

KNOWING JESUS THROUGH THE STUDY OF THE TABERNACLE

Part 2 – The Gate (Outer court)

We are the New Testament tabernacle of God. We can have fellowship with Him any time of the day. We need not meet at a particular place or a structure to meet God. There is no need to go in search of where God dwells. The Holy Spirit dwells inside of each of us. We have the highest privilege of being the carriers of His power & presence. We are His walking powerhouses.

2 Corinthians 6: 16,17 And what union can there be between God's temple and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God said:

"I will live in them and walk among them.

I will be their God, and they will be my people.

17 Therefore, come out from among unbelievers, and separate yourselves from them, says the Lord. Don't touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you.

18 And I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

There is a calling of separation unto the Lord as we are His dwelling place:

We see in the final chapters, Exodus 39 & 40 the work of the tabernacle was all finished just according to what God commanded. People came and presented the entire items they prepared for the tabernacle- the curtains, furniture, frames, poles, sockets, bases, ropes, lamps, utensils, anointing oil, beautiful priestly garments, including tent pegs.

Moses inspected the work, blessed the people who made. He set the tabernacle up but still no glory descended, until he poured oil on the priests, the tabernacle and all its furnishing. He consecrated them, set them apart to be holy for the purposes of God. That is when the glory of God descended.

Exo 40:34 - Then the cloud covered the Tabernacle, and the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle. 35 Moses could no longer enter the Tabernacle because the cloud had settled down over it, and the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle.

(36 Now whenever the cloud lifted from the Tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out on their journey, following it. 37 But if the cloud did not rise, they remained where they were until it lifted. 38 The cloud of the Lord hovered over the Tabernacle during the day, and at

night fire glowed inside the cloud so the whole family of Israel could see it. This continued throughout all their journeys.)

We are sanctified and set apart for the purposes of God. Once set apart we belong to the Lord completely. He owns us.

Introduction:

The whole tabernacle was completed in 7 months. It was almost a year between they left Egypt and first built the tabernacle. On the 1st day of the 1st month of the 2nd year after the Exodus, it was formally set up. Tabernacle functioned for almost 500 years. The Tabernacle is a representation of God's redemption, and it shows how a sinful man can approach a Holy God. Every detail that Christ accomplished to restore our relationship with God is in the particulars of the wilderness Tabernacle.

Tabernacle had three basic sections:

1. **The Outer court** (Brazen altar, Brazen Laver)
2. **The Holy Place** (Inside the Tabernacle tent) (Golden lampstand, Table of Show bread, Altar on incense)
3. **The Most Holy Place** (Inside the Tabernacle tent) (Ark of the covenant, mercy seat)

All 12 tribes encamped around the outer court , three tribes on East, 3 tribes on south, 3 tribes on west and 3 tribes on North. God would dwell in the center of His people.

Only the O.T. priests were permitted inside the sanctuary; but the rest of the people came to this sanctuary for worship and their worship was conducted outside the tent in a courtyard. So to have a place where the rest of the people could worship God, there needed to be a special sacred courtyard where people could gather. This courtyard will need to be big enough to accommodate hundreds of worshippers at one time. Since worshippers are required to come to this place and actually eat a portion of their sacrificial meals in the presence of God (Deut. 12:18), it needed to be large enough for that to happen. But it also had to be small enough to be able to transport it to various places.

Oblong shaped, the mishkan/ tent /tabernacle was located in the center back portion.

New Testament Tabernacle – We are His dwelling place / Temple of God

Body – (The new tabernacle outer court)

Soul – (The new tabernacle Holy Place)

Spirit – (The new tabernacle Holy of Holies/ most Holy Place)

Only the O.T. priests were permitted inside the sanctuary. In Christ, we have become royal priests in His Kingdom. **1 Pet 2:9-10** *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

We'll come across these terms in the study of tabernacle- curtains, priestly garments

Exodus 25: 1-7; 35:5-9 offerings for the tabernacle (Bill of materials BOM) Materials used in the construction. These materials have symbolic significance spiritually. Every item in the Tabernacle was specially chosen by God and not at random. It is symbolically significant of the person and work of Jesus Christ.

The LORD said to Moses, ² "Tell the people of Israel to bring me their sacred offerings. Accept the contributions from all whose hearts are moved to offer them. ³ Here is a list of sacred offerings you may accept from them:

gold, silver, and bronze;

⁴ blue, purple, and scarlet thread;

fine linen and goat hair for cloth;

⁵ tanned ram skins and fine goatskin leather;

acacia wood;

⁶ olive oil for the lamps;

spices for the anointing oil and the fragrant incense;

⁷ onyx stones, and other gemstones to be set in the ephod and the priest's chestpiece.

⁸ "Have the people of Israel build me a holy sanctuary so I can live among them. ⁹ You must build this Tabernacle and its furnishings exactly according to the pattern I will show you.

Gold is the most expensive and bronze the least expensive. " In the tabernacle, the closer an object was to the Holy of Holies, the more valuable was the metal used in its construction.

Gold – deity, divinity

Silver – redemption, truth

Bronze/brass – Judgement also suffering.

