



Go for God!

“SPIRITUAL GROWTH!”

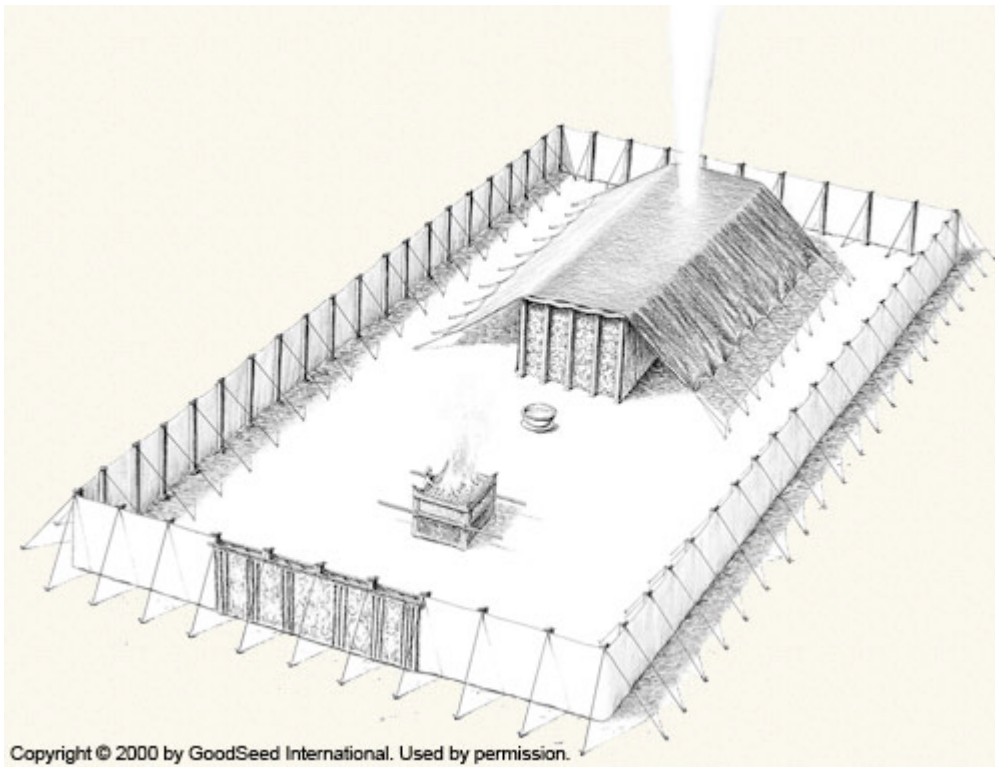
EXODUS CHAPTER 26 – 27

> CHAPTER 26 – “THE TABERNACLE”

The tabernacle consisted of a tent-like structure (the tabernacle proper) covered by rug-like coverings for a roof, and an external courtyard (150 feet by 75 feet). The whole compound was surrounded by a high fence about 7 feet in height. The fence was made of linen hangings held by pillars. The tent (tabernacle proper) was divided into the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies.

The tent was made of acacia wood boards overlaid with gold and fitted together to form the walls, measuring 45 by 15 feet. On top, four layers of curtains acted as a roof to shield the tabernacle from sun and rain: The innermost layer was woven with fine linen and embroidered with figures of cherubim (angels), the second layer was made of goat’s hair, the third layer was made of rams’ skins dyed red, and the outermost layer was made of porpoise skins. The curtains were pinned to the ground with loops and clasps.

- A picture is worth a thousand words:



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The whole compound was surrounded by a high fence with only one entrance. 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).

Upon entering the gate, one encountered the brazen altar, where he was to present his animal offering, and then hand the reigns over to the priests, who make atonement and intercession for him in the tent.

- **The Veil & the Holy of Holies** - The ***Holy of Holies*** was a perfect cube — its length, width and height were all equal to 15 feet. A thick curtain separated the ***Holy of Holies from the Holy Place***. This curtain, known as the “***veil***,” was made of fine linen and blue, purple and scarlet yarn. There were figures of cherubim (angels) embroidered onto it.

The word “*veil*” in Hebrew means a screen, divider or separator that hides. What was this curtain hiding? Essentially, it was shielding a holy God from sinful man.

Whoever entered the *Holy of Holies* was entering the very presence of God. In fact, anyone except the high priest who entered the *Holy of Holies* would die. Even the high priest, God’s chosen mediator with His people, could only pass through the veil and enter this sacred dwelling once a year, on a prescribed day called the Day of Atonement.

“But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance.” (Hebrews 9:7)

Jesus’ sacrificial death on the cross changed that. When He died, the curtain in the Jerusalem temple was torn in half, from the top to the bottom. Only God could have carried out such an incredible feat because the veil was too high for human hands to have reached it, and too thick to have torn it. **(The Jerusalem temple, a replica of the wilderness tabernacle, had a curtain that was about 60 feet in height, 30 feet in width and four inches thick.)** Furthermore, it was torn from top down, meaning this act must have come from above. **(Matthew 27:45-54.)**

Scripture declares, “Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body ...let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith.” (Hebrews 10:19-22)

> CHAPTER 27 – THE BRAZEN ALTAR—THE COURT—OIL FOR THE LAMP

- **The brazen altar** – (bronze altar), or altar of sacrifice was situated right inside the courtyard upon entering the gate to the tabernacle. The Hebrew root for altar means, “to slay” or “slaughter.” An altar is a “high place for sacrifice/slaughter.”

