

Several horned incense altars were found at Megiddo. Some were discolored on top by fire used to burn incense. It has been suggested that these small altars were used as house altars, but two similar incense altars were found on the steps of the Holy of Holies of the Israelite sanctuary at ancient Arad, confirming their use in public worship. The excavators dated these to stratum IVA (924-732 B.C.E.), which is Ahab's city. Finding these altars greatly illuminated what a "horned altar" was, as in Exodus 27:2: "And you shall make horns for it [the altar] on its four corners ..."