(Metals - Only gold, silver, and copper qualify as genuine, noble metals based on their electron structure, making them resistant to corrosion and oxidation)

Blue - The Son of God (heaven/blue) (As seen in Gospel of John)

Purple - The King of Kings and Lord of Lords (royalty/purple) (Gospel of Mathew)

Scarlet – Red, The Son of Man, savior (blood/scarlet) (Gospel of Luke)

Fine linen- White, Jesus the perfect man (Gospel of Mark)

Goat's hair – sinful nature – deception (Jacob pretended to be Esau and deceived his father, When Saul was looking for David, Michal deceived her dad by covering him with goat's hair); whenever we read about sin offering – goat is being offered, speaks of sin

Ram's skin dyed red – shedding of blood for redemption. This signifies that Christ was slain on the cross, shedding His blood to redeem us from our sins.

Badgers/purpouse skin – Looks course, rugged, less attractive, worthless from outside but known for its durability. (Isaiah 52:2,3)

Acacia wood - It was a desert wood which was aromatic, hard, known for durability and resistance to decay. It was abundantly found in the regions where Israelites journeyed.

Olive oil for lamps – Holy Spirit

Spices for anointing oil – Saints (*For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing 2 Cor 2:15*)

Fragrant incense - prayer

Onyx stones, other gemstones – preciousness of the church

Surrounding the outer courtyard: Placement of tribes /camps:

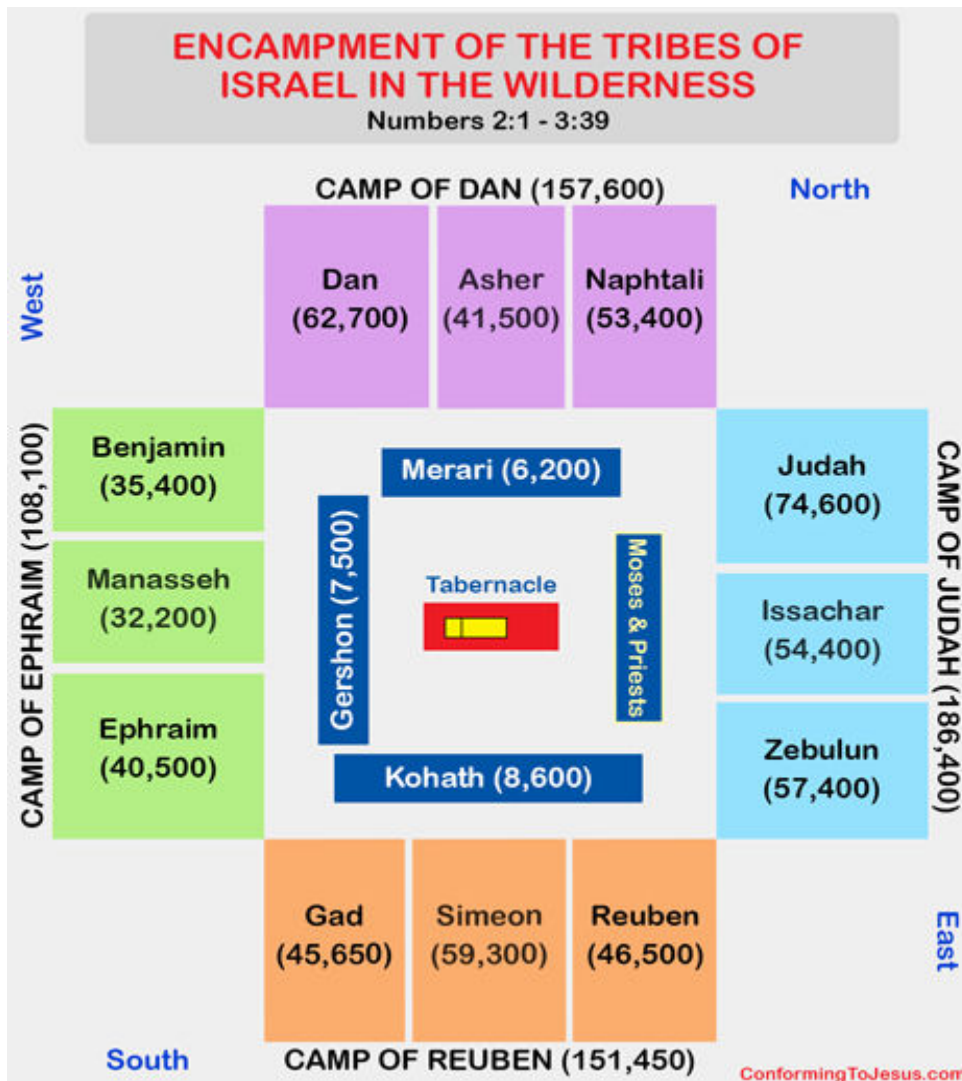
3 million people lived around the tabernacle covering 12 mile square area. The Encampment Layout of the Tribes of Israel was set up according to groups of tribes placed together on each of the camp's four sides (Numbers 2) and each tribe had a specific standard or banner.

The camp was arranged into east, south, west, and north sides. The first grouping of tribes in the wilderness encampment would face East and the rising sun (which was the general direction they were traveling in - Numbers 2:3). They would be the first to leave the camp. Next in line to leave would be, in a clockwise fashion, the tribes on the South side, then those on the West and finally those facing north.

The tribe of Levi was chosen by God to serve as priests and was set apart unto the service of God to care for and protect everything pertaining to the Tabernacle. The Levites were not numbered among the children of Israel. Numbers 3:17 Levi had 3 sons Gershon, Kohath & Merari.

We need to know not all in Levite tribe are priests. Only Aaron & His sons from the Levite tribe – called for priesthood (Exo 40: 12-15) – with their anointing set apart for priesthood forever from generation to generation. The rest of them had various other duties.

