 AND GOD pronounced a blessing upon **Noah and his sons** and said to them, **Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.**
2 And the fear of you and the dread and terror of you shall be upon every beast of the land, every bird of the air, all that creeps upon the ground, and upon all the fish of the sea; they are delivered into your hand.
3 Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you; and as I gave you the green vegetables and plants, I give you everything."

Humanity and the entire world was blessed as well as Noah personally and his generations after him.

2. Abraham's Altars



Gen 12 : 6-8 "6 Abram passed through the land to the locality of Shechem, to the oak or terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land.

7 Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, **I will give this land to your posterity. So Abram built an altar there to the Lord, Who had appeared to him.**

8 From there he pulled up [his tent pegs] and departed to the mountain on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he **built an altar** to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord."

Gen 13 : 17- 18 "17 Arise, walk through the land, the length of it and the breadth of it, for I will give it to you.

18 Then Abram moved his tent and came and dwelt among the oaks or terebinths of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and **built there an altar to the Lord.**



We see that Abraham built three solid altars to perform three different functions.

3. Isaac's Altar

Gen 26 : 23 - 25 "23 Now he went up from there to Beersheba.

24 And the Lord appeared to him the same night and said, I am the God of Abraham your father. Fear not, for I am with you and will favor you with blessings and multiply your descendants for the sake of My servant Abraham.
25 **And [Isaac] built an altar** there and called on the name of the Lord and pitched his tent there; and there Isaac's servants were digging a well."

4. Jacob's Altars



Genesis 28:10-15 “10 And Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran.

11 And he came to a certain place and stayed there overnight, because the sun was set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down there to sleep.

12 And he **dreamed that there was a ladder** set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it!

13 And behold, the Lord stood over and beside him and said, I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father [forefather] and the God of Isaac; **I will give to you and to your descendants the land on which you are lying.**

14 And your offspring shall be as [countless as] the dust or sand of the ground, and you shall spread abroad to the west and the east and the north and the south; and by you and your Offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed and bless themselves.

15 And behold, **I am with you and will keep** (watch over you with care, take notice of) you wherever you may go, and I will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done all of which I have told you.”

Jacob's response:

Gen 28: 16 – 19 “16 And Jacob awoke from his sleep and he said, Surely the Lord is in this place and I did not know it.

17 He was afraid and said, How to be feared and revered is this place! This is none other than **the house of God**, and this is the **gateway to heaven!**

18 And Jacob rose early in the morning and took the stone he had put under his head, and **he set it up for a pillar** (a monument to the vision in his dream), and he poured oil on its top [in dedication].

19 And he named that place **Bethel** [the house of God]; but the name of that city was Luz at first.”

His second altar:

Gen 33 : 18 – 20 “18 When Jacob came from Padan-aram, he arrived safely and in peace at the town of Shechem, in the land of Canaan, and pitched his tents before the [enclosed] town.

19 Then he **bought the piece of land** on which he had encamped from the sons of Hamor, Shechem's father, for a hundred pieces of money.

20 **There he erected an altar** and called it El-Elohe-Israel [God, the God of Israel].”

What we learn here is that when he moved from the one place to the other he still had to build another altar in order to make contact with God in his new place.

Gen 35 : 1 “1 AND GOD said to Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there. And **make there an altar to God** Who appeared to you [in a distinct manifestation] when you fled from the presence of Esau your brother.”

God so longed for an altar that he **had to command Jacob to build one**. **God cherishes altars** where he can meet with His precious children and have meaningful fellowship with Him.

5. Israel's National Altar



Exodus 33 : 7 – 11 *“7 Now Moses used to take [his own] tent and pitch it **outside the camp**, far off from the camp, and he called it **the tent of meeting [of God with His own people]**. And everyone who sought the Lord went out to [that temporary] tent of meeting which was **outside the camp**.*

8 When Moses went out to the tent of meeting, all the people rose and stood, every man at his tent door, and looked after Moses until he had gone into the tent.

9 When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the door of the tent, and the Lord would talk with Moses.

10 And all the people saw the pillar of cloud stand at the tent door, and all the people rose up and worshiped, every man at his tent door.

11 And the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. Moses returned to the camp, but his minister Joshua son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the [temporary prayer] tent.”

God instructed Moses that the Tabernacle was to be moved from the midst of the camp. He wanted people to be serious in their search for Him. Hence, the Tabernacle was taken about a kilometer away from the camp and anybody who wanted to seek God was to go there. After it was moved out, it appeared as if nobody went there except Moses, Aaron and Joshua.

6. David's Altars



Ps 55 : 17 *“17 **Evening and morning** and at **noon** will I utter my complaint and moan and sigh, and He will hear my voice.”*

He had a **three-time altar per day** thereby making unceasing contact with God.

7. Daniel's Altar of Prayer

Daniel was a captive to the king of Babylon before becoming Prime Minister in Babylon. He lived under very serious constraints. His enemies conspired and signed an illegal decree that **nobody should pray for 30 days** except to the king. **They wanted to kill his prayer life** by that ungodly edict. They wanted to cut off his connection with Heaven.



Daniel 6 : 10 *"10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house, and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he got down upon his knees **three times a day** and **prayed** and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously."*

He was used to it, it was a positive habit for him to pray three times a day. His altar was the strength in his life and when the persecution came, it carried him through to victory!

Dan 11 : 32 *"32 And such as violate the covenant he shall pervert and seduce with flatteries, but **the people who know their God shall prove themselves strong and shall stand firm and do exploits** [for God]."*

8. Elijah and His Prayer Life



1 Kings 17 : 1 *"1 ELIJAH THE Tishbite, of the temporary residents of Gilead, said to Ahab, **As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, before Whom I stand**, there shall not be dew or rain these years but according to My word."*

Even though Elijah was standing before Ahab, he said " the Lord God of Israel before Whom I stand". He was always in **the attitude of prayer – continually being in the presence of God.**

Prayer makes one carry the presence of God everywhere one goes. God was real to him as he had contact with the Almighty always in his heart, spirit and soul.

9. The Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

Mark 1 : 35 *“35 And **in the morning**, long before daylight, He got up and went out to a deserted place, and there He prayed.”*

Jesus' own altar was **in the wilderness**, in a solitary place where neither distraction nor crowd would disturb Him. He always wanted to be alone with God, which is the essence of and the meaning of prayer. We are to resemble Jesus.

When Jesus relocated and went to Jerusalem on His way to Calvary, He had enough time to pray so he shifted His altar to a place called the garden of Gethsemane, on the mount of Olives.

Luke 22 : 39 – 40 *“39 And He came out and went, as was His habit, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples also followed Him.
40 And when He came to the place, He said to them, Pray that you may not [at all] enter into temptation.”*

We need to learn the prayer lessons of Gethsemane, as Jesus is our example in leading us to pray.



Chapter 2 – Breakthrough Altars

There is no way any one can serve God successfully without an efficient prayer altar. We learn from the Bible that the Godly men of old accorded the altar its rightful place in their lives. So, every time they wanted to know more of God, or they wanted to meet with Him, they went ahead **and raised altars with which they connected themselves with the throne of God.**

God is calling out to men and women today, to the Church, and to nations to raise altars unto Him – meaningful, heart-to-heart altars, because **the altar generates anointing.** The altar **generates the grace of God.** The altar brings about **the favour of the Lord** upon men, women, the Church and upon nations.

Whenever God wants to **work out a deliverance**, He would require men to build altars.

1. Noah's Altar

Gen 8 : 21 *“21 When the Lord smelled the pleasing odor [a scent of satisfaction to His heart], the Lord said to Himself, I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the imagination (the strong desire) of man's heart is evil and wicked from his youth; neither will I ever again smite and destroy every living thing, as I have done.”*



God smelled a sweet savour which ministered to Him and touched His Heart. He then gave blessings and favour to Noah and to generations of mankind through the ministry of the altar.

Gen 9 : 1 – 2 *“1 AND GOD pronounced a blessing upon Noah and his sons and said to them, **Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.** 2 And the fear of you and the dread and terror of you shall be upon every beast of the land, every bird of the air, all that creeps upon the ground, and upon all the fish of the sea; they are delivered into your hand.”*

The second blessing was for Noah personally. God gave him the dominion He once gave to Adam. God restored Adam's lost authority to Noah because of the altar.

Conditions for the Altar

1. It **must make contact with God.** God will always respond in one way or another.
2. It **must move God to take action.** Blessing upon mankind, direction, judgment against our enemy, etc.
3. It **must impact the society or community** surrounding it. The altar must bring a spiritual covering – peace, joy, progress, liberty, righteousness, and Godly fear.

