

Altars

In Old Testament, altars were erected:

- To commemorate remarkable events – in memory of what happened.
- To signify a covenant made to God or by God.
- The word altar itself means “to slay”

They were put in special, conspicuous places or where a sacrifice was made.

Altars were built in memory of special events by Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, Elijah, Samuel.

An altar was built for the Tabernacle that moved from place to place and in the Temple when a permanent structure replaced the Tabernacle.

IN MEMORY OF A REMARKABLE EVENT

Jacob built an altar in memory of the special event when he wrestled with an Angel (God) and went through a tremendous conversion – he went from a dirty liar, cheat, thief – to a Son of God, trying to live his life for God. He built an altar at Bethel.

SIGNIFY A COVENANT

Covenants were “witnessed by God”, “confirmed with an oath”, “confirmed with a sign”. When a covenant was made there was “no termination date” and “applied to the whole person” as opposed to a contract that had an end date and applied to a specific part of the body, ie food, cloths, etc.

Noah

And Noah built an altar in memory of the “coming out of the ark”. God was pleased and God made an everlasting covenant with Noah after he flooded the earth “that he would never destroy all life on the earth by water again” and he confirmed it with the sign of the “rainbow”.

Jews

In Old Testament, an altar was used by Jews to offer a perfect animal sacrifice to God (Day of Atonement or Yom Kippur) in order to role their sins back one more year – they weren’t forgiven – just rolled back

IN MEMORY OF A REMARKABLE EVENT – VN WEEKEND – AND A COVENANT BETWEEN YOU AND GOD – WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU AND GOD THIS WEEKEND!