Buffer zone : The tribe of Levi were placed together around the Tabernacle, with the clan of Gershon on the West behind the Tent of Meeting, the clan of Merari in the North, the clan of Kohath in the South and with Moses, Aaron and his two living sons in the East in front of the Tent of Meeting.



East : Camps of Judah, Issachar and Zebulun and were collectively under Judah's standard. (Num 3:38) **Buffer zone** : Moses, Aaron & sons

Responsibility : Aaron and his two living sons were responsible for covering all the holy items in the Tabernacle when preparing for the march (Numbers 4:5-14).

South: Camps of Reuben, Simeon and Gad and were collectively under Reuben's standard. (Buffer zone: Kohath)

Responsibility: When the tribes were ready to start marching, then the sons of Kohath would carry the Altar of Sacrifice; the washbasin; the Table of Showbread; the Menorah; the utensils and the Ark of the Covenant, etc.

West : Camps of Ephraim, Manasseh and Benjamin and were collectively under Ephraim's standard. (Buffer zone: Gershon)

Responsible for: The sons of Gershon would carry the Tabernacle of Meeting with its covering and the curtains of the Tabernacle.

North : Camps of Dan, Asher and Naphtali and were collectively under Dan's standard. (Buffer zone : Merari)

Responsibility: The sons of Merari would carry the boards of the Tabernacle, its bars, its pillars, its sockets, and the pillars around the court with their sockets, pegs, and cords, with all their furnishings.

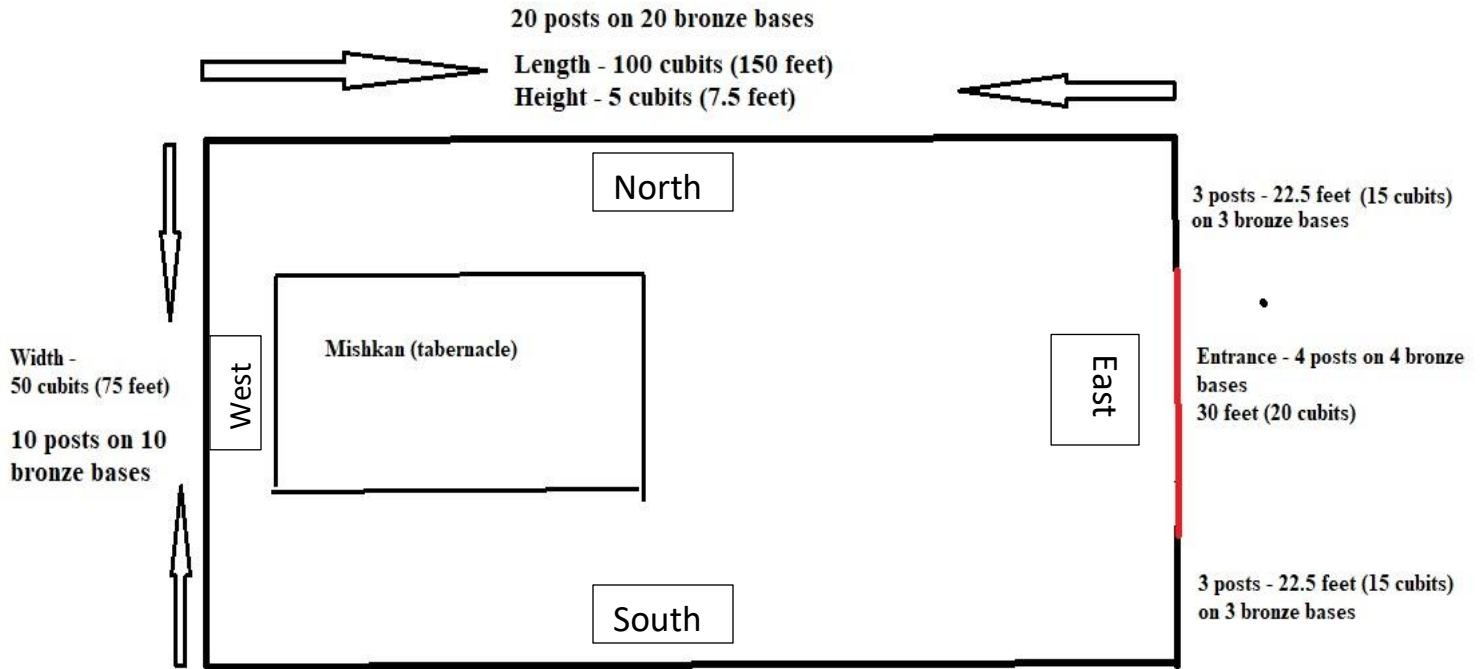
The Outer Courtyard (Exodus 27:9-19)

Dimensions: (usually in cubits – 1 cubit = 18 inch or 1.5 feet)