4. It **must succeed in connecting men with God**. Unsaved people will suddenly begin to long and cry after God.

2. Israel's National Altar

Lev 9 : 5-9 *"5 They brought before the Tent of Meeting what Moses [had] commanded; all the congregation drew near and stood before the Lord.*

6 And Moses said, This is the thing which the Lord commanded you to do, and the glory of the Lord will appear to you.

*7 And Moses said to Aaron, **Draw near to the altar** and offer your sin offering and your burnt offering and make atonement for yourself and for the people; and offer the offering of the people and make atonement for them, as the Lord commanded.*

*8 So **Aaron drew near to the altar** and killed the calf of the sin offering, which was designated for himself.*

*9 The sons of Aaron presented the blood to him; he dipped his finger in the blood and put it on the **horns of the altar** and poured out the blood at the altar's base;"*



Aaron was specifically told what to do on the altar. So it is with every altar. **You must have divine instructions of the Holy Spirit about what to do with your altar.**

The Result:

Lev 9 : 22-23 *"22 Then Aaron lifted his hands toward the people and blessed them, and came down [from the altar] after offering the sin offering, the burnt offering, and the peace offerings.*

*23 Moses and Aaron went into the Tent of Meeting, and **when they came out they blessed the people**, and the glory of the Lord [the Shekinah cloud] appeared to all the people [as promised]."*

Nobody can bless man successfully without an altar. Moses and Aaron built this altar following God's instructions. They wanted to make contact with Heaven on behalf of Israel.

Because of the power and anointing coming forth from the altar, they could bless the people – and they were truly blessed!!

For a man or woman of God to bless God's people successfully, there must be a strong altar behind him or her.

Question: Could the reason behind today's ineffectual blessings and ineffectual laying on of hands and ineffectual pronouncements upon the people of God be because men do not have strong prayer altars behind them??

Lev 9 : 24 "24 Then **there came a fire out from before the Lord** and consumed the burnt offering and the **fat on the altar**; and when all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces."

May we experience this kind of visitation again in our lives and ministries. Every good altar should touch God in such a way that He responds. "**Oh! The God that answers by fire, will do it again!**"

Men came to know that the God of Israel was not just a story, an illusion or an idol, but a REAL GOD that brings down fire. They understood God in a new way – the altar facilitated it.

3. The Altar of David

1 Chron 21: 18 "18 Then the angel of the Lord commanded Gad to say to David that **David should go up and set up an altar to the Lord** in the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite."



Anytime God wanted to deal with mankind, either to bless, forgive, heal, or set free, an altar was usually raised to enhance this. In the above scripture, pestilence and tribulation had been in the land and thousands of men and women were already dead or dying. To solve the problem, God commanded David through the prophet Gad to raise up an altar.

1 Chron 21: 26-27 "26 And **David built there an altar to the Lord** and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings and called upon the Lord; and **He answered him by fire from heaven upon the altar** of burnt offering.
27 Then the Lord commanded the [avenging] angel, and he put his sword back into its sheath."

When God smelled the peace offerings and the burnt offerings from the altar, His anger abated and mercy and compassion took over.

If you are having pestilence, destruction, or divine judgement in your community, the answer is the altar.

4. The Altar of Solomon.

2 Chron 6 : 12 "12 And Solomon **stood before the altar of the Lord** in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread forth his hands."

Solomon had erected this very big brazen altar and thousands of animals had been sacrificed upon it as peace and burnt offerings.

He did not kindle any earthly fire on it. He had such great faith that if his altar was the kind that was built by Abraham, Aaron and Moses, then it had to bring down a divine fire.

He laid the animals upon the altar and carefully arranged the wood. Thereafter, he **offered a long prayer to God that touched every area of the people's lives. We must touch the family through the altar, we must touch our businesses through the altar, and we must touch our nation through our altars.** Only then will our society and families experience God's blessings.

After Solomon had finished praying, God's fire came down from Heaven and the fire of God fell.

2 Chron 7 : 1 *"1 WHEN SOLOMON had finished praying, the fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the house."*

The aftermath of fire is **GLORY!** Unfortunately, people are expecting the glory of God in the Church today without altars.

THE FIRE FALLS UPON THE ALTAR!!

THE FIRE COMES BEFORE THE GLORY!

WITHOUT AN ALTAR, THERE WILL BE NOWHERE FOR THE FIRE TO FALL!

2 Chron 7 : 2 *"2 The priests could not enter the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord had filled the Lord's house."*

When God ministers to His people, nobody ever forgets that day!

God will bring His glory back to the Church, AMEN!!

2 Chron 7 : 3 *"3 And when all the people of Israel saw how the fire came down and the glory of the Lord upon the house, they bowed with their faces upon the pavement and worshiped and praised the Lord, saying, For He is good, for His mercy and loving-kindness endure forever."*

Before then, they had been accustomed to how the fires of their altars were kindled. A priest would come with some things like fuel and pour on gathered grass and wood that had been laid on the altar. They were accustomed to such natural fires. When the people saw how this fire came without the effort of man, and the glory of God filled the temple, they all fell down and worshipped the Lord. The whole community was impacted for Him because the God of Israel was touched and moved through the altar of Solomon.

5. The Altar of Elijah

1 Kings 18: 30 *“30 Then Elijah said to all the people, Come near to me. And all the people came near him. And **he repaired the [old] altar** of the Lord that had been broken down [by Jezebel].”*



Elijah repaired the altar of the Lord because he was awaiting the Heavenly fire. He was looking **for a national revival**. He had challenged the people to see who's god is God. He also knew that before the fall of any fire there must be a prepared altar. He knew that **the secret of fire was the altar**.

Elijah repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down.

1 Kings 18: 31-32 *“31 Then Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord came, saying, Israel shall be your name.
32 And **with the stones Elijah built an altar** in the name [and self-revelation] of the Lord. He made a trench about the altar as great as would contain two measures of seed.”*

After he had built the altar, Elijah then had the confidence to ask God for fire. While awaiting the fire, he put the sacrificial animals upon the altar. While awaiting the fire, he spoke to God about the nation.

1 Kings 18:36 *“36 **At the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice**, Elijah the prophet came near and said, O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant and that I have done all these things at Your word.”*

He began praying at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice in Jerusalem. **Heavenly timing is necessary in revival prayers.** Elijah called on God when he had put the altar in place and because it was the time of the evening sacrifice in the temple.

1 Kings 18: 37-39 *“37 Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that You, the Lord, are God, and have turned their hearts back [to You].
38 **Then the fire of the Lord fell** and consumed the burnt sacrifice and the wood and the stones and the dust, and also licked up the water that was in the trench.
39 When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and they said, The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!”*

Conclusion:

The Law of The Altar.

Lev 6 : 12-13 *“12 And the fire upon the altar shall be kept burning on it; it shall not be allowed to go out. The priest shall burn wood on it every morning and lay the burnt offering in order upon it and he shall burn on it the fat of the peace offerings.
13 The fire shall be burning continually upon the altar; it shall not go out.”*

IT SHALL NEVER GO OUT!!

FOUR KINDS OF ALTARS.

1. **Our heart** is a type of altar.
2. **Your room** or wherever you pray and have a regular encounter with God is another form of altar.
3. **The family altar** –where the family gathers together for prayer, eg, weekly shabbat, daily prayer times, etc.
4. **Your Church** is another altar.
5. Conferences where there **are prayer rooms** become wide/national/international altars.



city-

SIX DIFFERENT MANIFESTATIONS OF ALTARS.

1. Personal.
2. Family.
3. Congregational.
4. Fasting.
5. Worship.
6. Meditation.

In the New Testament, it is no longer required of believers to build physical altars; rather, God wants us to raise altars in the spirit. (*John 4 : 24*) Our worship to God now is in and through the Spirit. These altars may be in our bedrooms, our gardens, a mountain top, etc. Meet God regularly at a particular place or location at a definite time.



Jesus Himself carried out this practice as we see in *Mark 1:35*.

He had an altar raised to God in the wilderness. Without an altar you cannot make progress in the school of prayer.

It is the uncommitted and unserious Christian that trifles with the issue of regular prayer.

Mark 1:35 *“35 And in the morning, long before daylight, He got up and went out to a deserted place, and there He prayed.”*

Chapter 3 SATANIC ALTARS

What are altars of afflictions and how do we deal with them?

