

Exodus 20:22-26 **Acceptable Worship**

22 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'You have seen that I have talked with you from heaven.

23 You shall not make anything to be with Me--gods of silver or gods of gold you shall not make for yourselves.

24 An altar of earth you shall make for Me, and you shall sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen. In every place where I record My name I will come to you, and I will bless you.

25 And if you make Me an altar of stone, you shall not build it of hewn stone; for if you use your tool on it, you have profaned it.

26 Nor shall you go up by steps to My altar, that your nakedness may not be exposed on it.' NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✧ The Children of Israel are eyewitnesses of the presence of God, they see the awesome power of God displayed on the mountain in lightning flashes, thunder, smoke like a furnace rising from the mountain, and they heard the loud sound of the trumpet of God, and they heard the voice of God speaking to them from heaven. [\[Exodus 19:9, 19:16-19, 20:18\]](#)
- ✧ The Children of Israel are standing far back from the mountain and Moses is standing near it. [\[Exodus 20:18, 21\]](#)
- ✧ Yehowah said to the Children of Israel, "You have seen that I talked with you from heaven." Thus reminding them that they are eyewitnesses of this awesome encounter with God.
- ✧ For the third time in their hearing, God demands that they avoid idolatry. Idolatry is defined as anything to be with God, gods of silver or gods of gold.
- ✧ The first acceptable altar for sacrifices to God is an altar of earth (dirt). This kind of an altar is acceptable everywhere God records His name.
- ✧ Obedience to this command brings a promise that God will come to you and will bless you.
- ✧ If you make an altar of stone, it must not be hewn stone because human effort shaping the stone with a tool will profane it in the sight of God.

We cannot come to God on the basis of what we have done, but rather on the basis of what God has provided for us.
- ✧ Do not have steps going up to the altar because God will see it as an exposure of your nakedness.

Exalting oneself before God is not acceptable because He sees all our sins and demands that we humble ourselves when we approach His presence. This is the reason that people in Scripture fall on their faces before the presence of God, and that is the right approach before Him.
- ✧ This instruction was not given to Moses in secret, but was given openly when God had their full attention and in their hearing.
- ✧ Remember, they had already promised to do anything God commanded. [\[Exodus 19:8, 20:19\]](#)