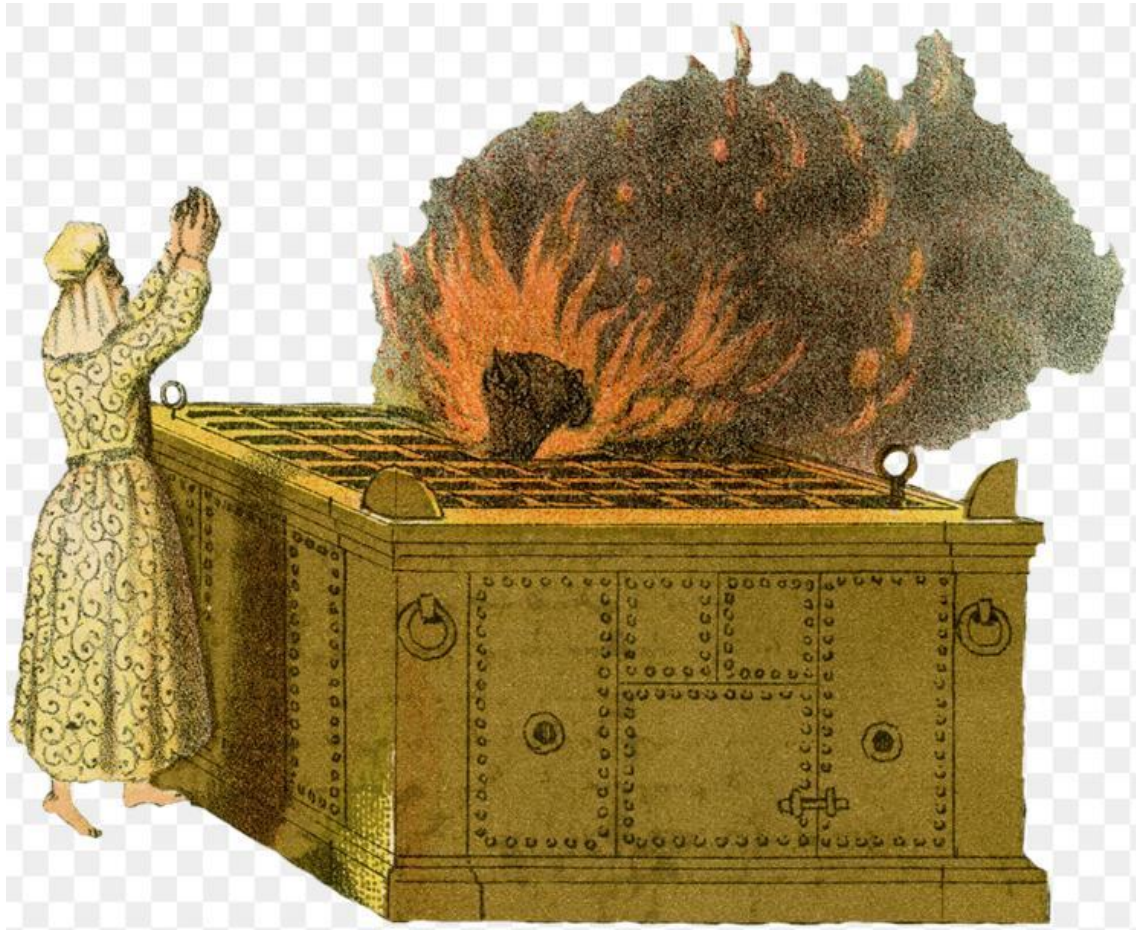


Exodus 27

Read Exodus 27:1-8: This is the blueprint for the altar of burnt offering. You could think of it like a barbecue. It had a metal grate on top that the wood and the sacrificial animal were placed on.



The estimated weight for this altar could have easily been 550 lbs. Picking it up with 4 poles would be something 4 men could do. I would assume that the carriers would have to swap out as the young men got tired. They may have even had shoulder pads. This must have been a burden to carry any distance. It is estimated that the moving crew could cover about 10 miles/day. Carrying 140 lbs on your shoulder for 10 miles per day would probably require a rotation of carriers. The grate would have to lift off for daily maintenance...and the sides would have to swing open to swap out the ash pans that would fill up daily.

Sacrificing an animal takes a lot of time. I was raised in the cattle business, so I had to skin dozens of animals that died. We would graft purchased dairy calves on

to the cow that lost her calf. To accept another calf, it had to smell like hers; so, we had to tie the skin of the dead calf onto the new calf for a couple weeks. I would have to re-sharpen my knife a few times, especially to cut through bone. I cannot imagine that an animal prep would ever be less than 30 minutes- 1 hr. Josephus estimated that 265,000 lambs could be slaughtered in one day. How could that be done on one altar? Here is the AI answer:

Short answer: Josephus' figure (256,500 lambs) is plausible only if many lambs were slaughtered and processed across the Temple precincts and nearby courtyards (not literally all burned whole on a single 5x5 cubit altar), with blood-sprinkling and burning of prescribed parts done at the central altar while other parts were carried away, and with a mix of priestly and lay slaughter. Scholarly points:

- Josephus reports ~256,500 lambs at one Passover; rabbinic sources describe massive crowds and organized "courses" for slaughtering, but they do not mean the altar itself consumed every carcass whole. [McClintock and Strong](#)
- Procedure: animals were killed in rows in the Temple courts; priests caught and sprinkled blood at the altar and burned the required portions (fat, certain parts) there; the rest of the meat was taken away to be roasted and eaten by families or priests. This greatly reduces the burn volume required at the altar. [thetabernacleman.com +1](#)
- Organization and speed: trained teams of priests (and in some accounts laymen under priestly supervision) worked in shifts and lines with cups/basins to catch blood; slaughtering could be highly efficient— estimates show hundreds of slaughterers could dispatch tens of thousands in hours. [thetabernacleman.com](#)
- Physical constraints: a single altar handled sacrificial rites (sprinkling, burning of specific parts) while much of each animal was consumed elsewhere; temporary racks, spits, ovens, and communal roasting areas around the city handled cooking. That's why one altar sufficed ritualistically without needing hundreds of altars to incinerate whole carcasses. [cbcg.org +1](#)

Bottom line: Josephus' large number, if accurate or even somewhat inflated, is reconciled by decentralized slaughter/roasting and centralized ritual acts at the single altar rather than by burning every entire animal on that altar. [McClintock and Strong](#)

My point is that there was nothing automatic or easy about sacrifices or relocations. I would assume that the brass laver/sea for priestly washings would weigh as least as much as the bronze altar, but it had no carrying rings...so it would go on a cart. Both the brass sea and the bronzer altar were very heavy. They both represent necessities to bring a dirty man into God's presence. That is indeed a very heavy weight. Jesus carried that weight for the whole world all by himself. It was a punishing and brutal task.

Read Exodus 27:9-19: Now we are onto the ornamental tapestries that serve as fencing boundaries to the courtyard. Keep in mind that the Saudi Desert is often windy. That is a ton of sail force on something that is not deeply anchored. These were basically free-standing columns, sitting in these 84 lb silver bases.

Obviously, significant pegs and guying ropes would be required to keep this from falling over in a windstorm. There are good reasons for so many interlocking

sections of tapestry. One side of the tabernacle courtyard could weigh 440 lbs. Per side. These tapestries would become filthy. I assume that they would be occasionally washed.

Read Exodus 27:20-21: There is an indoor light in the tent. It is a 7-branched menorah that burn olive oil. It is patterned after an almond tree. The almond is know to be the first to bloom each season.