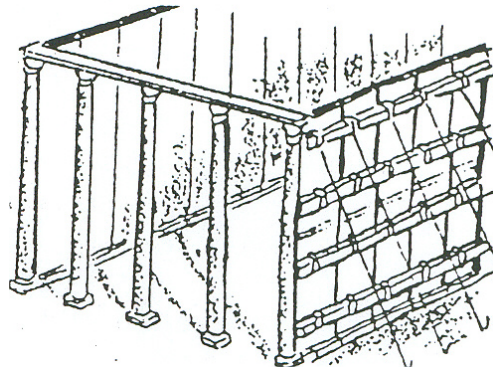


Continuing our journey step by step through the Tabernacle we come to the Tabernacle proper. Thus far in our journey we have discovered that God was very specific about the construction of the Tabernacle. He specified that there was to be a fence-curtain around the courtyard, teaching that there is a separation between the sinful man and the holiness of God. However, in the wall of curtain around the Tabernacle there was a gate – only one gate, showing there is only one approach to God. On entering through the gate we encounter the Brazen Altar, teaching that a sacrifice is required for a person to have a relationship with God and to be forgiven of sin.

Journeying past the Brazen Altar, we come to the Laver where the priests must wash several times daily before they could enter inside the Tabernacle – teaching that if we are to serve God, we must not only be saved, but also have daily cleansing from sin.

Passing the Laver and continuing westward, we encounter the Tabernacle itself. The boards used in the outer walls being 15 feet long and 2 feet wide each, furnishes a massive structure, 150 feet long, 75 feet wide and 13 feet high (Exodus 26:15-30). Each board rested on, and was “fixed” in the foundation of socket of silver.

As we will see, the boards represent sinners -- “*saved by grace*” -- as Ephesians 2:19-22 states, “*You are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone. **In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.** And in Him you too are being **built together to become a dwell** in which God lives by His Spirit.”*



View of Construction

*Just think of it -- each board had a past history! It was once a stately tree, beautiful to the natural eye and drawing its support and sustenance from the ***earth!*** But, God had need of the acacia tree for building His dwelling place and, so it was cut down – its connection with the earth was severed.*

Likewise, we were once in the world, drawing our support and sustenance from what the world could give. Then, one day the axe of truth – “*quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword*” – fell upon our heart and, then our connection with the world was severed.

The boards were prepared by one named, Bezaleel. All the workers were under his direction (Exodus 35:30-34). How interesting that the name “*Bezaleel*” means, “*the shadow of God,*” -- it is a type of the Holy Spirit, guiding us in our journey to holiness!

Can you even imagine how these boards of the Tabernacle must of looked like, covered completely with gold, gleaming in the sunlight? They once had their imperfection, but there they stood in their place in the structure of God’s house – reflecting God’s glory – just as we reflect Christ’s beauty. Their natural beauty had been

taken away as they were stripped of boughs that formerly had been its pride. Likewise, the one who yields to God's voice and is willing to take his place among other believers in the building of God's house is today – stripped of superfluous habits and interests.

A natural question comes to mind . . .

How was it that these boards could stand up,
and remain firm, in a given position on the desert sand?

Two things made this possible:

1. THE FOUNDATION, CALLED "SOCKETS"

The foundation for these boards was made of pure silver. The entire Tabernacle rested on these "*blocks of silver.*" There were 100 of these sockets, or blocks, and they weighed 100 pounds each. The total weight of these sockets was **five tons**.

This silver was obtained not by the free-will offering, but rather by the "*ransom*" – or atonement money – for the soul (See Exodus 30:11-16).

Every person was required to give an offering of half a shekel (about 35 cents) as a ransom for his soul. Failure to furnish the silver meant death and (being cut off from the assembly of Israel). The sum was the same for all, however, it was such a small amount that no one was unable to give.

This "*ransom*" was a type of the price that was paid for man's atonement for sin – The blood of Christ (See Leviticus 17:11; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 Corinthians 3:11). The offering for our soul has been paid and is in reach of us all – "***Jesus paid it all!***" On this foundation of the blood of atonement the Tabernacle of our redemption is built!

