

**Ex 38:1 ¶** "And he made the altar of burnt offering of shittim wood: five cubits was the length thereof, and five cubits the breadth thereof; it was foursquare; and three cubits the height thereof. 2 And he made the horns thereof on the four corners of it; the horns thereof were of the same: and he overlaid it with brass. 3 And he made all the vessels of the altar, the pots, and the shovels, and the basons, and the fleshhooks, and the firepans: all the vessels thereof made he of brass. 4 And he made for the altar a brasen grate of network under the compass thereof beneath unto the midst of it. 5 And he cast four rings for the four ends of the grate of brass, to be places for the staves. 6 And he made the staves of shittim wood, and overlaid them with brass. 7 And he put the staves into the rings on the sides of the altar, to bear it withal; he made the altar hollow with boards. 8 And he made the laver of brass, and the foot of it of brass, of the looking glasses of the women assembling, which assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation."

I would like to point out at this point that all the things that are representative of Jesus, in the holy place and the most holy place, are all made of shittim wood and covered in pure gold. The brazen altar, which is in the courtyard of the congregation, is also made of shittim wood and covered with brass. The first definition of shittim wood is *the acacia tree from its scourging thorns*. We can look at this definition from two different points: One is that they put a crown of thorns upon the head of Jesus, and Jesus was scourged: The second point is that Jesus was always a thorn in the side of the unbelieving Jews. The second definition of shittim wood is *to pierce, to flog, a goad, or to scourge*. This gives us the emblematic picture of the prepared body of Jesus Christ, and all the things that He would suffer on our behalf. We know that the side of Jesus was pierced as he hung on the cross. We know that Jesus was flogged. We know that Jesus was goaded. We know that Jesus was scourged. Though the wood represents the prepared body of Jesus, it is overlaid with pure gold in the holy and most holy place, showing the purity of the prepared body of Jesus.

When you came into the court of the congregation, you had to enter through the door. The brazen altar was the first thing that you encountered, which is emblematic of the sacrifice of Jesus for our eternal remission of sins. It is emblematic of the fulfilling of the sacrificial law with the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. This is true in the life of every child of God. Christ, the door, comes to a sinner and implants the Holy Spirit in them in the new birth, then they begin to understand their depraved condition, they see Jesus on the cross, the altar of sacrifice, paying their sin debt.

This brazen altar was also portable, which points us to the life of Christ on earth. Born in Bethlehem, he was carried into Egypt to escape premature death by the hand of Pharaoh, returned to be raised up in Nazareth when it was safe. Even in his public ministry, Jesus was always on the move, going from place to place to fulfill all the prophesies of what he would do while on earth in his prepared body. The portable altar of sacrifice is also representative of the fact that the finished work of Jesus is all over the face of the earth, in all kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation. From the establishment of the New Testament Church until today, the church is still moving from place to place as God leads it through the Holy Spirit power.

The second thing you encountered in the courtyard of the congregation was the laver, which was also made of brass, from the looking glasses of the women who stood at the door. The definition of looking glasses is *a vision or mirror*. The laver was placed at the entrance of the holy place. All the priests, who entered the holy place to perform their duties, had to wash in the laver and put on their clothes of service before they entered the holy place. Consider, when we are born again, we are made priests to God, wherefore we are to wash at the laver before we enter the New Testament Church. How are we washed? First, we are washed in the blood of Jesus, and our sins are purged from our being forever. Secondly, we are baptized by immersion which gives the picture of the body of Christ being laid in the tomb and rising again on the third day. For us it is the picture of the old nature being immersed in the water of washing and raised up with the new nature of Jesus Christ.

Since the laver was as a mirror, when we are washed in the blood of Christ, our sin debt being eternally forgiven, we are to reflect Christ in his purity. Remember the scripture in **2Co 5:20; 19** "*To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. 21 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.*" We are to reflect the light of Christ in us.

Since the priests went into the holy place daily, we see the picture of our lives as children of God. How, each day, we are to remember that we have been washed in the precious blood of Jesus and give Him thanks for our eternal life in Him. We are to live each day as a priest unto God as seen in ***Col 3:23-24; 23 "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.***" Our lives should reflect Christ in all our walks and talks.

**9 ¶ "And he made the court: on the south side southward the hangings of the court were of fine twined linen, an hundred cubits: 10 Their pillars were twenty, and their brasen sockets twenty; the hooks of the pillars and their fillets were of silver. 11 And for the north side the hangings were an hundred cubits, their pillars were twenty, and their sockets of brass twenty; the hooks of the pillars and their fillets of silver. 12 And for the west side were hangings of fifty cubits, their pillars ten, and their sockets ten; the hooks of the pillars and their fillets of silver. 13 And for the east side eastward fifty cubits. 14 The hangings of the one side of the gate were fifteen cubits; their pillars three, and their sockets three. 15 And for the other side of the court gate, on this hand and that hand, were hangings of fifteen cubits; their pillars three, and their sockets three. 16 All the hangings of the court round about were of fine twined linen. 17 And the sockets for the pillars were of brass; the hooks of the pillars and their fillets of silver; and the overlaying of their chapiters of silver; and all the pillars of the court were filleted with silver. 18 And the hanging for the gate of the court was needlework, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen: and twenty cubits was the length, and the height in the breadth was five cubits, answerable to the hangings of the court. 19 And their pillars were four, and their sockets of brass four; their hooks of silver, and the overlaying of their chapiters and their fillets of silver. 20 And all the pins of the tabernacle, and of the court round about, were of brass."**