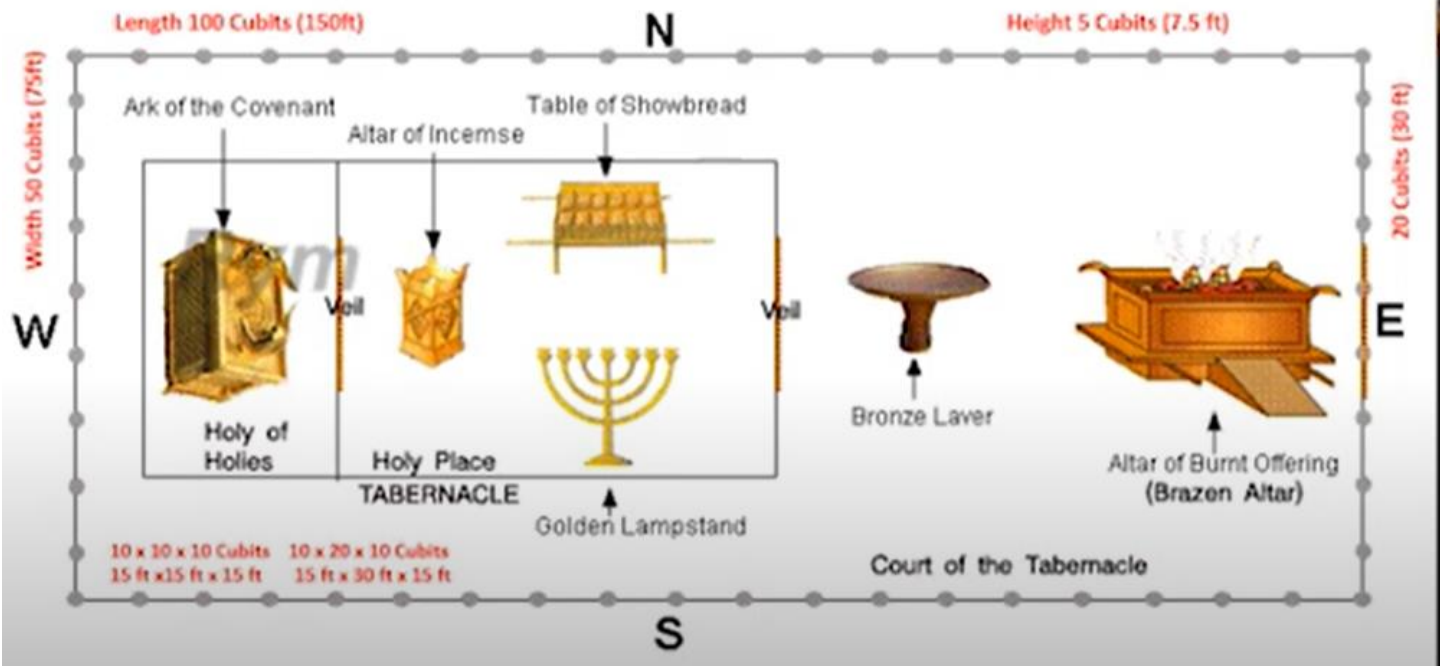
Length (East to west) – 100 cubits / 150 feet

Width (South to North)- 50 cubits / 75 feet

Height – 5 cubits / 7.5 feet



7 months took to build the tabernacle (Exo 19:1 & Exo 40:2,17)
1 Cubit - 18 inch (Hand) - 1 cubits = 1.5ft - Exo 27:18



Specifications:

Exodus 27: 9 "Then make the courtyard for the Tabernacle, enclosed with curtains made of finely woven linen. On the south side, make the curtains 150 feet long.

Why is a courtyard needed? This courtyard will need to be big enough to accommodate hundreds of worshippers at one time. It needed to be large enough for sacrifices to take place actually eat a portion of their sacrificial meals in the presence of God (Deut. 12:18). The courtyard was expansive, allowing up to 6000 worshippers in at any one time. But it also had to be small enough to be able to transport it to various places.

Why are curtains needed? approaching the outer court of the Tabernacle of Moses, one would see the bright white linen symbolically representing God's high standard of purity or righteousness (Revelation 19:8) and would be convicted of sin (Romans 3:23).

The plain white linen screen formed a barrier around the House of God. No Israelite could casually wander around the Holy building or stroll into the courtyard, just as man cannot on his own, approach God, by resting or trusting in his own righteousness.

Fence – Its purposes were fourfold: symbolizing God's moral and essential separateness from man. Nevertheless, God has opened the way into His presence through Christ.

- (1) it was a barrier in that it prevented unlawful approach.
- (2) it was a protection, keeping out all wild animals
- (3) it was a positive line of demarcation between the world and the holy presence of God (to differentiate between the common (everyday stuffs) & sacred (approaching God)
- (4) with its single gate, it was a way of approach to God. No other shortcuts. Man cannot come as he thinks.

Finely woven linen: The fine, white linen symbolizes the righteousness and holiness of GOD.

Rev 19:8 It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

Pharaoh clothed Joseph "in garments of fine linen and put the gold necklace around his neck." (Gen 41:42).

Being the most valuable species of white garments, constitutes a significant emblem of the highest and most perfect holiness.