2. THE BARS THAT HELD THE BOARDS TOGETHER

The boards were bound together with bars (Read Exodus 26:26-29) that run, unseen, through the boards, holding them tightly together. What an adequate type of believers who are not only united to Christ, "*our Foundation,*" but, also in a harmonious and helpful relationship with fellow believers – "*Fitly framed together*" as Ephesians 2:20-22 states.

At times we will come into contact with some fellow Christian that may seem "*unlovely,*" nevertheless, we must remember that Christ has redeemed them at a tremendous cost and had given them a place in His temple – the Church.

The bars represent the bond of unity and fellowship that exists among believers. This mysterious unseen bond unites true believers and makes them "*one*" the world over – (Ephesians 4:2 & 16).

When the Tabernacle was set up – the "*sockets*" were put into place *first*. Just as there could be no Tabernacle apart from the sockets there can be no true Church apart from its foundation – *Jesus Christ crucified!*

"On Christ the Solid Rock I stand!" – (1 Corinthians 3:11)

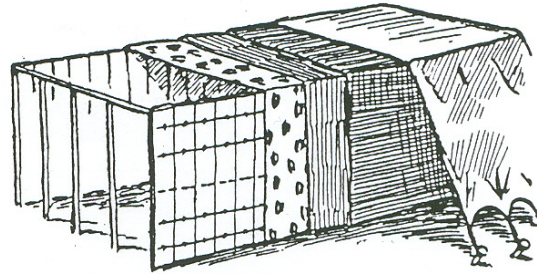
1. Entering the gate of the Courtyard -- teaching there is only one way to God;
2. Passing the Brazen Altar -- teaching that a sacrifice is required for one to have a relationship with God
3. Stopping to view the Laver -- teaching the need of daily cleansing in our walk with the Lord
4. Arriving at the Tabernacle proper and analogizing the boards on its side -- teaching the unity and support of believers

We notice that the Tabernacle has “coverings” over its roof and sides.

Protecting the Tabernacle are four coverings – one of badger skins, one of ram skins, another of goat hair, and a linen cover for the ceiling (Exodus 26:1-14 & 36:8-19). These coverings formed the ceiling and the roof of the Tabernacle. They consisted of two outer coverings – the badger’s skins, because of their durability, was the *outer* covering -- beneath that was a covering of rams’ skins (Exodus 26:14). Then there were two *inner* coverings – one of goat’s hair (Exodus 26:7) and the *innermost* covering, forming the ceiling for the inside for the Tabernacle was beautiful linen of four colors – blue, purple and scarlet, with cherubims embroidered throughout.

The badger skin took the punishment of the blistering rays of the sun in the desert climate of the Sinai, as well as the rain and snow of the Promised Land.

Remarkably these four layers of material – that the roof consisted of – each hold a message concerning the Person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Remember that the Tabernacle was made of “walls” of boards standing upright, fifteen feet high, with an open top. These four coverings covered the top, sides and back of the Tabernacle proper.

1. THE OUTER COVERING OF BADGER’S SKINS

The outward demeanor of the Tabernacle had no beauty, but rather was drab and dull in appearance. Badger skin was tough and, not dyed, would be unattractive. This was what was exposed to the sun, rain, and the storms of the desert. This was the covering visible to the outsider. There certainly was nothing appealing to it from the outside view.

The outward covering was a picture of the “*humanity*” of Christ (Isaiah 53:2.). It is only as one passes *into* the Tabernacle that he can behold the breathtaking, exquisite, indescribable beauty *inside* – a type of Christ being “*altogether lovely.*”

2. THE COVERING OF RAM’S SKINS

Underneath the badger skin, the second covering was made from ram skin dyed red (Exodus 24:14 & 36:19), These skins were taken from the rams sacrificed upon the Brazen Altar and dyed into the color of blood, creating a perfect type of Christ's role as Substitute for sinners.

3. THE COVERING OF GOAT'S HAIR

The covering just beneath the ram's skins was goat's hair. Reading Leviticus 16:19-22, we see that these goat's skins pictures Christ as sin-bearer. Our guilt was "*laid on Him*" (Isaiah 53:6; Hebrews 9:28 & 2 Corinthians 5:21).

4. THE CEILING OF FINE TWINED LINEN

The inside covering was embroidered fine twined linen colored with blue, purple, and scarlet. The covering provided the ceiling for the entire inside of the Tabernacle and was embroidered with figures of cherubims. This covering was the only one visible to those inside the Tabernacle.