The altar stood raised on a mound of earth, higher than its surrounding furniture. This is a projection of Christ, our sacrifice, lifted up on the cross, His altar, which stood on a hill called Golgotha.

The altar was made of wood from the acacia tree and overlaid with bronze (bronze is usually symbolic of judgment on sin), measuring 7.5 feet on all four sides and 4.5 feet deep. Four horns projected from the top four corners and a bronze grating was inside to hold the animal.

The altar was the place for burning animal sacrifices. It showed the Israelites that the first step for sinful man to approach a holy God was to be cleansed by the blood of an innocent creature.

For a sin offering, a person had to bring an animal — a male one without blemish or defect from the flock or herd — to the priest at the tabernacle gate, *“He is to lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it will be accepted on his behalf to make atonement for him.” (Leviticus 1:4)*

By laying his hand upon the head of the offering, the person was identifying with the sacrifice. His sin and guilt was being moved from himself to the animal. The priest would then slaughter the animal, sprinkle its blood in front of the veil of the Holy Place, burn the sacrifice, and pour the rest of it at the bottom of the altar.

“For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.” (Leviticus 17:11)

“The law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.” (Hebrews 9:22)

Jesus Christ, is the Lamb of God, He came as the ultimate and last sacrifice for mankind when He offered up His life. As Isaiah prophesized, the Christ would be like a lamb that is led to slaughter and pierced for our transgressions. His blood was sprinkled and poured out at the cross for us.

The Bible says: *“This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.” (Mark 14:24)*

“For you know that ... you were redeemed ... with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.” (1 Peter 1:18-19)

“The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!” (Hebrews 9:13-14)

“We have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. ...By one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. ...And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin.” (Hebrews 10:10, 14, 18)

- Court of the Tabernacle – This is the entire area inside.

- Gate of the Tabernacle – The gate was 30 feet wide. The gate was covered by a curtain or screen made of finely twisted linen in blue (represents heaven), purple (represents royalty) and scarlet (represents sacrifice).

Christ as the only way through which one could fellowship with God and worship Him.

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

Jesus said: *“I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.” (John 10:9)*

Jesus said: *“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.” (Matthew 7:13-14)*

The act of entering the gate to the tabernacle was significant to the Israelites. By entering, one could find forgiveness of sin and fellowship with God.

The first item one saw upon entering the gate was the **brazen altar**, which served as a reminder of man’s sinfulness and his need for a blood sacrifice, whereas, to have fellowship with God. **One needed to repent and offer sacrifices for their sin.**

- The Oil for the Lamp – One commentator writes, “This shining light results from the:

(1) Work of the people—preparation (v20a);

(2) Work of the ministers—perpetuation (21);

(3) Work of the Holy Spirit—illumination (20b).”

(Christians must maintain the anointing oil of the Holy Spirit, shining as bright lights for Christ through obedience to the Word of God. We see this example in the “Parable of the Ten Virgins,” the wise were ready for the rapture of the church.

> Turn to Matthew 25:1-13:

– *Five virgins* (virgins in Greek is *parthenos* - by implication, an unmarried daughter), are wise, meaning *intelligent, prudent, mindful of one's business*.

Five were foolish in Greek, *moros* – *dull, sluggish, to be silly or stupid*.

We also know according to Biblical numerology that **five** is the number of *grace*. *Five—wise* according to **Eph 2:8-9** - *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast*; whereas, the *five—foolish* had a presumption of grace lacking true saving faith.

Oil in scripture is symbolic of the Holy Spirit. The foolish had lamps, but not enough oil. The wise had lamps and an extra flask of oil; they were full of oil, full of the Holy Spirit.

An example of the *Spirit filled believer* is found in **Ephesians 5:8-21**, is this our life?

Notice the life of Spirit filled believers:

- (1) *Walk as children of the light* (5:8);
- (2) *Walk wisely in these evil times* (5:15-16);
- (3) *Walk according to the will of God* (5:17);
- (4) *Walk in worship—thanksgiving—service to one another!* (5:18-21).

(v5-6) “*at midnight*” – Time is finished for the church, it's time for the *marriage of the lamb* (Rev 19:7-9 - *Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.*” *And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'"*), and it's time for judgment in this world (the Great Tribulation (Mt. 24:21-22)).

It was at midnight that the Lord struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt (Ex 11:4; 12:29). At this moment a *cry was heard* turn to **1 Thess. 4:13-18** (this is the “rapture” of the church).

(v7-10) **Pay close attention to the foolish virgins their lights went out and they had no oil.** They were told by the wise to go to the world and buy oil, for this is where the foolish virgins have always gotten their oil, this is worldly religion, it almost gets you to heaven, but falls short and sends you to hell. **Revelation 3:7-22** reveals the faithful bride, church (Philadelphia) and the unfaithful church (Laodicea).

(v11-12) **This passage sounds similar to Matt 7:21-23** - *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"*

Jesus tells us to watch and be ready once again; this is the fourth time He's taught us about His imminent return! (Matthew Ch. 24:36-42 (like the days of Noah); verses 43-44 (the house owner and the thief); verses 45-51 (the wise and faithful servant); Ch. 25:1-13 (the parable of the ten virgins)). Are you ready for the rapture? **It's almost midnight!** Turn and listen with anticipation, and excitement to **1 Corinthians 15:51-58**. AMEN!