1 Sam 7 : 5-13 *“5 Samuel said, Gather all Israel to Mizpah and I will pray to the Lord for you.*
6 So they gathered at Mizpah and drew water and poured it out before the Lord and fasted on that day and said there, We have sinned against the Lord. And Samuel judged the Israelites at Mizpah.
7 Now when the Philistines heard that the Israelites had gathered at Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the Israelites heard of it, they were afraid of the Philistines.
8 And the Israelites said to Samuel, Do not cease to cry to the Lord our God for us, that He may save us from the hand of the Philistines.
9 So Samuel took a sucking lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to the Lord; and Samuel cried to the Lord for Israel, and the Lord answered him.
10 As Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to attack Israel. But the Lord thundered with a great voice that day against the Philistines and threw them into confusion, and they were defeated before Israel.
11 And the men of Israel went out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines and smote them as far as below Beth-car.
12 Then Samuel took a stone and set it between Mizpah and Shen, and he called the name of it Ebenezer [stone of help], saying, Heretofore the Lord has helped us.
13 So the Philistines were subdued and came no more into Israelite territory. And the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.”

In the above passage we see an example of an altar being built by a priest, in the Name of the Lord, against a particular people for a particular purpose. This gives us an understanding of some of the many functions of an altar.

1. What is an altar?

It is an **operational base** of powers of darkness and satanic intermediaries. Simply put, **an altar is a high place, shrine or a place of meeting** between men and spirits – a place of contact with the spirit world. It is also a **place of sacrifice** and a place of invocation of spirits. After the usual tokens and sacrifices at an altar there is usually a trafficking of spirits at the altar.

2. Who can build an Altar?

An anointed priest. Somebody who has authority. Someone who represents another with authority. Someone with a **mandate** and a spiritual connection.

3. What do you raise an Altar For?

You raise an altar to **bless**, to **seek favour** or to **destroy**. Altars are raised to raise up or to cast down, to **enhance** or **frustrate**. You do not just build an altar for nothing, it must be for a definite purpose.

4. For Whom Do You Raise An Altar?

For a particular **nation, community, people** or **person**. It may be those you like or those you do not like. You raise up altars against them using their names. In the Old Testament period, if you wanted to destroy, frustrate or afflict someone, all you needed to do was to raise an altar using the name of that person and you would achieve your goal.

We see such an example in our text. Israel had gathered to call upon the Name of the Lord and as the enemy became aware of this, the Bible says, the Philistines mobilized for war. But thank God there was a priest for Israel. There was an anointed representative of God; Prophet Samuel.

When the people asked him to pray unto the Lord on their behalf, Samuel did no other thing than to **just raise up an altar in the Name of the Lord against the Philistines**.

The Bible says he took a suckling lamb and killed it and poured its blood upon the altar as a burnt offering to God.

As the sacrifice touched God, He became angry with Israel's enemies and thundered from Heaven against all the Philistines.

God discomfited them as He took over the battle. His angel of Death and Destruction was mandated to go and attack the Philistines. The Israelites did not have to fight. It was a walk-over battle.

The altar solved the problem for Israel. If we don't understand this clearly, we will suffer at the hands of the enemy. Many people suffer through the ministrations of altars. Many problems are protracted in their duration and because of ignorance, people do not pray accurately. **In spiritual warfare, if you do not pray accurately, you will get no result.**

In spiritual warfare you need to deal with the **source** and the **origin** of your problem, otherwise you will fast and pray to no avail.

However, once your eyes are opened and you are able to discern the source of your sorrow and you target it in anointed aggressive prayers, the problems can be solved in ten or twenty minutes of prayer.

Many people do not know that the source of their troubles and headaches are the satanic altars of affliction erected against them.

Many such altars have priests of wickedness ministering regularly on them. The devil stole and sold the blueprints of divine things to our ancestral fathers. The ministry of the altar in the Old Testament came from God. But the enemy took and turned it upside down to afflict and destroy men.

Samuel built an altar in the Name of the Lord against the Philistines. It worked well. The Philistines, though giants and expert warriors, remained in perpetual defeat all the days of Samuel. They did not know what happened and what the origin of their problem was.

EXAMPLES OF NEGATIVE ALTARS IN THE BIBLE

1. The Jerusalem Secret Cult – Ezekiel 8: 1-12

What these men did here was to go into the very temple of God to erect another altar – a satanic altar, in God's House!!

Who did they erect this altar against? They erected the altar against God Himself. God took note of it and said the reason for their erecting that altar was for Him to go far off from His Sanctuary. Thus, their aim was to **drive God away from the temple. The children of Abraham built a satanic altar right inside the temple of the Lord in order to drive God away from His temple.**

And indeed each time they offered upon that altar, God moved out of the temple for them. God showed the prophet Ezekiel all the idols of the house of Israel portrayed upon the wall round the inside of the temple, all kinds of abominable pictures of animals, beasts and demons; those things forbidden by God. Yet these were what the children of Israel portrayed upon the wall – at the altar.

2. The Altar of Jaazaniah and Co – Ezek 11 : 1-2

At the first instance God revealed only one name to Ezekiel among those who built negative altars but this time round, **two ring leaders** were revealed to the prophet. These two, along with **twenty-three** others had built an altar in the very House of God for the purpose of corrupting Israel. Every time they were in that place, they **stripped naked, calling the name of their idols, they were engaged in enchantment, bewitchment, high-level sorcery that affected the thoughts and the thinking patterns of every Israelite.**

Rather than worship the Almighty God, **people just felt compelled to worship idols.** If you look at the Bible from beginning to the end, you will discover that Israel loved Baal and false gods more than the True God. They just had a craving to follow after Baal.

It was the ministry of the altar!

Men like these were responsible. Each time they ministered at the altar, everybody was deluded and felt Baal was God. They could not think properly. The altar was at work. It was built to **torment** and **afflict** and to **hinder** the spiritual life of the nation. This is the factor behind the **delusion** and **confusion** of many nations today. They are ruled by a **satanic network**.

3. The Satanic Conspiracy Against Paul the Apostle.

Acts 23:11 *"11 And [that same] following night the Lord stood beside Paul and said, Take courage, Paul, for as you have borne faithful witness concerning Me at Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome."*

Acts 23: 12 *"12 Now when daylight came, the Jews formed a plot and **bound themselves by an oath and under a curse** neither to eat nor drink till they had done away with Paul."*

That was an altar against the anointed servant of the Lord.

Acts 23:13 *“There were more than forty [men of them], who formed this conspiracy [swearing together this oath and curse].”*

You must have discovered that in each of these altars, God had always revealed the identities of those involved. God knows where the altars are operating in our lives. They are not hidden from the Eyes of the Almighty, **“for the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth.”**

The Bible says those who erected an altar against Paul were about **forty**.

Acts 23:14-16 *“14 And they went to the chief priests and elders, saying, We have strictly **bound ourselves by an oath and under a curse** not to taste any food until we have slain Paul.*

15 So now you, along with the council (Sanhedrin), give notice to the commandant to bring [Paul] down to you, as if you were going to investigate his case more accurately. But we [ourselves] are ready to slay him before he comes near.

16 But the son of Paul’s sister heard of their intended attack, and he went and got into the barracks and told Paul.”

God will reveal to you the secrets of your enemies and no weapon formed against you shall prosper. When the enemy shall come in, like a flood the Spirit of the Lord will raise up a standard against him. All you need is the anointing of God upon your life and the fear of God in your heart. **God will reveal every secret thing to you.** Even Paul, the anointed servant of the Lord, **was not spared of altar attacks.** Jewish children of Abraham gathered together to undo him. They felt Paul’s fame and ministry was becoming more than they could ordinarily handle, so they decided to **silence him completely**. Therefore, they entered into a **corporate covenant**, and placed a **great curse upon themselves so that they could kill him.** But God leaked their secret. Paul’s nephew knew everything about the evil plot in details. This, in a way, represents the Holy Spirit’s revelation.

Again, the recurrent question is, **why was this altar erected at all?**

It was **erected in order to terminate the life and ministry of the man of God.**

That is the **goal of every negative, demonic altar – to steal, kill and destroy.**

4. The Altars of Balak and Balaam

In **Numbers chapters 22 – 24** we find the story of **Balaam, Balak** and the children of Israel. In **chapter 22**, Balak contracted the services of a priest of the altar called **Balaam who was a soothsayer, diviner and sorcerer.** In spite of the fact that God had told Balaam not to go along to curse, he still went together with the princes of Moab and Midian in order to curse the children of Israel.