[The colors here have the same significance as the floors within the "gate"]

Blue speaks of Christ's heavenly character; purple of His royalty and scarlet of His sacrificial work. The cherubims were guardians of God's holiness and demand the sinner be barred from God's presence *unless he comes in by the way provided* (Genesis 3:24).

To enter into God's presence we must believe that Jesus -- represented in the badger's skins -- is "*God in the flesh.*" Turning back this "*outer coverings,*" we see Christ typified in the ram's skins dyed red and realize that we must accept Christ's sacrifice for our sin - accepting Him as Savior. However, we need to go further and enter into a deeper Christian life. Turning the second covering, made of ram's skins dyed red, we are brought a step further to the goat's hair coming and realize there must be a **full** acceptance of Christ as "*Sin bearer*" (1John 1:7-10).

Underneath these three coverings - visible to those who enter inside and look up - we view a beautiful, embroidered linen covering with a number of cherubims covering it. No matter in what part of the Tabernacle the priests were they were constantly beneath the presence of these heavenly beings.

Cherubims speak of fellowship with God

We see Christ pictured in the linen coverings in a fuller sense than before - (that is, than in the badger's skins; the ram's skins, dyed red; or the goat's hair). These outer coverings conceal the *real beauty* of Christ from the person outside.

This linen covering, beneath the outer coverings, revealed the life within.

1. The badger's skins reveal that there must be an acknowledgement of Christ's humanity (John 20:31; 1 John 4:1-3; 2 John 1:7)
2. The ram's skins dyed red reveals Christ's death and atonement
3. The goat's hair reveals that there must be an acknowledgement of Christ as our Sin-bearer and of consecration to Him

4. The linen covering points to a revelation of our deeper life in Christ Jesus.

The Door Into the Tabernacle

In our journey step-by-step through the Tabernacle we obtain entrance into the Holy Place of the Tabernacle through the door (Exodus 26:36-37).

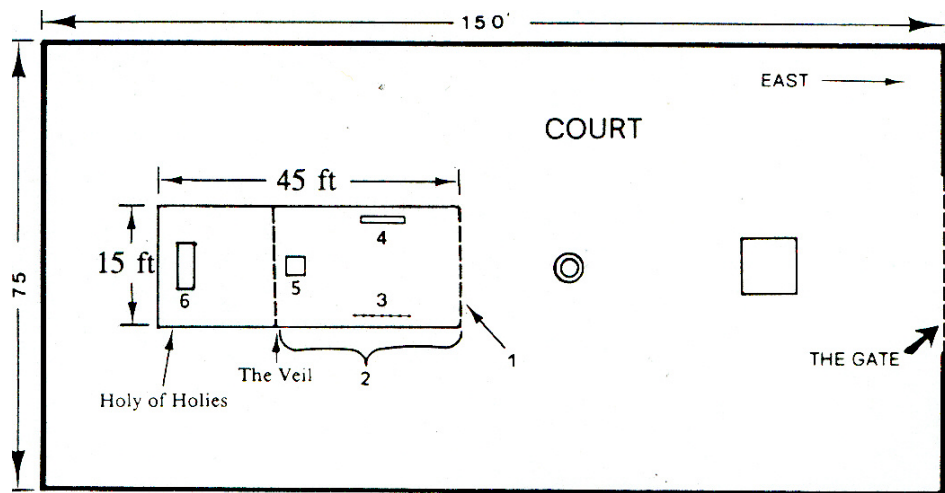
The door gives access to the Tabernacle proper, and, like the gate to the courtyard, was positioned on the East side. The colors, materials, and design of the door were the same as the gate. However, Exodus 27:16-17 states, concerning the gate,

“And for the gate of the court shall be an hanging of twenty cubits, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, wrought with needlework: and their pillars shall be four, and their sockets four. All the pillars round about the court shall be filleted with silver; their hooks shall be of silver, and their sockets of brass.