We have in these verses the inner hangings of the courtyard, which completely surrounded the tabernacle as a whole. We know that from the outside, the coverings were the skins which were not a thing of beauty to look upon. This gives us a prophetic picture of how the lost look at the New Testament Church. To them it is not a thing of beauty. It is bland and dull and it has no beauty to make them desire to enter the tabernacle. They are blinded today to the beauty of entering the New Testament Church by Satan, as seen in: ***2Co 4:3; 1 ¶ "Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; 2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commanding ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. 3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. 5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."***

However, for the child of God being given entrance into the tabernacle to see the sacrifice for sins, those who entered in would look upon the beauty of the tapestry that hung inside. To a child of God, in the new birth, they enter the New Testament Church, as one entering the tabernacle, and they see the beauty of the finished work of Jesus Christ.

Did you notice that the hanging for the gate was of needlework of blue, and purple, and scarlet? These colors give us the picture of the beaten and battered body of Jesus, who is the door of entrance for the new Testament Church. The needlework, which mingled the different colors of the gate into a pattern of majestic beauty, gives us the picture of Christ, the door. To the lost, who do not believe, and deny the finished work of Jesus Christ, this gate is nothing. To each child of God who is born again and given eyes to see the finished work of Jesus, this door is a thing of majestic beauty. Thus, we see that the only way we can enter the New Testament Church is through Jesus, the door, as he tells us in ***Joh 10:7 "Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. 9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture."*** Thank you, King Jesus, for revealing yourself, and the beauty of holiness, to we who have been given the gift of eternal life in Christ.

21 ¶ "This is the sum of the tabernacle, even of the tabernacle of testimony, as it was counted, according to the commandment of Moses, for the service of the Levites, by the hand of Ithamar, son to Aaron the priest. 22 And Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, made all that the LORD commanded Moses. 23 And with him was Aholiab, son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, an engraver, and a cunning workman, and an embroiderer in blue, and in purple, and in scarlet, and fine linen."

We have in these verses the accomplishment of the making of the whole tabernacle and its furnishings. We are told again of those whom God gave the charge, and the wisdom, to build this tabernacle. This gives us the prophetic picture of God giving commandment to Jesus Christ to establish the New Testament Church and to establish this age of salvation by the grace of God. Remember, Jesus was the chief corner stone, and his twelve apostles were given the wisdom to lay the foundation stones in their proper place, so that all was as God has commanded.

24 "All the gold that was occupied for the work in all the work of the holy place, even the gold of the offering, was twenty and nine talents, and seven hundred and thirty shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary. 25 And the silver of them that were numbered of the congregation was an hundred talents, and a thousand seven hundred and threescore and fifteen shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary: 26 A bekah for every man, that is, half a shekel, after the shekel of the sanctuary, for every one that went to be numbered, from twenty years old and upward, for six hundred thousand and three thousand and five hundred and fifty men. 27 And of the hundred talents of silver were cast the sockets of the sanctuary, and the sockets of the veil: an hundred sockets of the hundred talents, a talent for a socket. 28 And of the thousand seven hundred seventy and five shekels he made hooks for the pillars, and overlaid their chapters, and filleted them. 29 And the brass of the offering was seventy talents, and two thousand and four hundred shekels. 30 And therewith he made the sockets to the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and the brasen altar, and the brasen grate for it, and all the vessels of the altar, 31 And the sockets of the court round about, and the sockets of the court gate, and all the pins of the tabernacle, and all the pins of the court round about."

In these verses we see the picture of the host of people required to make the New Testament Church whole, as there was a price required for each man that was counted of Israel. It required the price of each man counted to make all the things of the tabernacle, to make the tabernacle complete. Not one piece could be left out and assemble the tabernacle properly. Neither can any be missing from the New Testament Church and it be complete. This is why God tells us in *Heb 10:25 "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."* Did you notice; there was a price required for each one that was numbered? Likewise, for every child of God there is a price required, which is *Lu 9:23 "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."*

Think about the whole of the tabernacle proper. When it was completely assembled, all things that pertain to Christ was hidden from those who were without. This is a picture of the New Testament Church. How? The world of the unsaved cannot behold Christ and his finished work because Satan has blinded their eyes. We see this in *Joh 12:35-41; 35 "Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth. 36 While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them. 37 ¶ But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him: 38 That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed? 39 Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, 40 He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them. 41 These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him."* This is why Jesus spake in parables. It is not meant for the unsaved to see and understand, the beauty of the holiness, of the finished work of Jesus Christ. Therefore, if you read the King James Bible and see Jesus Christ, if you hear the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and it is made effectual in your hearts, minds, and souls, you know that you are among that number that have been given eyes that see, ears that hear, and hearts that understand. If you possess these things, you are one of God's chosen for whom Christ died. Hallelujah! Praise, ye the Lord!