However, before the curse could be affected or released, he needed to do some spiritual things. The Bible records that, **“Balaam said unto Balak, Build me here seven altars, and prepare me here seven oxen and seven rams.”**

When God met Balaam: Balaam said unto Him, “***I have prepared seven altars, and I have offered upon every altar a bullock and a ram.***” (Numbers 23: 14) **These altars were not unto God. They were altars of sorcery and divination. That is why he had to move away from the altars before he could meet with God.** He built seven altars unto the gods with whom the kings of Moab and Midian had covenants.

Numbers 23:27-30 “27 And Balak said to Balaam, *Come, I implore you; I will take you to another place. Perhaps it will please God to let you curse them for me from there.*
28 So Balak brought Balaam to the top of [Mount] Peor, that overlooks [the wilderness or desert] Jeshimon.
29 And Balaam said to Balak, **Build me here seven altars**, and prepare me here seven bulls and seven rams.
30 And Balak did as Balaam had said, and offered a bull and a ram **on each altar.**”

These altars were erected purposely to invoke a curse upon the children of Israel; to weaken them and make them susceptible to **failure** and **defeat**. The ministry of the altar must be well understood. Without an altar, the princes and the powers of darkness cannot operate the way they should. They operate normally through the ministry of **negative altars** which we call **altars of affliction**. Thank God, however, that He did not allow Balaam to curse the children of Israel. The Holy Spirit took over his tongue, putting words in his mouth, so, instead of pronouncing curses he prophesied blessings on Israel.

ALTARS IN OUR CITIES, TOWNS, AND FARMS

We see **altars, shrines and groves** in many parts of our cities and towns and many Christians don't know their implications and just walk past them. We should not as their presence indicates that **the land, community or marketplace** where they have been raised has been covenanted to the god worshipped in that place and is therefore under the firm grip of the devil. [Example: **graves** of songomas, important people, etc, are used as altars and gateways in the spirit.]

For such a place, unless a territorial deliverance is carried out, nothing good or positive can come out of it. Because our ancestors covenanted our lands to the devil, until we come to this knowledge and take divine and active deliberate steps to redeem such lands, what will be experienced on such lands, communities and cities are manifestations of sinfulness, idolatry, murder, pornography, immorality, robbery, resistance to the gospel, poverty, wretchedness, etc.

Covenants are made on these altars, some as old as 300 – 400 years, and are still binding our cities and lands until we willfully and deliberately investigate and recognize these and destroy their influences over our lands.

These **ancient, ancestral covenants** are maintained and serviced through our so-called **cultures, traditions and festivals**. The satanic altars also have two other contents – every altar has a priest and there are spirits that supervise the altars.

Both the priests ministering on these altars and the spirits supervising the altar need to be dealt with in spiritual warfare.

Spiritual Consequences.

1. The city/town/farm and its people are covenanted to whatever god is called upon.
2. By this covenant, the city/town/farm is handed over to this deity for protection by the traditional ruler/king, etc.
3. These so-called traditional practices bring God's judgement according to:

Ex 20:3-5 *"You shall have no other gods before or besides Me.*

Exodus 20:4 You shall not make yourself any graven image [to worship it] or any likeness of anything that is in the heavens above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;

Exodus 20:5 You shall not bow down yourself to them or serve them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me,"

These leaders making these covenants with these gods have **spiritual authority** over the land and hence the covenants are valid over the land unless the church takes care to nullify it by bringing **repentance** and revoking the covenant by the power of the God of Israel.

4. The original covenants are **renewed** every year with **festivals, public holidays,** etc.
5. As these deities are appeased and worshipped every year on behalf of the city/town/farm, etc, the city/town/farm is under a curse and God's wrath:

Ps 106:36-40 *"Psalm 106:36 And served their idols, which were a snare to them.*

Psalm 106:37 Yes, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons

Psalm 106:38 And shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan; and the land was polluted with their blood.

Psalm 106:39 Thus were they defiled by their own works, and they played the harlot and practiced idolatry with their own deeds [of idolatrous rites].

Psalm 106:40 Therefore was the wrath of the Lord kindled against His people, insomuch that He abhorred and rejected His own heritage."

I Cor 10:14 *"1 Corinthians 10:14 Therefore, my dearly beloved, shun (keep clear away from, avoid by flight if need be) any sort of idolatry (of loving or venerating anything more than God)."*

Other Satanic Altars

1. **Statues and Monuments** – there are statues and monuments erected which look ordinarily like works of art but have spiritual implications.
2. Many **festivals and celebrations** in the guise of **tradition and culture** are basically times and seasons of negotiations and transactions with the powers of darkness. They are times of **renewing pacts and covenants with ancestral and territorial spirits**.
3. Before the so-called festivals, the **ancient men and satanic priests** would have gone to the shrines and altars for days, sometimes up to a month. These are ways of **maintaining and servicing** ancestral covenants initially made by our forefathers with various gods.
4. There are certain festivals where the **sons and daughters** of these cities/towns/farms are called home to attend. These so-called festivals are held once a year and they are a way of keeping the **ancient covenants or pacts** with the devil serviced so that there is continuous hold of the power of the devil over the land. These are all done in the name of **cultural awakening and cultural revival in the land**.
5. In some areas where there are **bodies of water**, they have the culture of dropping new born babies into the water which spiritually amounts to initiation into water spirits.
6. **Tribal marks** are another cultural innovation from the pit of hell. Various spirits over tribes and cities dictate **types of incisions** and **marks** they want on people from such tribes and cities so that wherever such people go, these territorial demons can monitor them and claim ownership over them. That is why some people from certain localities have strange but peculiar common behaviours like drunkenness, immorality, stinginess, anger, etc. They are under the influence of such ruling territorial spirits.
7. There is also the issue of **satanic blood covenants** through **incisions**. They are made on people's bodies by native doctors who are witches or agents of witches.

Three major things happen through incisions:

1. There is a **blood covenant**.
2. **Incantations** are made before or during the incision which are coded words that are curses.
3. A **black substance** is rubbed into the body through the incision which of course is the entry point of demons into the person's life.

All these blood covenants with satan through **tribal marks, incisions and body tattoos** are manipulations and deceptions.

This satanic action in the name of **culture** brings a bondage on the land and the people practising such things.

Jer 16:19 *“Jeremiah 16:19 [Then said Jeremiah] O Lord, my Strength and my Stronghold, and my Refuge in the day of affliction, to You shall the nations come from the ends of the earth and shall say, Surely our fathers have inherited nothing but lies, emptiness, and futility, worthless things in which there is no profit!”*

This means our ancestral fathers inherited the lies of satan and passed on the same from generation to generation in the name of **tradition and culture**. Many things we are suffering individually and in some cases corporately, are the results of idolatrous practices our fathers covenanted us to and which in many cases, are still continued in the name of tradition.

VARIOUS TYPES OF ALTARS

1. Sculptured Image Altars.

This altar is made in such a way that a **sculptured image representation** of an individual which looks like the person, is pinned to the wall or put in a shrine which is an altar.

This particular sculptured image represents the individual and whenever such a person is to be afflicted, what those in charge do **is to look the image and hit it with a rod on the head or slap it in the face or inject it with a satanic needle** and then something begins to happen to the person, the very person whose image it represents wherever he/she is.

An sculptured image altar can be in different places; they may put them in shrines, or in rooms from where they invoke the names of the gods, and the presence of demons against whoever the image represents.

2. Pictorial Altars.

This is a **photographic image** of a person, pinned to a wall inside the shrine or before an altar. It may be a **wedding** or **family** picture or an **individual** picture. Once it is pinned to the wall, evil spirits are conjured to go and look for that person anywhere in the world to afflict and torment him. This is called a pictorial altar. If they want to afflict the person with a **disease**, they can inject that picture with a sharp instrument like a needle and then, **infirmary** and **oppression** will start manifesting in the individual's life. That is his beginning of sorrows. That is why you must be careful not to give your pictures to anyone so that people do not use your picture to afflict you.

3. Name Altars.

Name altars are **people's names taken** before **certain sacred spots, places, rooms or shrines**. The priest at the altar mentions the name regularly before the gods making incantations to afflict the person whose name has been brought to the shrine.

4. Crystal Ball Altars.

The crystal ball is roundish, like a ball, and whatever these people want to divine can be seen in the ball. They can divine the future of the person from the crystal ball, and they can conjure the image of a person in the crystal ball and possibly shoot or afflict the person in the crystal ball. All these emblems are placed inside some sacred places where demons regularly traffic, where sacrifices would have been made and the presence of demons and demonic anointing is usually high.



5. Ouija Boards.

Ouija Boards are what satanic priests like **magicians as satanists and cultists** use for their evil purposes. The Ouija board has a lot of things on it like a chess board. You can **play with somebody's life** by manipulating the objects on the board. Whichever way you play the game, it becomes manifested in that life. If he were on the verge of success, failure comes as the reality.

