

# **Answerable To the Hangings of the Court**

## Exodus Chapter Thirty-Eight

~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God has just one more report after this one from Exodus, and then we will journey back to the New Testament to consider the Gospel of Mark. In Genesis and Exodus, we have had a remarkable picture book of things that happened unto the children of Israel as an example unto us. The picture we have been focusing on the most in Exodus is the tabernacle - a portrait of Christ.

We have spent quite some time on the interior articles of furniture because they are important. Well, in this report we want to examine the outside of the tabernacle structure because it is equally important. Every thread, every color and every shape and smell speak of the Lord Jesus Christ. We set out on this safari to find Christ on every page of Scripture and – well, we found Him; or maybe He found us – either way, we’re with Him now!

We have seen the overall size of the tabernacle. We have seen the boards and the sockets and the tenons that held it all together. You really need to get the tabernacle layout arranged correctly in your thinking because it will serve you well through the rest of Scripture to do so. I have a free chart of the tabernacle I can send to anyone that asks for it. We’re going to see the procession of the wilderness march in Numbers and the Ark led the way. It moved first under the direct leading of the Shekinah glory; and when the cloud stopped, the priests would just set the Ark down right there in the sand. Then, the tabernacle would be set up around it. They would then set the boards in place and the golden bars held the whole thing together structurally.

We also looked at the coverings of linen and how they fit into place. Then, the goat skins and the ram skins went over that with the badger skins completing the outside for protection. The beauty of the tabernacle was only seen from within – not from the outside. Honestly, it wouldn’t have been all that attractive from the exterior. Everything inside the tabernacle speaks of praise and adoration of God and blessings to the individual. In the

outer court we have two articles of furniture; the brazen laver and the brazen altar. This is where the sin question was settled. The sinner would come to this place at the gate and stand there; then a priest would bring them in the gate with the animal sacrifice and the priest would place his hand on the victim, be it a lamb or whatever animal offering that was brought. Then the priest would slay the animal and that was as far as the individual went. From that point on the priest went through the ritual for the individual. The priest had to stop and wash at the laver and then make the sacrifice.

So, when the priest entered the tabernacle, he went through the door into the Holy Place where the golden lamp stand, the table of show bread and the altar of incense were located. Beyond that was the veil which hid the Ark and the mercy seat. The priest didn't go in there; they never went into the Holy of Holies. Only Aaron, the high priest, went into the Holy of Holies.

In this report, we are going to look at something that is particularly meaningful. The first thing brought to our attention here is the burnt offering. The height of the burnt offering was the same as that of the mercy seat. This is where sins were forgiven for the individual, or, sometimes, for the nation as a whole. The morning and the evening sacrifice, as we shall see, were for the nation and they were all made right here. With this altar in place any other altar would have been absolute blasphemy to construct. The Bible is instructing us how we are to approach the True and Living God – and it's only by the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ!

The burnt offering altar is the largest of all the articles of furniture. If you examine this closely you will notice all the other articles of furniture could have all fit inside the altar. This was the prominent place because there would be no such thing as worship and there would be no such thing as blessings without this tabernacle and these articles of furniture. The horns on the altar speak of the ability of Christ to save and redeem....

***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 lookingglasses of the women assembling, which assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.***

~ So, we have all of these items described in detail and they all speak of the Lord Jesus Christ. The laver had a place for the hands and the feet to be washed. The looking glasses are mirrors that would have been made from highly polished brass. I suppose these would have been really heavy to carry! At any rate, the brazen laver was made out of those mirrors and the mirrors speak of the Word of God! The Word of God is what shows us that we need cleansing; and that washing is what the laver is for....

