

THE TABERNACLE IN THE WILDERNESS
THE COURT AND THE GATE
EXODUS 27: 9-19, 38: 9-20

As we have seen already there is much to be observed in a study of the tabernacle, and just as God intended for Israel and us, we must, and always do, begin on the outside and work our way in to the Holy of Holies. God's design for the Tabernacle is such as to be a guide to how man is to approach and worship a Holy god, and every man starts apart and separated from God. We will look tonight at the wall around the actual Tabernacle and the Gate on the East.

- I. Looking from the outside – If we examine Numbers 2:1-34 and 3:21-38 we will find the way God intended the nation to camp around the Tabernacle. This encampment formed a cross due to the size and placement of each tribe. A careful study will also show that the tribe of Levi (the line of priests) surrounded the inner part of this cross closest to the Tabernacle. Everyone on the outside of the tabernacle stood separated from God and was considered “afar off” just as all who are not saved by the grace of God are afar off from Him today.
- II. The wall or hangings – the wall that surrounded the Tabernacle was made of fine twined linen that stood 7 ½' tall. There was only one way to get inside and that was through a gate on the east side. These hangings of fine linen represent the righteous perfect sinless life of Christ and it is man's lack of righteousness that separates him from God. This court was a rectangular shape 150' x 75'. The height was such that man could not see over it representing man's inability to understand the things of God without entering in through the only gate (a clear type of Jesus). God only accepts pure righteousness and thus these hangings also represent Christ as the mediator between god and man, and it is only through the righteousness of Christ we can come before God.
- III. The pillars and sockets of the wall – these hangings were hung upon a number of pillars with connecting rods. There were twenty pillars down each side, ten on the west end, six holding the hangings on either side of the gate and four holding up the gate for a total of sixty pillars. These pillars were made of brass and sat in brass sockets on the ground. This brass speaks of the judgment of God and held up the righteousness of the hangings, just as Jesus bore the judgment of our sins on the cross that we might have His righteousness imparted to us. The tops of these pillars were capped with ornamental silver caps speaking of the beauty of the redemption price that was paid by Jesus for us.
- IV. The hooks of silver – These pillars were held together with fillets(connecting rods) made of silver and the linen hangings were attached to the pillars and fillets by hooks made of silver, reminding us that it is the redemptive price paid by Jesus that satisfies the judgment of God and imparts the righteousness of Christ in us.

- V. The pins and the cords – each pillar was anchored solid by a pin or peg of brass driven into the ground and cords of linen attached to the tops of the pillars. The winds and storms could not dislodge or dislocate the tabernacle in any way because it was anchored firmly
- VI. The pillars of the Gate – there were four pillars that were set apart to hold up the gate of the Tabernacle and they speak of the four gospels that hold up the four aspects of Christ's character...
 - a. Matthew holds up Jesus as King, the son of David, son of Abraham
 - b. Mark holds up Jesus as the faithful servant of God
 - c. Luke holds up Jesus as the "son of man" revealing His humanity
 - d. John holds up Jesus as the "Son of God" and reveals His Deity
- VII. The Gate – finally we come to the one and only way into the presence of God, just as Jesus is the one and only way. The gate was 30 feet wide and again 7 ½ feet tall, and it was on the Eastern side of the Tabernacle. While there was no color in the wall that formed the court, the Gate was brightly covered with blue, purple, scarlet and fine linen. The blue representing heaven and Jesus is the only way to heaven. The purple representing royalty and Jesus as King of Kings. The scarlet representing the blood sacrifice Jesus paid to allow man access to the One True God. The fine linen representing the righteousness imparted to all who believe in Jesus as the only way.

Conclusion: What a sight this Tabernacle must have been to a nation that had come through so much, and while we can't see it today, when we look to Jesus as our sacrifice and redeemer, we can see a sight far more beautiful than the tabernacle.