



## VAYAKHEL - AND HE ASSEMBLED

Exodus 35:1 to 38:20

1 Kings 7:13-26

Hebrews 9:1-14

**Review:** We draw to the close of the book of Exodus with these next two studies. In Exodus we have studied the journey of the Israelites from a world of slavery in Egypt to being the betrothed Bride of Yahweh at Mount Sinai. After exchanging vows and sharing the cup of the Covenant, Moses was ushered into Yahweh's Presence on the mountain for forty days and forty nights to receive the plans of the Bridal Chamber for Israel. This Bridal Chamber is the shadow of the true tabernacle/*mishkan*, and in many ways, a representation of the Messiah as well. It was not soon after Moses departed that the betrothed Bride broke her Wedding vow and adulterated herself before another god who was in the form of a golden calf. When Moses returned and saw this, he broke the tablets of the Marriage Covenant in the same place that they had made their original vows to Yahweh. After cleaning the camp of idol worship and the loss of three thousand lives in the plague that followed, the people witnessed Moses once again coming into the Presence of Yahweh. With the camp restored, the hearts of those who remained were moved to worship. Through Yahweh's grace, Moses returned with a new set of tablets outlining the *ketubah* inscribed by the finger of Yahweh restoring the Israelites once again.

### The Sabbath

Exodus 35:1-3

Up to this point the people of Israel had not heard Yahweh's impartation to Moses. With the Israelite hearts in a better place, Moses now had the opportunity to share, beginning with the Sabbath. The Sabbath is a guideline for the Bride, as every seven days she is to be faithful to rest with her Bridegroom. The Sabbath is affectionately called the *wedding ring* and is a test to see if she will be a loyal Bride. Thus the Sabbath begins the teaching of the tabernacle/*mishkan*, the *Bridal Chamber*. Without the Sabbath there is no Bridal Chamber.

The Sabbath not only represents the seventh day, but it is also one of Yahweh's Feast Days. In the spring, the first and last day of the seven day *Feast of Unleavened Bread* are both High Holy Sabbaths. Fifty days later *the Feast of Pentecost/Shavuot* is also a High Holy Sabbath.

In the fall, the High Holy Sabbath ushers in the prophetic *Day of Blowing/Yom Teruah*, which falls on the New Moon Festival/*Rosh Chodesh*. This feast points the Bride to her wedding day ten days later called *the Day of Atonement/Yom Kippur*, also a Sabbath. Five days following the wedding is the seven day *Feast of Tabernacles/Sukkot* (the wedding reception). The first day of Tabernacles is a High Holy Sabbath. This seven-day feast closes with an extra day called *the Eighth Day/Shemini Atzeret*, which is also a High Holy Sabbath. *Shemini Atzeret* is likened to the Bridegroom asking the Bride to linger one extra day with Him after all the wedding guests have returned home. This extra day is as a thousand years representing the 7000<sup>th</sup> year/Messianic Era (Hebrews 3:1-4:16; 2 Peter 3:8).

The true believer (Bride of Yeshua) wants to be found celebrating and keeping the Sabbath days holy, undefiled by activities such as work (trade and commerce) or by doing his or her own personal thing like shopping, yard work, garage sales, baseball games or other *common* pursuits. The Bride is to set the Sabbath and High Holy Sabbaths apart as holy. We can do all of our work and activities in six days but this one day, called Sabbath, must be devoted *entirely* to our Bridegroom, the Bride's joy of life. The Sabbath sets Yeshua's Bride apart from all other people.

### Offerings Exodus 35:4-5

After the instructions regarding the Sabbath, Moses outlined the function of the Tabernacle, including the materials that would be needed and how to set it up. They did not need to worry about where these materials would come from, as Yahweh had originally given the Israelites the building resources when they left Egypt. The people enthusiastically responded as this gave them the opportunity to make up for their very bad behavior earlier. There was however one condition. Yahweh required that the offerings be given with a *willing heart*. Those hearts that were not truly circumcised would not have the freedom to freely give to Him. An uncircumcised heart covets compromise, rebellion and idolatry. Therefore, only those offering with pure hearts with no conditions attached would be acceptable.