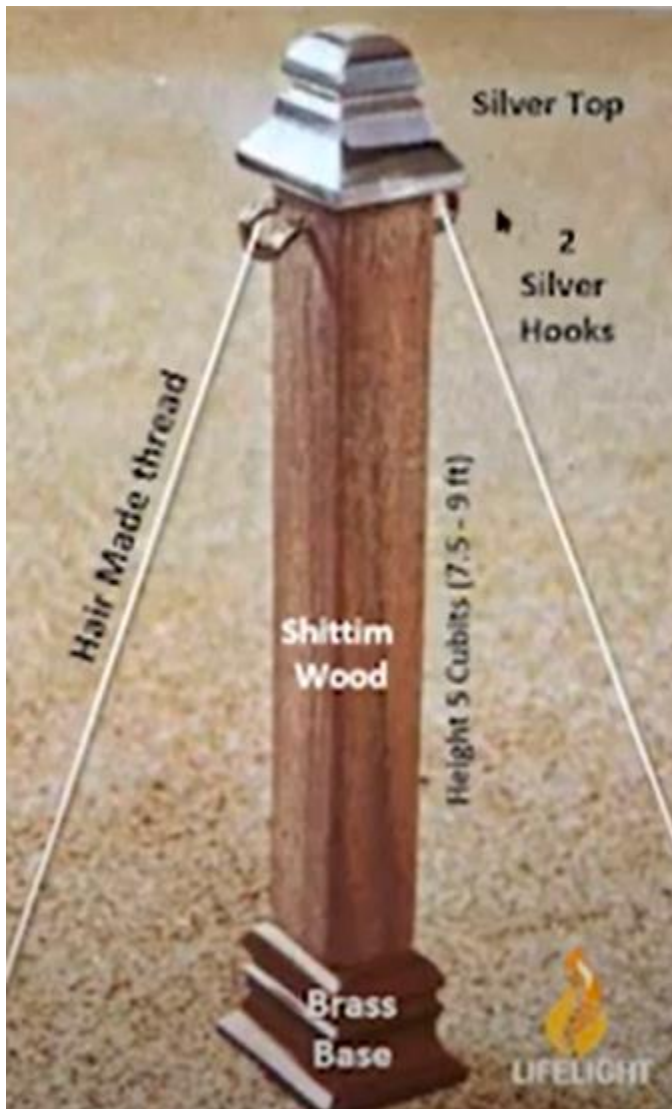
Jesus Christ is the righteousness of God. He gave us the robe of righteousness.

God describes all of man's righteousness as filthy rags. Jesus said, "I have not come to destroy the law but to fulfill it." When He was here, He was a living example of a sinless life. By dying for us and bearing our sin He becomes our substitute by which we, in exchange, receive His perfect life. Our sin went on Him and His perfect life is imputed to us. Therefore when God sees us He sees the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

V.10 They will be held up by twenty posts/pillars set securely in twenty bronze bases. Hang the curtains with silver hooks and rings.

Total of 60 posts = South side 20 + North side 20 + East side 10 + West side 10



20 posts/ pillars (on one of the longer side) :

The Bible doesn't specifically tell us what material the posts / pillars were made of. From a practical standpoint, acacia trees would have been one of the only types of trees growing in abundance in the regions traveled by Israel. Acacia wood (or Shittim wood) is dense and extremely strong, making it a great option for any type of wooden construction. It is known for its durability and its resistance to decay.

The pillar is the upholder of the standard of God's righteousness. We are called to demonstrate the character of God in an unrighteous world. If we picture the linen as the righteousness of God, then the pillars are the upholders of righteousness.

Peter, James, and John were said to be pillars in the early church in Galatians 2:9

The Overcomer in Revelations is spoken of as a pillar in the temple of God. Revelations 3:12

The Church is called the pillar and support of truth – 1 Timothy 3:15 but in case I am delayed, I write so that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.

We are pictures of the pillars which uphold this righteousness.

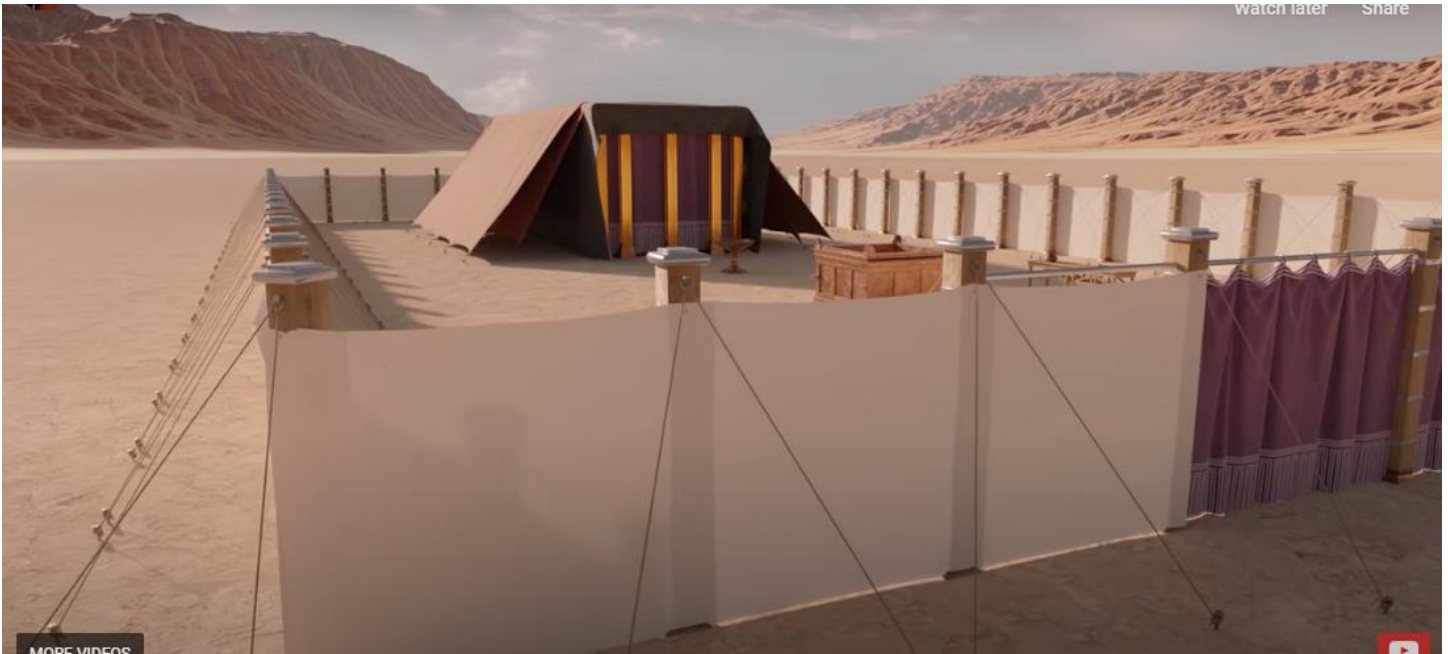
Bronze/brass bases -

Everything in outer courtyard is made of bronze. Inner court is all gold / wood fully covered in gold. Value increases as we go into the sanctuary. Unlike the inner sanctuary walls that rested on silver bases, these outer pillars rested on bronze bases.