6. Box Altars/ CLONES

This is a satanic '**juju**' box which when opened after very **serious incantations and demonic invocations**, can bring forth the image of the individual to be afflicted. The box might not be more than two feet or even less in height and breadth, but you can find a full-grown man coming out of it **looking like a dummy**, eyes glazed. He cannot talk, but then he rises out of the box. It is a mysterious image of a man or a person to be afflicted. The altar priests may take **satanic needles** or **whips** that have been soaked in charms and flog that man. Wherever that man is on planet earth, **trouble** and **affliction** will start. Whatever they want to happen to the man would manifest. They can take a **hammer** and begin to **hit the man on the head** and of course, wherever the man is, he will begin to feel **serious torments on the head, very serious headache**.

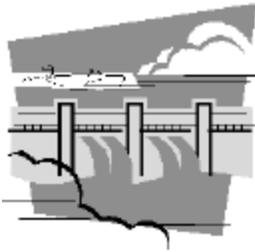


After they are through with such affliction or instructions to him on what to do, they may even command him to go and do something abnormal. Then they lock up the box and the man disappears into the small box. Mysterious, but real.

Another manifestation of serious witchcraft is very similar where they create a "**clone**" of the person they want to afflict. This exact representation of the person will be used to perform rituals and many demonic actions.

This person will then be accused of participating in witchcraft and all kinds of evil when in actual fact it is a “clone” of the person doing these things under the control of perpetrators. This “clone” needs to be destroyed in Jesus Name. (Remember, it is just a dummy.)

7. Marine Altars/Water spirits.



Marine altars are built in **rivers**, the **sea**, **dams**, or **any body of water**.

Names and images of people can be dropped into various bodies as well **as images of people**. **And as long as the water covers that object**, the progress of the individual concerned **will remain covered**. His or her progress is subsequently submerged and they say, *“as this thing that is thrown into the river can never float, so the man will never come up to the top, the man will never rise to the top, his progress will never be seen.”*

Until that body of water dries up and the thing submerged is exhumed and destroyed, that person may never have any progress in life.

However, if that person is a child of God, of course, the Spirit of God can deal with the materials in the spiritual realm. With prayer, the whole ritual can be reversed and the person/family/ministry etc, can be brought up out of the water and released into God’s favour and blessing.

8. Forest Altars.

Forest altars are shrines situated in the forests. They are **sacred spots** in the forest where you have very mysterious trees, under which the priests of the forest altars worship and do a lot of sacrifices. From here a lot of **afflictions** are conjured and sent out to people. The priests usually minister at night, where they take images or pictures of people to the forest and **nail them** to the tree or **hang them on branches**.



As long as a particular picture or name is hung on the tree, such a person concerned will have his **progress suspended** in life. A child of God will have to pray aggressive warfare prayers asking the Lord to remove the picture or name from the tree, to reverse the ritual, break the curse and change it into a blessing.

9. Body Parts Representation Before Altars.

Body parts from people have been commonly used as a means to **afflict** people. By body parts we refer to such things **as urine, hairs, feaces, fingernails, menstrual pads, etc**.

That is one reason why women have to be careful about how they dispose of their menstrual pads.

We have heard of **witches, sorcerers, and satanic agents** that go round dustbins pretending to be looking for food but actually looking for menstrual pads, which they would take to altars. The blood of a woman is in the pad representing her **reproductive ability**. They make incantations and speak some curses on those things and whomever the woman is that is involved, may be rendered **barren** or she may have many **female problems**.

She may even experience difficulties in the area of marriage. Placentas are also taken to an altar and rituals are performed. The mother and the baby may suffer many troubles and afflictions in life and not understand what the root cause could be.

10. Clothing Altars.

They can take clothing to altars. That is why we must be very careful about our clothes. Everything that has contact with our bodies or which are from our bodies, can be taken to these places and then used to afflict.



11. Astral Altars.



Astral altars are heavenly bodies like the **stars**, the **moon**, the **sun**, the **constellation** to which men can speak. In the Book of **Judges Chapter 5 verse 20, Deborah**, the prophetess, spoke words to the heavenly bodies when she was fighting alongside with Barak against Sisera and the enemies that attacked the people of God. The Word says, "***They fought from heaven; the stars in their courses fought against Sisera.***"



The stars fought from heaven because Deborah programmed words into the heavenly bodies and they began to aid the people of God. Thus, we know that the heavenly bodies have ears and they can hear. Those engaged in **astrology or "star-reading"** know so much about **the potentials and powers of the heavenly bodies and can program names of people into them as they discover their stars**. They then begin to **attack the progress** of such people. These are **astral altars**. **Words are programmed into heavenly bodies or even into the very star sign of an individual** and that individual will never experience progress except through the power of God and the deliverance of the Spirit.



[Please also read the manual **FOUR ELEMENTS** available at Kanaan Ministries for more understanding of these concepts.]

PURPOSE OF ALTARS OF AFFLICTION

1. Altars are used to make contact with the Spirit World – *Genesis 8:20-21*

Sacrifices are made at the altars in order to make contact with the spirit world, with **demons**, (evil spirits) and **territorial powers**. In the Old Testament, the people of God erected or built altars in order to make contact with the Living God, Jahweh the Elohim.

2. An Altar is a Place of Invocation of Evil Spirits – *Genesis 12:8*

An altar is a place for invoking evil spirits, once the necessary sacrifices have been made. **Sacrifices are tokens** given to the demons to request for their assistance in afflicting people. No witch will fight you physically, no wizard will take you on physically, they do it spiritually. And all they do at the altar is to invoke evil spirits for help after giving them token sacrifices.

This is one of the **purposes of the altar**. There, people contact the services of demons for help. In order to operate and function in the spirit world, man has to function dependently. **No human being can function independently in the realm of the spirit**. Even as Christians, we have to function dependently before we can really deal with our enemies. We have to depend upon the Holy Spirit and God's angels who use our words, (PRAYER) as it were, in order to attack the powers of darkness.

That is why the Bible says we wrestle not against flesh and blood and that the instruments of our warfare are not carnal but MIGHTY through God. So, we too, have to function in the spirit realm dependently.

3. Altars are used to Monitor the Progress of People.

Once your name has been submitted at an altar or your image is there or they are using a **crystal ball** or a **satanic mirror** to **monitor you**, wherever you are, they can influence your life. Whether you are in Saudi Arabia, Britain or Japan does not matter. Once they call your name and your name or image appears on the crystal ball, they can see how far you have gone, **the progress you are making** and then they can begin to hinder you.

There could also be **agents of the altar that physically come to visit you**, like as baby-sitters, house-helps, gardeners, friends, etc, who only come to spy for your enemies and take the report back to the altar priests.

[Teaching on: " Church Destruction" – **Book**: Life Through Choice available at Kanaan Ministries]

4. Altars are also used to Determine a Person's Spiritual Level.

An altar is used to know who an individual is. Your spiritual ability, whether you are **powerful** and **prayerful** or not, can be **monitored** from the altar. They can know if you have potential for success or not or whether they should waste their ammunitions on you or not. Satanic people also use the altar to know people's **moral weaknesses** in order to understand how to attack these people.

5. Altars are used to control People.

This type of control can be in the form of **sickness**. Once your name or your image is at the altar, if you are trying to rise up in life, your enemies can give you a little sickness to shoot you down. Anything can happen to you since your entire life is under the altar's control. You cannot do what you want to do. You cannot go where you want to go. This is typical of how a **generational curse** operates. You are being held back in every situation of life. You can only go so far and no further. That is how satanic altars can control people. People can be seeing success ahead, they want to achieve and strive for it, they stretch their lives and necks, they write application forms, go out everyday trying to do a lot of things but never avcieving any success. They are so limited. No progress, even when they have been employed. Our prayer for you is that every control over your life will be destroyed in the Name of Jesus. You can be limited in your **marriage, spiritually** and **financially**. That is why every Christian must be violent in prayer (Matt. 11: 12).
[Cleaning up you life is essential for victory in the Lord Jesus Christ. See, Soul Care School, available at Kanaan Ministries.]