***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.***

~ Now, on the outside of the tabernacle the fine linen speaks of the humanity of Christ. That separates man from God, quite frankly. Many people mistakenly believe that if we just follow the teachings of Christ then we could bring peace into the world. The problem is that there is no peace for man outside of the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. The linen fence shut man out from God, and it wasn't very inviting, either. It's the death, not the life, of Christ that encompasses our salvation. To pretend we are conservative yet think we could give this out as a message is the reason there is so much confusion in this world regarding the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. Anywhere we turn in the Word of God – even here at the tabernacle – we see the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus! The white linen fence shut out man from God and hid God from man, my friends; because, without Christ, God won't even acknowledge man....

The sockets on the inner court were made of silver which spoke of redemption. Well, here in the outer court, they're all made of brass which speaks of judgment. Your sins must be judged! You will NEVER go into Gods presence without a sacrifice and without being washed! God just doesn't take the criminal off of death row and give him a house and a car and a hundred thousand dollars to start a new life; that's not the business God is

in, people. Men may do this but it isn't the work of God! You must recognize that you are a sinner who needs a Savior and come into God's presence on that basis. Note the tops of the posts that rested on these sockets of brass were made of silver. The outer court shut man away - but God has made a way to come in! That way is that He had judged sin and provided redemption for mankind that man might be clothed in the righteousness of Christ. I think you could have simply stood there and looked at the tabernacle and gotten the Gospel message....

***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.***

~ The outside world wasn't going to jump this seven-and-a-half-foot fence. Entry was made through the gate to the door escorted by a priest - or you're not coming in! The blue speaks of the deity of Christ; the purple speaks of royalty and the scarlet speaks of His humanity - the blood He shed. Blue and scarlet combined give us purple! Christ was born King of the Jews! The entrance to the tabernacle was wide enough for any sinner to come there; but you can't see over the fence, either. Jesus said He was the door - the way! That is the gate. If you want to worship God, you'll have to do so in spirit and in truth; and truth speaks of the way into the place of worship. You're not worshipping God in a liberal church - you have to worship in truth! You cannot deny the deity of Christ or His death on the cross for our sins and claim to worship Him - it's just impossible and you're insulting God! It would, actually, be much better if a lot of people never went to church. Their own condition is not good; and when you put them in a place where the spiritual condition is even worse, then you have a disaster waiting to happen. Most of our modern churches are nothing in the world but an insult to the Lord Jesus! You don't just rush in unannounced to worship God - I don't know where we ever got that idea!

Hebrews doesn't teach that. You don't have a secret way to God and neither do I. We all come into His presence in the same way....

***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.***

***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.***

***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.***

~ Here we have something remarkable. God never called the individual Israelite a son of God – which term speaks of the nation as a whole. Who is an Israelite? Does a man have to be born an Israelite to be a Jew or does the religion make him a Jew? Well, the nation was a chosen nation, but the individual had to be redeemed! God's people have always been a remnant; it was a remnant then and it is one today. It just happens to also be a remnant including Gentiles today! A very, very small percentage of church members are truly saved. Most of them sit with a bunch of hypocrites that have never been born again. They put up a good front, but before the sun goes down on Sunday, they're all drunk - one way or the other; spiritually or physically. Church membership is more of a warning to me today of who NOT to associate with! Your church membership is meaningless to me and

it's meaningless to God, too – stop playing church, friends – and come to Christ as the sinner you know you are and be redeemed....

***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 vail; 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.***

~ You and I and everyone that is or isn't on safari with us will have to accept the redemption of the Lord Jesus Christ to be saved. All of the sockets that the entire tabernacle rested on were redemptive silver or the brass of judgment. Salvation is free - but it's not cheap. It cost God everything when He gave His Son to die for you and you are redeemed today by His blood! The children of Israel had to individually accept redemption – but many didn't. Here in the wilderness, they are forced to

choose; but not when they get over into the land! If they wanted to be numbered in the land, they had to pay a redemption price. We can thank Him that price has been paid for us. Do you want to be saved? Do you recognize you have a need today? Do you realize you're a sinner? The redemption money of the blood of Christ has already been paid for you. You have a way to God and to be accepted by Him in Christ Jesus! What another awesome picture we have in a very dry section of Scripture ~

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