While Exodus 26:36-37 states, concerning the door,

*And thou shalt make an hanging for the door of the tent, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, wrought with needlework. And thou shalt make for the hanging five pillars of acacia wood, and overlay them with **gold**, and their hooks shall be of **gold**: and thou shalt cast five sockets of brass for them.*

The door into the Tabernacle was cloth, or a



- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. The door | 3. The Candle Stick | 5. Altar of Incense |
| 2. The Holy Place | 4. Table of Shewbread | 6. The Ark of the Covenant |

hanging curtain, made of pure white linen with blue purple, scarlet and white, that denoted Christ's *incarnation, royalty, shed blood, and righteousness.*

Jesus said, "I am the door, by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved" (John 10:9). This door, or curtain, into the Tabernacle included the whole Easter end of the Tabernacle, and was fifteen feet square. The gate into the courtyard was 30 feet wide.

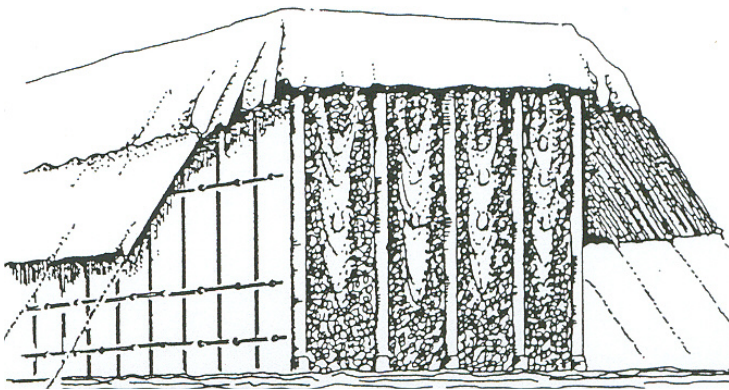
The gate is twice as wide - 30 feet - teaching that *whosoever* may come, however, the door into close, intimate, fellowship with God, was narrower - 15 feet wide - because there are some things one must leave behind when he enters here.

One may be a Christian and still hold fellowship with the world for a time, however, he cannot be a growing, maturing, spiritually developing, Christian and continuing this life-style.

While the hanging of the gate of the courtyard had four pillars -- (depicting the four Gospels that give us the four-fold character of Christ) -- here, at the door into the Tabernacle we have five pillars, that speak to us of the five writers of the Epistles -- (who uphold Christ as the object and pattern of the believer). The ordinary Jew could **NOT** enter through this door into the Holy Place. Only the priests had this privilege of fellowship and close communion with God.

Thus, the true believer may enter the door that leads from the courtyard into the Holy Place. This requires just as definite an act of faith as was required to enter the gate into the courtyard. However, many Christians have not taken this step.

The person who is *inside* the courtyard is a picture of one who is saved, but is this enough? In the courtyard the believer is still struggling continually with the old nature. God is asking us, "*Will you enter through the door into the inner life in Christ Jesus?*" As one cannot know the meaning of salvation until he is inside the courtyard neither can one know the joys of the yielded life until he is fully consecrated to Christ.



The door provided a beautiful entrance into the Holy Place, into a relationship of the coverings of the Tabernacle - into the *sheltered* place.

The door of the Tabernacle, being 15 feet high, was exactly twice the height of the gate. No one but the priests could ever see what was on the inside.

Ordinary Israelites could enter the gate into the courtyard and offer sacrifices by the Brazen Altar, but that was as far as they could ever go. They could only wonder what it must be like to have direct access to God because for them to set foot beyond the door would mean instant death.

Hebrews 10:19-22 certainly takes on new meaning when it states, "*Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which He hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh; And having an High Priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.*"

The Holy Place, the first compartment of the Tabernacle proper -- contained three pieces of furniture -- the *Candlestick* -- the *Table of Shewbread* -- and the *Incense*

Altar. These furnitures like the Brazen Altar in the outer courtyard, represent the various ministries of Christ. At the Brazen Altar we see men reconciled to God through Christ's death portrayed through animal sacrifices. The Brazen Altar corresponds to the cross of Christ. The outer courtyard symbolically represents Earth where Christ lived and died for mankind's sins.

Christ's ministry in heaven is portrayed by the ministry of the priests in the Holy Place (Hebrews 9:24). Because of this typical significance, the common Israelite could not enter the Holy Place as he did the outer courtyard. Only the priests were permitted to go into the Holy Place. Each piece of furniture in the Holy Place represents a ministry of Christ.