6. Altars are used to Intimidate.

Intimidation comes when you begin **to have nightmares** or when you are living under an undue fear. Some people normally fear their parents, even though they are grown up enough to take decisions on their own. But because altars have been built against their lives, whenever they are to take any major decision, they find it difficult because **they fear their parents**. No matter what they want to do, the moment they remember "Daddy", there is a sudden terrible fear inside of them. The moment they either remember mother or father, uncle or one or other relationship, there is a **paralyzing fear** because they have not obtained permission from home or from these people. They are mature but because altars have been erected against them, they cannot be themselves until somebody instructs them. If they do anything on their own, of course, the repercussions are very severe and grave. Certain **church leaders** operate with a **strong spirit of control** and they use **manipulation** and **intimidation** to control the congregation. The spirit they operate with is called **Jezebel**.

[Teachings are available on Spiritual Abuse and the Spirit of Jezebel from Kanaan Ministries]

7. Altars are used to Afflict.

Many of the afflictions we have in our contemporary society whether in a form of **barrenness, limitations** in life, **severe afflictions** that remain in spite of prescribed medications and prayers, trouble that will not go away, repeated, regular trouble, maybe with law enforcement agencies, etc, all come as a result of some altars of affliction in existence somewhere. They are used to **afflict**, to simply make things difficult for you and maybe even to harm you or your family from time to time.

8. Altars are used to Destroy People.

The end result of every altar of affliction in a life of a man is his destruction. Little wonder then, the Bible says in *John 10:10* that, “***The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.***” Satan is a destroyer and he uses satanic priesthood and men at the altar to destroy people.

Chapter 4 - MANIFESTATION OF ATTACKS FROM SATANIC ALTARS

How do I know that an altar has been erected against my life?

How do I know that something is operating against my life?

Maybe an image altar, a name altar, a pictorial altar or an astral altar?

How do I know that one form of an altar or the other is operating against my life?

What are the symptoms?

Here are a few indications. Some of what we suffer in life can come as a result of **curse**s or **spells**, and some as a result of **ancestral covenants**. An **altar** is the **satanic operational headquarters** where a lot of negative things are released against the lives of men, women and children.

1. Regular, Repeated Tragedies and Delayed Blessings.

If a person has a **regular, repeated tragedy**, maybe at a point he ought to pass an **examination**, that is the time he normally **falls sick** or **have accidents**, an altar may be in operation. They monitor people carefully and the moment they see that you are stretching forth yourself to accomplish something tangible, they strike again. So, when you have a tragedy that is **regular** and **repeated** and you can count and almost predict them, then an altar might be in existence against your life.



2. Periodic Sickness.

You have come to know yourself that when it is raining season, something will happen to you. If it is regular and can be monitored, then you must know that an altar is against your life. This might not be just a physiological or biological problem you've taken it to be, it might be the work of an altar set **against your life and programmed for the raining season or for the dry season** or for **one period of the year or the other**. It can be during your **menstruation** that such things happen or it may be when you are **something doing physically** that this sickness strikes, then you know that an altar is in existence.



We call these patterns and cycles **time clocks** controlled by **Father Time**. We need to smash these "time-clocks" in Jesus Name. Cancel all **preprogrammed times and seasons, break all cycles and patterns in Jesus Name**.

3. Compulsive Actions (Irrational behaviour)

You may be the kind of person that is very gentle, a humble person, but all of a sudden you just discover that after somebody's visit to your home, you stopped seeing eye to eye with your spouse and once in a while you just get mad with him/her, and **physically attack/get beaten up**. A while later, you come to your senses and wonder how could you have done what you have done?

Three month later this can happen again and you begin to wonder why you are no longer yourself any more? It can be that your **wedding picture** has been taken to the altar; hence you manifest **compulsive** and **irrational actions**.

They may be working on you at the altar, and it is left to you to counter-attack and destroy the altar in the spirit in the Name of Jesus.

It may be that you are a woman who is given to decency, holiness, good morality, but all of a sudden because you are being worked upon at the altar, when you see a man you cannot control yourself anymore. The **desire and urge for sin** becomes **uncontrollable**. This is not just an ordinary demonic attack, an altar may be at work. Casting out demons may not solve the problem, you have to deal with that thing that is generating those actions from the background, that is the altar.

4. Death Wish and Suicidal Tendencies.

This was the kind of thing that happened to **Elijah after Jezebel** had cast a spell on him. She had said she would kill Elijah. She **probably went to her altar and started working on the prophet**. From that day on, the man of God lost his balance. Elijah started running in the wrong direction. He ran into the wilderness, at one point he got so discouraged that he tried to sleep it off and when he awoke he said God should take his life. He went for forty days to Mount Horeb in the wrong direction until God sent him back. So, when you have a **death wish** and **suicidal tendencies**, such that when you are alone you feel like **committing suicide**, you can not explain why, it maybe they have taken your image to the altar and they are **firing** at it or **smashing** it with **cut-glass**, urging you to kill yourself.

The moment this is happening, you start feeling like **dying**, like **running under a trailer or running under a train or jumping over a bridge/cliff/into water to drown yourself**.

Such **compulsive death wishes and suicidal tendencies** are manifestations of the altars of affliction.

5. Abnormal Losses.

Your **money** just disappears mysteriously or even the hair on your head is disappearing without any explanation! Though you were not aware of anybody stealing from you, you have losses all the same. This may be the influence and action of evil spirits from the altar.



You cannot find the **key to the car**, you cannot find the **wedding ring**, you cannot find **your documents**, and you cannot find **precious things** you kept diligently somewhere the day before no matter how much you search. These are some of the manifestations you have to understand about afflictions from the altar.

Ask God to commission His angels to find whatever is missing in Jesus Name. Ask Him to send His ballif angels to go to satan's hide-outs and to command the demons/human spirits to return what has been taken in Jesus Name. Ask the Lord to make visible that which satan has made invisible/has blinded your eyes to in Jesus Name.

6. Inexplicable Discouragements.

*Do you just sit down **feeling depressed**?* You look around and say, "why me", even when things may be going fine with you. Can you imagine a man like Elijah who had just brought down fire on Mount Carmel, a man who had just caused a sudden revival in Israel, the man who had just brought rain after three and a half years of famine and drought, who had just brought rain by prayer and the next minute, sitting down under a juniper tree, sleeping and wishing for a quick death to end it all? That was a big **discouragement** and it was **abnormal** and **unusual**. Something was working against him. When you have inexplicable discouragements, **regular depression**, are always **moody** and **downcast**, you can be sure that the enemy does not want you to be cheerful in life because he knows a merry heart makes a cheerful countenance. The devil knows when you rejoice in the Lord, faith develops, strength and vibrancy comes.



Satan wants us to be depressed and sad so that we will be fed-up with life and wish for death. [Teaching on "The Joy of The Lord is my Strength" available from Kanaan Ministries.]

7. Suspicions.

Negative altars cause you to suspect people. You may have dreams about people or the enemy just suddenly makes you to begin to suspect people. They may not be the people who are behind your problem but because of the altar influence, you begin to suspect people and **live in fear**. Along the line comes **hatred** and deliberate **malice**. This is done in order to bring you to a head-on collision with other people and make you live a **bitter** and **quarrelsome** life.

Once hatred is established in you, the enemy knows you cannot get your prayers answered. They can disturb your relationship with God. If they cannot get you to commit sin, to commit outright immorality, steal or take a bribe, they will attempt to make you **hate** people.

8. Mysterious Body Marks.

You sleep at night and by the time you wake up; you discover that all kinds of **marks** and **lacerations** have been made on your body. This is the work of evil spirits from hell to tamper with your **blood** and **health**. They have used **satanic needles** to inject you and to **draw blood**. This is usually the cause of **serious sicknesses**. When one begins to see fresh and mysterious body marks, sometimes emitting blood, one has to do something very quickly. It is the work of **witches**, **wizards** and **water spirits**. It is **satanic poison** being injected into your body and your blood being taken to the altar.

9. Terrible Nightmares.

You have terrible nightmares where you dream that they throw you from a big mountain down into the valley below, or they take you from a bridge or cliff and drop you into a big river. It may be that in your dream you just find yourself **falling**, or somebody **shoots** at you or **pierces** you with a knife or **whips** you.

All such types of nightmares are very close to the workings of an altar. Most of the operations of this altar take place during the night. Hence, when you have dreamt such dreams, do not panic! Just get up and begin to deal with them from your exalted position in Christ using scripture to fire back at your enemies.



10. Hearing Abnormal but Familiar Sounds or Voices.

Maybe you are walking and all of a sudden, you stand still and hear your name being called distinctly at a distance without any visible person calling it. If you reply or you answer, you may be a **dead man** or **go insane**. A lot of people become insane through such afflictions from the altars. They heard a familiar voice calling them in the spirit, and they answered, and from that moment they lost mental consciousness (zombies).