Exo 27: 19 All the articles used in the rituals of the Tabernacle, including all the tent pegs used to support the Tabernacle and the courtyard curtains, must be made of bronze.

Exo 38:20 All the tent pegs used in the Tabernacle and courtyard were made of bronze.

The pillars or posts sat in sockets of brass. They did not touch the sand. Not only were the posts of acacia-wood held upright by the heavy blocks of brass; but cords were attached to rings, one on the inside, and one on the outside of each post. These cords were fastened to brass pins, driven into the ground, in each case, in a line, an equal distance from all the posts, inside and outside the fence, completely around the court of the Tabernacle. All of the posts, holding up the pure, white, linen fence, were placed inside the enclosure, and could not be seen by anyone outside.



These cords were fastened to brass pins, driven into the ground, in each case, in a line, an equal distance from all the posts, inside and outside the fence, completely around the court of the Tabernacle.

Brass/ bronze always symbolizes “judgment” wherever it appears in the Word of GOD.

2 kinds of judgement:

1. Jesus took on Him our Judgement that we deserved. Christ took my judgment on the cross on my behalf. He cleansed me (Brazen laver), made a sacrifice for me (brazen altar). Every demand of the law has been met. The law was completely satisfied in the offering that Christ made of Himself for sins. “The LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:6). “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree” (1 Peter 2:24). “But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God” (Hebrews 10:12).

Direct reference to Jesus: ***Exodus 30: 18 Thou shalt also make a laver of brass, and his foot also of brass, to wash withal: and thou shalt put it between the tabernacle of the congregation and the altar, and thou shalt put water therein.***

2. ***Revelation 1:5 His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters.*** (Speaks in the context of judgement against Satan. His foot of brass shows that by His power He will destroy the enemy)

Silver hooks and rings :

There were 60 posts, or pillars, supporting the Divinely appointed barrier, around the court of the Tabernacle. Each of these posts was crowned with a shining head of silver. Silver always symbolizes redemption, and the price paid for our redemption. Silver speaks about redemption.

Exo 30:11-16 11 Then the Lord said to Moses, 12 “Whenever you take a census of the people of Israel, each man who is counted must pay a ransom for himself to the Lord. Then no plague will strike the people as you count them. 13 Each person who is counted must give a small piece of silver as a sacred offering to the Lord. (This payment is half a shekel, based on the sanctuary shekel, which equals twenty gerahs.) 14 All who have reached their twentieth birthday must give this sacred offering to the Lord. 15 When this offering is given to the Lord to purify your lives, making you right with him, the rich must not give more than the specified amount, and the poor must not give less. 16 Receive this ransom money from the Israelites, and use it for the care of the Tabernacle. It will bring the Israelites to the Lord’s attention, and it will purify your lives.”

Paying the redemption money - When the account was taken of the number of the children of Israel the Lord commanded that every male over twenty years of age should pay half a shekel as redemption money, by confessing that he deserved to die, and owning that he was in debt to God, and bringing the sum demanded as a type of a great redemption which would by-and-by be paid for the souls of the sons of men. If men reject the redemption which he ordains, then are they not his people.

David, when he numbered the people, did not gather from them the redemption money, and hence a plague broke out amongst them.

It was absolutely essential that each one should bring the half shekel of redemption money; for redemption is the only way in which you and I can be accepted of God.

