

Throughout the Bible, the **altar** is a sacred place where God meets with humanity. It is where offerings, sacrifices, and prayers are presented. In the New Testament context, this altar is no longer a physical structure made of stone or bronze, but a **heavenly altar**, situated **before the throne of God in the spiritual realm** (Hebrews 8:5; Revelation 8:3).

Without this altar, there is no true communion with God. It is the appointed place where **divine human interaction occurs**. If anyone does experience connection with God without understanding the significance of the altar, it is purely by grace (Ephesians 2:8-9). There is **no scriptural way to approach God apart from the altar**, which now finds its fulfillment in **Jesus Christ**, our great High Priest (Hebrews 4:14-16).

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The True Altar: Not of This Earth

When many hear the word “altar,” they think of the front of a church building often decorated and elevated. However, this is only a **symbolic representation**. The **real, functional altar** is spiritual and located in **heaven**, where Jesus now ministers on our behalf.

*"They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven..."*

Hebrews 8:5 (NIV)

Jesus has become the **mediator of a new covenant**, offering not the blood of animals but **His own blood** to cleanse us and grant access to God (Hebrews 9:11-14). That's why **only through Christ** can we draw near to God.

*"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"*

John 14:6 (NIV)

Salvation is not based on works, religious tradition, or human effort but by faith in the finished work of Christ at the altar of heaven.

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## WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW AT GOD'S ALTAR?

There are **two groups of saints** involved in ongoing activity at the heavenly altar:

1. **The living saints** (believers on earth)
2. **The glorified saints** (believers who have died and are with Christ)

Both are engaged in **prayerful intercession** and **earnest longing** for God's redemptive plan to reach completion.

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#### 1. The Prayers of the Living Saints

Jesus taught His disciples to pray this way:

*"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."*  
Matthew 6:9-10 (NIV)

Every sincere believer prays for the establishment of God's Kingdom a future event known as the **Second Coming of Christ** and the establishment of His **Millennial Reign** (Revelation 20:4-6). These prayers are continually brought before God by angels:

*"Another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne."*

Revelation 8:3 (ESV)

These intercessions are not in vain they are preparing the way for Christ's return and judgment upon the earth (Revelation 8:4-5).

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## 2. The Cry of the Martyrs (Saints Who Have Died)

In a powerful prophetic vision, the apostle John describes souls under the altar saints who were **martyred for their faith** during tribulation:

*"When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained.*

*They called out in a loud voice, 'How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?'"*

Revelation 6:9-10 (NIV)

This passage reveals the **ongoing intercession and longing for justice** by those in heaven. They are not passive but **actively crying out for God's righteousness to be revealed**. Their desire is for the final consummation of God's Kingdom and the **judgment of the wicked** (Revelation 19:1-2).

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## THE TWO PRAYERS MERGING INTO ONE PURPOSE

While the saints on earth pray "**Your Kingdom come,**" the saints in heaven pray, "**How long, O Lord?**" Together, these prayers reflect two sides of one coin:

- **The living** desire for Christ to reign and righteousness to fill the earth (Isaiah 11:1-9;

Revelation 21:1-5).

- **The martyred** seek divine justice and the fulfillment of God's righteous wrath (Romans 12:19; Revelation 6:10-11).

Both prayers are being answered and the time remaining is **short**.

*"Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer..."*

Revelation 6:11 (NIV)

This reveals that **we are in a divinely appointed delay** a period of mercy where the gospel is being preached to all nations before the end comes (Matthew 24:14).

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## THE URGENCY OF THE HOUR

Scripture warns us that **the day of the Lord** will come **suddenly and unexpectedly**, like a thief in the night (1 Thessalonians 5:2-3). The signs are all around us: wars, plagues, moral decay, and the rapid advancement of global control systems (e.g., precursors to the mark of the beast, Revelation 13:16-17).

Jesus Himself warned:

*"There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences... and fearful events and great signs from heaven."*

Luke 21:11 (NIV)

All these point to the **imminent Rapture of the Church**, followed by the **Great Tribulation** and the **outpouring of God's wrath** (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 16).

*"People will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will flee from them."*

Revelation 9:6 (ESV)

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## THE TIME FOR DECISION IS NOW

This is **not the time for a watered-down gospel** that promises comfort without repentance. It's time to **wake up** (Romans 13:11), repent sincerely, and return to God. False prophets and prosperity

preachers will continue to deceive many even, if possible, the elect (Mark 13:22).

*"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it."*  
Matthew 7:13 (NIV)

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## HOW TO PREPARE FOR ETERNITY

1. **Repent of all sin** with sincerity, turning fully from unrighteousness (Acts 3:19).
2. **Be baptized** by full immersion in water, in the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38; Romans 6:4).
3. **Receive the Holy Spirit** the seal of your salvation and the power to live a holy life (Ephesians 1:13-14; Acts 2:39).
4. **Live a life of holiness and endurance** until Christ returns (Hebrews 12:14; Matthew 24:13).

If you follow this path, you are **born again** (John 3:3-5), and whether Jesus returns tonight or many years from now, **you will be ready**.



*"Behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll."*

Revelation 22:7 (NIV)

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**May the Lord bless you, strengthen you, and prepare you for His soon return.**

**Amen.**

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