A lot of people hear **abnormal sounds**. They even hear **footsteps** of people following them. They are the people working on you at the altar or it can even be **abnormal visions**. You can also see a lot of people not noticeable or seen by others.

Petition against my enemies (Ps 109, Ps 6 & Ps 7)

Heavenly Father, through the Blood of Jesus Christ of Nazareth that was shed for me, You have called us to come boldly and to enter into Your Throne Room and lay our petitions before You. We intend to bombard heaven with our prayers, petitions and with the words from Your Word. This day, we ask that You begin to bring all of the following into reality:

Lord, I come and petition before You that You will not hold Your peace, oh God of my praise, for the wicked and the mouth of the deceitful are opened against me: they have spoken against me with a lying tongue. They have compassed me about also with words of hatred; and fought against me without a cause. In return for my love they are my adversaries: but I give myself unto prayer. And they have rewarded me evil for good, and hatred for my love.

Lord I ask that You will deliver me from my enemies, because Your mercy is good. Help me, o God, and save me according to Your mercy, that they may know that this is Your Hand, that You, oh Lord, have done it. Have mercy upon me, Oh Lord, for I am weak, Oh Lord, heal me, for my bones are vexed. My eye grows dim because of grief; it grows old because of all mine enemies.

Judge me Oh Lord according to my righteousness [my rightness, justice, and right standing with You] and according to the integrity that is in me. My defense is of You, Oh Lord, who saves the upright in heart.

Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity, for the Lord has heard the voice of my weeping. The Lord has heard my supplication; the Lord will receive my prayer. Lord, as my enemy loved cursing, so let it come back upon him: as he delighted not in blessing, so let it be far from him. Lord as a prophetic action I now strip myself from any garments of curses, remove any cursed girdles from myself and ask that You will devour it with Your fire. I asked that the Blood of Jesus Christ of Nazareth will sanctify and purify my bowels and bones from any defilement in the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

Lord, let mine adversaries be clothed with shame and dishonour, and let them cover themselves with their own disgrace and confusion, as with a mantle. Lord whet Your sword, bend Your bow and prepare Your arrows as fiery shafts against my enemies. Arise, O Lord, in Your anger; lift up Yourself against the rage of my enemies, and awake for me the justice and vindication that You have commanded.

I will give great praise the Lord with my mouth Yea; I will praise Him among the multitude. For He shall stand at the right hand of the poor to save him from those that condemn his life. I will sing praise to the Name of the Lord Most High.

In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth I pray.
AMEN

CHAPTER 5 – HOW TO DEAL WITH NEGATIVE ALTARS

1. **Recognize their Existence.**
2. **Know why they exist.**
3. **Submit yourself to God.**

2 Corinthians 10:6 “*and having the readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.*”

Your own **obedience must be fulfilled** before you can have authority to deal with the enemy. The enemy will not yield any ground if he has any **legal hold** over any area of your life. If you are living in secret sin, the enemy will contend that area with you and he will not give up easily. Take a fast to cleanse, purge and empower yourself.

4. **Ask for Discernment.**

When you have submitted yourself to God, you go to the next step of asking for **accurate discernment**. Ask God to really show you, maybe by **dream** or by **revelation**, where those attacks are coming from. You must know the **cause** and **origin** of your problem. Let God give you a clue and understanding. A lot of people have prayed to God for understanding as to the origin and source of their problems and they were answered. So ask for an accurate discernment of your problems before you begin to do spiritual warfare.

5. **Ask for Forgiveness – stand in the gap.**

As a priest of the Most High God, ask forgiveness for the **sin committed** to allow this attack against you/the Church, family, marriage etc.

Bring **every ritual** before the Lord and ask Him to forgive the sins of **murder, rape, torture, sexual orgies**, or whatever was done to appease satan and his demons. As you confess these sins on behalf of the agents of satan, the Blood of Jesus comes to redeem the ground where these satanic deeds took place. The Bible says that the land gets defiled when idolatry takes place (*Lev 18 : 25*).

Ask the Lord to **silence all the blood** that flowed giving satan a platform to operate against you. Ask Him to **silence all the voices** crying for vengeance in the spirit.

Romans 8 : 21 – 22 “*21 That nature (creation) itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and corruption [and gain an entrance] into the glorious freedom of God’s children. 22 We know that the whole creation [of irrational creatures] has been moaning together in the pains of labor until now.*”

6. Resist the Enemy.

After you have received a discernment either by prayer or by revelation through dreams, visions, prophecy, or by the Spirit to your spirit, you now go ahead to resist the enemy reminding him that:

- You are a child of God
- You are Born-again and your name has been written in the Book of Life.
- You have been delivered from the curse of the law.
- Jesus has been made a curse for you (*Gal 3 : 13*)
- Read **Col 1 : 12** to him and show him that you have been delivered from the kingdom of darkness and transferred to the Kingdom of God's Son.
- You have redemption through His Blood, even the forgiveness of your sins.

7. Pray Prophetically and Aggressively.

You can now begin to do prophetic praying, **prophesying against the altars**. Use the Word of God to prophesy against the altars. Go to the Book of **Ezekiel chapters 9 and 11**, you will see examples of how Ezekiel prophesied against satanic altars. In **1 Kings, chapter 13**, the prophet who came out of Judah and went to Bethel where Jeroboam was offering sacrifices at the altar to hinder the move of God in the land, did prophetic praying.

The Bible says that **when he prophesied the altars split apart and the ashes poured out** and of course the altar could no longer function. He cursed the altar in the Name of the Lord. He uttered prophetic prayers against the altar. You need to do the same, using the **spiritual weapons** of warfare to contend with the enemy.

Use the **Blood of Jesus**, use the Name of Jesus.

The Bible says at the mention of the **Name of Jesus**, every knee shall bow.

Command the **East wind** of the Lord to contend with the adversary. Ask God to send a strong East wind to blow and crash all the altars. Ask God to use His **hurricane** to destroy the altars. Ask God to send is **Holy fire** to destroy the altars. Prophesy and pray in tongues. You must have relevant scriptures to deal with the adversary.

Reverse every step of the rituals performed and **dismantle the demonic structures** in the Name of Jesus.

8. Pray for the Salvation of the Priests at the Altar.

Stand in the gap for these agents of satan as they are so deceived. FORGIVENESS is very important. You need to separate the persons involved from the evil spirits.

Our warfare is not against flesh and blood but against the evil hosts of wickedness.

Jesus also died and paid the price for them to be saved and it is His will that no man should perish, but have everlasting life (**John 3: 16**)

Prophesy salvation scriptures over them.

Luke 6 : 27 – 28 “ *But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you.*”

Romans 12 : 14 “*Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.*”

9. Withdraw your Name.

When you have done all these things, then go ahead to withdraw your name, emblem and image from any altar.

PRAYER:

In the Name of Jesus, I withdraw my name from every altar. I withdraw any part of my body, any pictorial representation of my person, any duplicate of my being; I withdraw such from the altars of satan and cut myself loose from all of these things in Jesus Name. I plant the cross of Jesus between myself and all these altars and representations of me in the Name of Jesus.

I ask You Lord, to send Your Holy fire and to destroy the altars as well as every representation of me in the Name of Jesus.

[Please note that it is important to cut yourself free from these altars and representations of yourself **before** you destroy them because you have been tied to them in the spirit, so what ever happens to them will have an effect on you.]

10. Possess your Possession.

When you have done the above, go ahead and possess your promised land in the Name of Jesus. You must recover all lost ground in the Name of Jesus.

Take back what the devil has stolen from you in Jesus Name.

Obadiah 17 “*17 But on Mount Zion [in Jerusalem] there shall be deliverance [for those who escape], and it shall be holy; and the house of Jacob shall possess its [own former] possessions.*”

11. Give Praises to God.

Begin to praise the Lord, rejoice in the Lord and walk in your victory. When you have done this **repeatedly**, particularly at **midnight** when evil people normally work at the altar, you will begin to sense victory and of course, all the devil has stolen will begin to get restored unto you. You must possess your promised land for God has called you into an inheritance of blessings.

Chapter 6 – PRAYER

1. Dealing with the Satanic Altars (Shrines) and High Places of your City/Neighborhood.

Scriptures to stand upon:

Deut 7: 5; 12: 2-3; Hosea 10:2; Isaiah 14: 24-27;
Jer 51: 1-2; 1 Kings 3: 1-5; 1 Kings 18: 30-40.

Introduction.

The presence of altars and high places in our cities bring the **influence, covering** and **control** of darkness and that particular evil spirit to which the altars are dedicated.

