

## *Lessons from the Tabernacle*

The Old Testament Tabernacle provides many wonderful pictures of the Lord Jesus Christ. In addition, many New Testament truths are brought before us in the study of God's dwelling place on earth. There, the one way of salvation through the precious blood of Christ is presented. There too, we will see something of the believer's position in Christ and his relationship with Him.

The tabernacle, sometimes referred to as, "*the tent of meeting*", was enclosed in a courtyard surrounded by walls made of curtains, or hangings, that were upheld by pillars. The walls remind us of the fact that God is holy and cannot be approached by just anyone. They served as a separation, that kept the world outside.

The curtains were made of *fine twined linen* (Ex. 38:16). The fine twined linen represents righteousness, a divine attribute, or characteristic of God (2<sup>nd</sup> Chron. 12:6; Ez. 9:15; Ps. 71:19). This curtained courtyard fence measured 7 & 1/2 feet high and would be virtually impossible to see over. In this, we are reminded of God's universal truth about all of mankind, "*All have sinned and come short of the glory of God*" (Rom. 3:23). The Lord said through the prophet Isaiah, "*For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts*" (Isa. 55:9).

In the book of Revelation, John described the bride of the Lamb as being, "*arrayed in fine linen, clean and white*". Then he said, "*the fine linen is the righteousness of saints*" (Rev. 19:8). Dear beloved child of God, as one who has been redeemed, you are part of the bride of the Lamb, and have been declared righteous. But the righteous standing you enjoy, is because of the fact that the Lord Jesus bore your sins and the punishment your sins deserved. Paul wrote, "*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*" (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 5:21).

The curtains were held up by pillars that were set in sockets of brass. The "*sockets of brass*" remind us of the judgment of God that our sin deserves. The Lord Jesus bore the judgment that you and I deserved.

It also speaks of the judgment that would be meted out upon the "*stranger*" that approached the tabernacle (Num. 1:51). You, too, dear child of God, were once a stranger. Paul wrote, "*That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who were sometimes far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ*" (Eph. 2:12).

The hooks of the pillars and their fillets, or their rings and bars, were made of silver (Ex. 27:10). Silver in the Scriptures often pictures redemption. God had promised to redeem the children of Israel from their bondage in the land of Egypt (Ex. 6:6).

You, too, have been redeemed, dear loved one of the Lord. Peter wrote, "*Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold ... but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish and without spot*" (1<sup>st</sup> Pet. 1:18). The apostle Paul also reminds us of this great truth; "*in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace*" (Eph. 1:7).

The courtyard had but one entrance (gate), which was situated on the east side (Ex. 27: 13-16; 38: 13-15). We understand the significance of the gate being on the east side. It is the place of the sun (Son) rising, and as such speaks to us of the one way by which we have access to God. The Lord Jesus himself, said; *“I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me”* (Jn. 14:6). He also said, *“I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved”* (Jn. 10:9). Peter said, *“Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”* (Acts 4:12).

The gate was 20 cubits (30 feet), and as such, was wide enough for any to enter. It might remind us that salvation is offered universally, to rich and poor alike; to *“whosoever”* believe, or would call upon the name of the Lord (Jn. 3:16; Acts 2:21). It consisted of four pillars, which speak to us of the four Gospel writers, who bring before us in such clarity and detail God’s wondrous way of salvation in the person of his beloved Son.

There were four colours in the curtains that comprised the gate: blue, purple, scarlet and fine twined linen (Ex. 27:16). All speak of our blessed Lord in some glorious aspect. The blue would remind us of the Gospel of John, where the Lord Jesus is presented as the Son of God from Heaven. Purple is the colour of royalty, so we may think of the Gospel of Matthew, who portrays the Lord Jesus as the King eternal. In the scarlet, we are reminded of the suffering Servant, brought before us in the Gospel of Mark. The fine twined linen, pictures the perfect Man, as presented in the Gospel of Luke.

*Great are the offices He bears,  
And bright His character appears,  
Exalted on the throne;  
In songs of sweet untiring praise,  
We would, to everlasting days,  
Make all His glories known*