

**Gospel Lesson Text:** John 2:19-21, 17:1, 9, 20 (p. 765)

**Gospel Lesson: “Jesus & the Incense Altar: My Prayers Are Heard in Heaven”**

Introduction: Christianity, with Jesus, is not a \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_-Testament religion, but a \_\_\_\_\_ of it.

- a. Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Old-Testament \_\_\_\_\_ (John 2:19-21).
  - b. Jesus is for Christians each \_\_\_\_\_ that each \_\_\_\_\_ piece of the temple signified.
3. Because who Jesus is and what Jesus does fulfills the function of the Old-Testament temple’s altar of incense, my \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. In the Old Testament, the \_\_\_\_\_ would put fresh \_\_\_\_\_ to burn on the golden altar of incense in the Holy Place in the temple twice a day (Exodus 30:7-8).
  - b. Only \_\_\_\_\_ were allowed into the temple (the Holy Place) to approach and bring proper \_\_\_\_\_ to the altar of incense; a violation of this brought God’s \_\_\_\_\_ (Leviticus 10:1-3, 2 Chronicles 26:16-21).
  - c. The incense altar was the \_\_\_\_\_ furniture piece to the \_\_\_\_\_ that separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place of the temple (Exodus 30:6).
  - d. In the Most Holy Place of the temple was the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Covenant; so the altar of incense was the \_\_\_\_\_ item to the Ark (Exodus 30:6).
  - e. The smoke of the incense \_\_\_\_\_ up before the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Covenant, above which was God’s \_\_\_\_\_ among His people (1 Chronicles 13:6, 28:2, Psalm 80:1).
  - f. The smoke of the incense represented the \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s people (Psalm 141:2, Revelation 8:3-4, 5:8).

- g. This set up of the \_\_\_\_\_ of incense and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Covenant was an illustration of how God was \_\_\_\_\_ (as He sat on His throne) the \_\_\_\_\_ of His people.
- h. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, for, because I’m a Christian, I \_\_\_\_\_ a priest to bring my prayers before the Father; that priest is \_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 4:14, 7:23-24).
- i. Thus, when I pray in \_\_\_\_\_’ name, I am speaking to God the \_\_\_\_\_ upon His throne \_\_\_\_\_ my priest, Jesus (Luke 11:1-2, Matthew 6:8-9, John 15:16, 16:23-24, 26-27).
- j. Pray to the \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_’ name not as an \_\_\_\_\_ nor as magic words, but to acknowledge Jesus as my priest who will successfully get my prayers \_\_\_\_\_ by the Father, who \_\_\_\_\_ all things (Luke 22:42).
- k. Be \_\_\_\_\_ that my prayers are heard, if I am a Christian, because \_\_\_\_\_ is a faithful \_\_\_\_\_, continually, successfully, effectually getting my prayers \_\_\_\_\_ by the Father (John 15:16, 16:23-24, 1 John 5:14-15).
  - 1) Do not expect or believe my prayers will be heard because of my \_\_\_\_\_ merit, but rather by the merit—the \_\_\_\_\_ and faithfulness—of \_\_\_\_\_, my \_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 4:14, 16).
  - 2) Be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for the privilege of my prayers being heard, for \_\_\_\_\_ from Jesus’ intercession, prayers \_\_\_\_\_ reach the Father—no one can approach the Father’s throne except through a \_\_\_\_\_ . . . and I have one —\_\_\_\_\_ (2 Chronicles 26:16-21, John 17:9, 20).

Summary: Because who Jesus is (my \_\_\_\_\_) and what Jesus does (\_\_\_\_\_ ) fulfills the function of the Old-Testament temple’s altar of incense, my \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven.

**Benediction:** “Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God . . . Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need” (Hebrews 4:14, 16).