Heavenly Father,

As we go into this level of warfare, we receive Your **covering** of the **Blood of Jesus**. We declare that the Name of the Lord is a **strong tower** and we run into it, and we are safe.

We receive Your **anointing** and **power** upon our **tongues** in Jesus Name. We forbid any satanic **backlash** or **retaliation** against us and our families, in Jesus Name.

We declare that we are the **head** and not the tail; that the battle is the Lord's and the victory is ours.

We dress ourselves for battle with the Armour of the Lord, the **helmet** of salvation, the **belt** of truth, the **breastplate** of righteousness, the **shoes** of the gospel of peace, the **shield** of faith, the **sword** of the Spirit for this territorial intercession and warfare. We prophesy against all the **satanic altars** in the **high places** in this city in Jesus Name – we ask You Lord, to let every satanic altar around our city become desolate and let all **covenants** being serviced by these altars be revoked and broken in Jesus Name.

Let the **Sword** and the **Hand of the Lord** be against the priests and priestesses ministering on all those satanic altars and high places and let their places be found no more. Father, show them whose god is God, bring them to their knees at Your throne in Jesus Name.

We **silence** every evil speaking from all satanic altars and high places of this city in Jesus Name.

Let all curses brought about by **ritual sacrifices** and **satanic tokens** be revoked in Jesus Name.

We blot out all the **programming** that has been done into the **sun, moon, stars** and **planets** by **diviners, astrologers, warlords**, etc, who have been using these elements against the move of God in our city, In Jesus Name.

Lord, let Your judgement come upon the demonic rulers that rule over our city through **sorcery, satanic manipulation** and **witchcraft**.

By the Blood of Jesus we destroy every **blood covenant** made upon any satanic altar that has promoted the rulership of satan over our city in Jesus Name. We frustrate the tokens of liars and we make fools of diviners, enchanters and sorcerers who are operating at any altar in our city according to **Isaiah 44 : 25**. In the Name of Jesus we command the **citadel of wicked forces** to **shift base** from our city.

We declare that the Gospel of the Kingdom shall no longer be restricted by any satanic altar or high place in this city, in the Name of Jesus.

We declare a **New Day of Divine visitation** and **deliverance** for our city in Jesus Name!

We prophesy that new altars to Yahweh God of Israel will be raised in every household of this city in Jesus Name.

JESUS CHRIST IS LORD OVER OUR CITY!!



Dealing with the Water spirits of your City – Marine Altars



Scripture to stand upon:

Ezek 29 : 2-5; 32 : 1-8; Job 26 : 12; Haggai 2 : 20-23; Phil 2 : 9-11; Matt 8 : 23-27.

Introduction.

The **water spirit kingdom** is an arm of the kingdom of darkness and it manifests in **immorality, seduction, unexplainable afflictions, diverse deaths and extreme poverty**. On many occasions, satan has used the power of water spirits to challenge the purpose of God on earth. When people offer sacrifices to rivers/lakes/seas, the creation of God's Hands, instead of worshipping the True God, they are worshipping water spirits.

Wherever these altars are raised, they will have **dominion** and **control** over the area and the people. Their worship will bring God's curse and wrath upon a city unless the Church, standing in her priestly office, repents and prays on behalf of the city regularly.

PRAYER:

Heavenly Father,

We come with the weapon of **high praises** in our mouths, and we lay a **siege** against the water spirits of our city.

In the Name of Jesus, we **overthrow** and **destroy** your **chariots and horses** (Neptune always has the horses and chariots)

We **pull down, overthrow** and **utterly destroy** all the satanic thrones inside the waters and destroy their strength in our city in Jesus Name.

We destroy the thrones of the spirit of the **bondwoman** working in conjunction with water spirits in our city in Jesus Name (the bond-woman is Islam).

We destroy the thrones of all **witchdoctors** and **occultists** in this city in Jesus Name.

We offer repentance and confession of sins for ancestral sins, evil dedications, covenants and vows, with water spirits in the Name of Jesus.

We ask for the **purging** and **purification** of our city by the Blood of Jesus.

In the Name of Jesus, we put God's **hooks** in the jaws of these marine spirits and pull them out of the water into the desert.

We de-activate the powers of these **marine spirits** in Jesus Name.

We prophesy destruction upon the **Babylonian kingdom** operating in our city in Jesus Name.

You foul water spirits, holding people in captivity, we bind you in the Almighty Name of Jesus and we command you to release them now!

We desecrate the altars and shrines of the water spirits in our city in Jesus Name.

We undo all you have done over the years in this city and **reverse every ritual** in Jesus Name.

All the **doors** you have closed for the furthering of the Gospel, we open them now in Jesus Name.

All the **hearts** you have **hardened**, we counter-petition with our tears of repentance in Jesus Name.

We **sanctify, purify** and **dedicate** the waters of our city to serve one purpose only, namely the purpose of our God and Father in Jesus Name.

Father, thank You for destroying the **dragon** that lies in the midst of our rivers, in Jesus Name.

AMEN.



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- **Prophetic Role of the Church in our cities**
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The Priestly Blessing ...

Numbers 6:24-26

“²⁴ The LORD bless thee, and keep thee:
²⁵ The LORD make his face shine upon
thee, and be gracious unto thee: ²⁶ The
LORD lift up his countenance upon thee,
and give thee peace.”

The Priestly Blessing ...

Hebraic Translation¹

"YHVH will kneel before you presenting gifts, and He will guard you with a hedge of protection, YHVH will illuminate the wholeness of His Being toward you, bringing order, and He will provide you with love, sustenance, and friendship, YHVH will lift up the wholeness of His Being and look upon you, and He will set in place all you need to be whole and complete."

*Translation by Jeff A. Benner, for more information, please see http://www.ancient-hebrew.org/12_blessing.html

The Priestly Blessing¹

יְבַרְכֶּךָ יְהוָה וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ:

and may he guard you the LORD may he bless you

May the LORD² bless you³ and keep you⁴

יָאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחַנְךָ:

and show you favor on you his face the LORD May he shine

May the LORD make His face⁵ shine⁶ upon you and be gracious⁷ to you

יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם:

peace for you and establish on you his face the LORD may he lift up

May the LORD lift up⁸ his face to you and give you peace⁹

¹ This blessing is (ritually) recited (by the kohanim) during synagogue services during *Nesiat Kapayim* ("the Raising of the Hands"), though it is also recited over children on Friday night before the start of the Shabbat meal or as a bedtime blessing.

² The name *YHVH* (יהוה) represents God's attributes of love and mercy (מִדַּת הַרַחֲמִים), in contradistinction to the name *Elohim* (אֱלֹהִים), which represents God's attribute of justice and power as our Creator.

³ בְּרַכָּה (*b'rachah*). Jewish tradition considers this both material and spiritual prosperity. Pirkei Avot 3:15 says, "If there is no flour, there is no Torah," by which is meant that material benefits are intended to help you pursue study of Torah. The first occurrence of the word "blessing" in the Scriptures pertains to *pru urvu* (פְּרוּ וּרְבוּ), "be fruitful and multiply" (Gen. 1:22).

⁴ שָׁמַר (*shamar*): To guard, protect, heed, as in the exercise of diligent care. Only God has the power to secure the conferred blessing and keep it from turning sour or from fading away.

⁵ The word for "face" (פָּנִים) is plural with the 3rd person singular ending. It is considered metaphorical since God is incorporeal. The plural form is thought by some to indicate God's revealed and hidden attributes in creation.

⁶ The hiphil verb (יָאֵר) comes from the word "light" (אֹר), and is thought to refer to God's wisdom. "May God enlighten you" with His wisdom, i.e., the Divine Light that preceded the work of creation (Gen. 1:3).

⁷ May God grant you grace or favor (חֵן), i.e., to understand the "breadth and length and height and depth" of God's love (Eph. 3:18). Grace refers to the bestowal of an undeserved gift. The blessing is bestowed even though unearned or unmerited.

⁸ Since one's face is an indication of the heart's attitude, Rashi says that this means God will suppress His anger by "looking at you" (if God is angry at you, He "turns His face away" and refuses to admit your presence). The "lifting of face" also pictures God lifting you up as a father might lift up his child in joy. The "showing of face" indicates spiritual intimacy.

⁹ All of the other blessings are useless without the establishment of inner peace, and therefore it is the seal of the blessing. Shalom (שְׁלוֹם) is not simply the absence of strife, but a balance and harmony between the finite and infinite, the temporal and the eternal, the material and the spiritual realms. Shalom is a gift from Sar Shalom (שַׂר שְׁלוֹם), the Prince of Peace.