

なぜ香の壇の記述は後置されたのか
(出エジプト記・30章 1 節－10 節)

鞭木由行

ABSTRACT Yoshiyuki MUCHIKI, “Why the description of the Altar of Incense was postponed (Exodus 30:1-10)” It has been considered strange that the description of the Altar of Incense in the Tabernacle passage appears after that of the consecration of the priests, because the most natural place for the Altar of Incense would have been in chapter 25, where the Ark, Table and Lampstand are mentioned. Since the Altar of Incense is one of items placed before the Holy of Holies, the description of the Altar would naturally be expected to occur with them. However, it is described much later, in Exodus 30:1-10, which is after the descriptions of main items of the Tabernacle. This strange position has been recognized and explained in terms of different sources by critical scholars. They believe it is a sign of conflation where several P sources were merged. Yet that is far from being a real solution because, even if their explanation were correct, it still leaves unanswered the question of why the final editor of P inserted the description in that position. I think this strange position could be more satisfactorily explained in terms of the whole nature and structures of the Tabernacles passage, which is *inclusio*. Since the Altar of Incense is indissolubly connected with the Ark, Table and Lampstand, they are able to be separated from each other. The position of description of the Altar of Incense was intentionally postponed in order to terminate and to enhance the unity of this Passage.