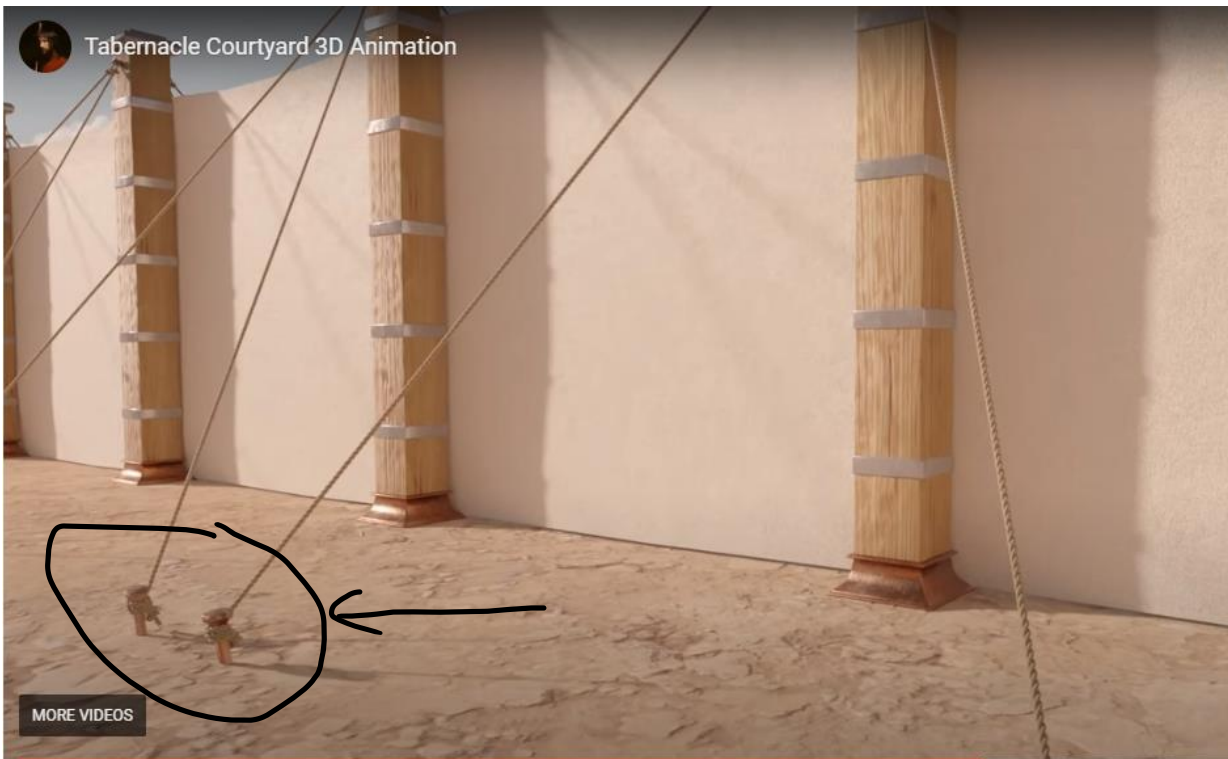
GOD’S PEOPLE ARE A REDEEMED PEOPLE!

Brass pins/ Bronze tent pegs :

Not only were the posts of acacia-wood/wood covered in bronze held upright by the heavy blocks of brass; but cords were attached to rings, one on the inside, and one on the outside of each post. **These cords were fastened to brass pins, driven into the ground.**

Firmly held upright – so wind in the wilderness will not shake it.

Tent pegs : word used in Hebrew is 'Yawthad' (something that we use to hang things, to secure something from falling apart)



Used of Christ symbolically in Zechariah 10:3-4 ; Isaiah 22:19-24

Zechariah 10:4 From Judah will come the cornerstone, the wall peg, the battle bow, and every ruler.

Isaiah 22:23 I will place the key to the house of David on his shoulder. When he opens the door, no one can close it; when he closes the door, no one can open it. I will fasten him like a peg into a solid/firm/secure place; he will bring honor and respect to his father's family.

(Word for firm, secure – Awman – faithful, trustworthy, longlasting, relied upon, count on)

Comes from Word Amen in ***Rev 3:14 "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation.***

(It means "sure" or "truly", an expression of absolute trust and confidence.)

Isaiah 54:2 Enlarge the place of your tent; Stretch out the curtains of your dwellings, spare not; Lengthen your cords And strengthen your pegs.

He is the one who holds us firm – so that we don't fall apart in the storms of wilderness.

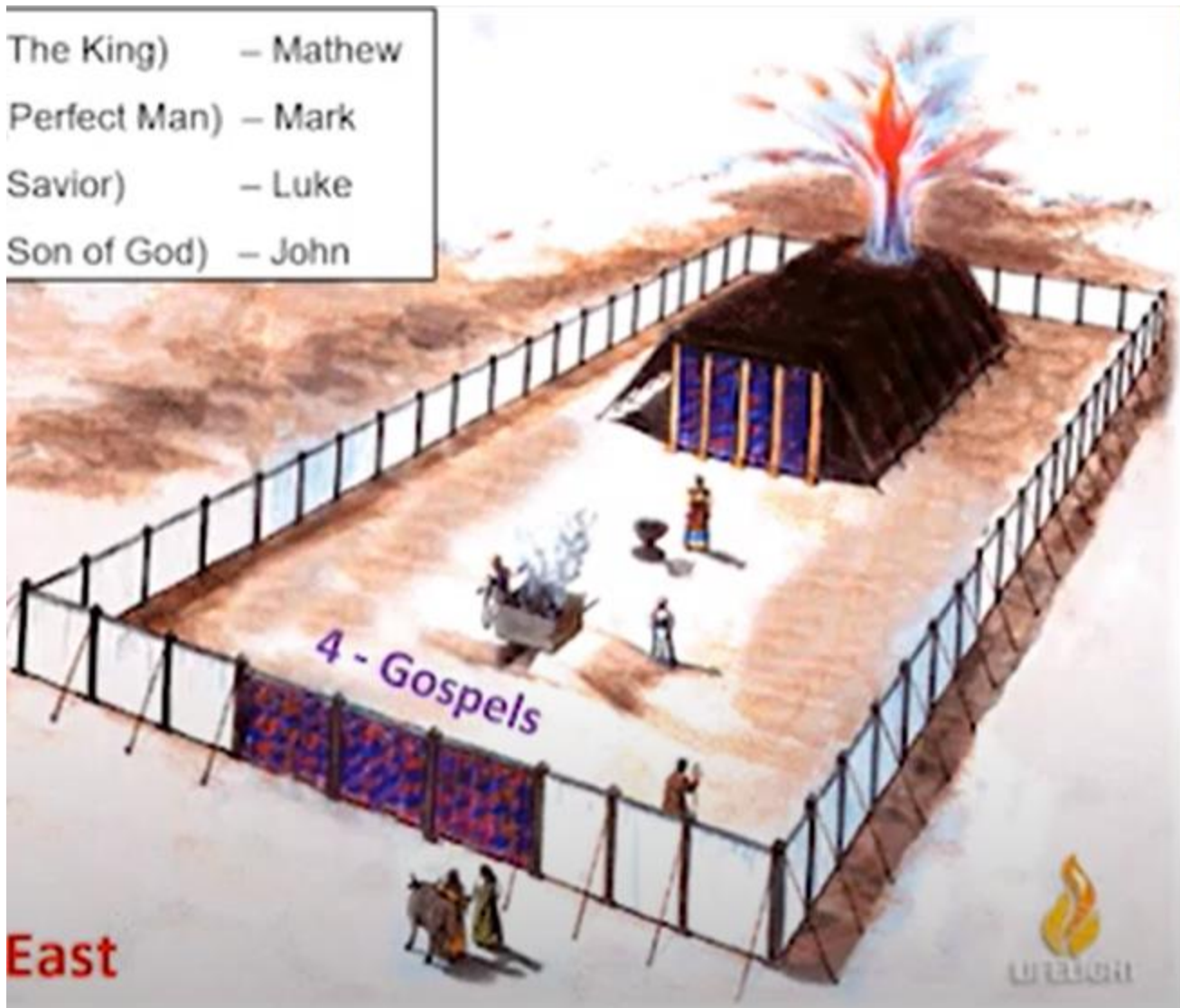
V.11,12 Make the curtains the same on the north side—150 feet of curtains held up by twenty posts set securely in bronze bases. Hang the curtains with silver hooks and rings. 12 The curtains on the west end of the courtyard will be 75 feet long, supported by ten posts set into ten bases.

Entrance of the courtyard: The Gate

V.13 The east end of the courtyard, the front, will also be 75 feet long. 14 The courtyard entrance will be on the east end, flanked by two curtains. The curtain on the right side will be 22 1/2 feet long, supported by three posts set into three bases. 15 The curtain on the left side will also be 22 1/2 feet long, supported by three posts set into three bases.

16 “For the entrance to the courtyard, make a curtain that is 30 feet long. Make it from finely woven linen, and decorate it with beautiful embroidery in blue, purple, and scarlet thread. Support it with four posts, each securely set in its own base. 17 All the posts around the courtyard must have silver rings and hooks and bronze bases. 18 So the entire courtyard will be 150 feet long and 75 feet wide, with curtain walls 7 1/2 feet high, made from finely woven linen. The bases for the posts will be made of bronze.





75 feet width = entrance curtain (30 feet) between + right side curtain (22.5 feet)+ left side curtain (22.5 feet)

It consisted of a separate curtain of white, fine-twined linen, embroidered with fine needle work, in four separate colors, blue, purple, and scarlet, against the background of pure, white linen. This curtain was 20 cubits (30 feet) long, of the same height as the barrier, and supported by four pillars, set in sockets of brass, and with silver capitals and fillets of silver, like those of the rest of the outside fence of the court.

The courtyard entrance will be on the east end opening to the west:

A person could not simply come from any direction into the tabernacle as he pleased — he had to enter through the one gate, which was always located to the east (so that people were

facing west when they entered the tabernacle — a direct opposition to the pagan sun worshippers of the day who always faced east).

Significance of East side in the Bible:

Solomon's temple gate entrance was in the east.

Ezekiel – many references to east gate of the Lord's house which faced eastward.(Eze 40:6, 8:16; 11:1; 40:20; 43:1) Through the gate facing east, God's glory entered into the house, the temple of God.

East gate is the only gate that is closed now in Jerusalem until Messiah would come.

Only one entrance:

The entrance was closed by a curtain – closed but not locked.

Jesus Christ. The gate of the court was the only way in, just as Christ is the only way into heaven ***“I am the door. Whoever enters through me, will be saved” (John 10:9, NIV).***

“I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6, NIV).

John 10:1 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that enters not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

All the colors of the tabernacle gate foreshadowed Christ as well: blue, as the Son of God; white as holy and spotless; purple, as King of Kings; and red, as the blood sacrifice for the sins of the world.

The tabernacle gate of the court is wide, always open (never barred / locked- with no one to forbid a person who wanted to worship God) easy to find and open to all - any repentant Israelite who wanted to enter and seek forgiveness for sin.

But only one gate (No shortcuts, no other mediator) One must make a personal decision to enter if he is to receive. Today, Christ is the gate to eternal life, welcoming all who seek heaven through him. But it is the love of God that attracts people .

This gate of the court, with its four pillars and four colors, wonderfully symbolizes CHRIST, as revealed, and presented to us, at the door into the New Testament in the four Gospels.

We mention these colors in the order in which they symbolize the four characters of JESUS CHRIST, as revealed in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. There are four Gospels in the New Testament.

Matthew, symbolized by the purple in the curtain of the gate, speaks of the KING and His Kingdom

Mark presents Him as the suffering Saviour, obedient unto death, represented by scarlet in the curtain, the color of the blood of the innumerable sacrifices, offered at the altar, and once for all, on the Cross.

The Gospel of Luke presents the lamb, spotless and without blemish, the perfect MAN, CHRIST JESUS; righteous and holy, represented by the pure, white linen.

While the **Gospel of John** presents Him as the eternal Word of GOD, who was with GOD and who was GOD. "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. No man hath seen God, at any time: the only begotten Son, who was in the bosom of the Father, HE hath declared (or revealed) "HIM" (John 1:1, 14, 18).