📖 **Exodus 35:20-28** “After hearing what Moses spoke, the whole community moved away from him - only those who were willing and whose hearts responded then came forward and brought offerings to Yahweh.”

📖 **Isaiah 66:1-2** “Heaven is my throne and the earth is my footstool, where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be?” (Hebrews 3:1-4:13)

### Materials for the Mishkan Exodus 35:5-19

Moses then gave instructions about the materials that would be needed: gold, silver and copper; blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen; goat hair; ram skins dyed red and hides of sea cows; acacia wood; olive oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense; and onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastplate. Then he asked for those who were skilled to come forward to help make the furnishings of the tabernacle and the priestly garments.

The men and women who came brought all kinds of gold jewelry as a wave offering. Those who had the materials or could provide, brought them. People also brought silver or copper, and those with acacia wood presented it as an offering. Skilled women spun the blue, purple or scarlet yarn and fine linen for the fabric. Leaders brought onyx stones and other gems for the ephod and breastplate. They also brought spices and olive oil for the light, the anointing oil and fragrant incense.

🔥 **Exodus 35:29** “All the Israelite men and women *who were willing* brought to Yahweh freewill offering for all the work Yahweh through Moses had commanded them to do.”

Of the entire body of Israelites only a portion came forward with offerings needed for the tabernacle. The true Bride of Yeshua will bring forth her offerings to the Bridegroom and she will come from within the body of believers.

### Bezalel and Oholiah Exodus 35:30-36:7

As the offerings were brought forward, Moses appointed Bezalel and Oholiah, who were assigned by Yahweh as the skilled craftsmen, to do the work of the tabernacle. Bezalel from the tribe of Judah was to design in gold, silver and copper, the cutting of stones and to work in wood. Oholiah from the tribe of Dan was his assistant was filled with the ability to teach craftsmen, designers, embroider and weavers in blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen. These two men represented the two witnesses of Yahweh: the House of Judah and the House of Israel working in unison. The people continued to bring freewill offerings every morning until the craftspeople said, “*The people are bringing more than enough for doing the work Yahweh commanded to be done. And the people were restricted from bringing more* (Exodus 36:5-6).”

### The Tabernacle - Mishkan Exodus 36:8-38

Bezalel and Oholiah came forward as well as every person Yahweh had gifted with a craft or the skill to design and create the necessary items for the mishkan. Scripture was very clear about the fact that they were to follow Yahweh’s instructions *to the letter*.

🔥 **Matthew 5:18** “*For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Torah, until all is accomplished.*”

Everything in the earthly tabernacle replicated the heavenly tabernacle. Many of the furnishings in the tabernacle were made of acacia wood covered with gold. Acacia wood represented man’s humanity and gold represented Yeshua’s Divinity, which illustrates that the redeemed are covered with Yeshua’s mercy in holiness and purity.

The colors of the curtains and hangings each denoted Yeshua’s pure nature. Blue represented His heavenly nature, purple for His Kingly sovereignty and scarlet His sacrifice. The white linen

spoke of His purity; silver indicated His redemption, and copper, His refining fire. As we learn about the pieces we see how many symbols of the Messiah's presence are in the tabernacle.

Skilled men began working on the construction of the tabernacle, starting first with the ten curtains for the outside of the tabernacle/*mishkan*. They were made out of finely twisted white linen, with blue, purple and scarlet yarn embroidered in a cherubim design, then hung with gold clasps. A curtain of goat hair was spun for the covering over the tabernacle/*mishkan* and fastened by copper clasps. Over that they made a covering of ram skins dyed red, and also a covering of hides of sea cows.

The frames of acacia wood followed, using two silver bases to support each frame. Silver is a reference to redemption. The two bases represent the two witnesses of the Messiah Yeshua, the House of Israel and the House of Judah to whom redemption was given when the believer's redemption price was paid. The whole tabernacle was built on redemption, the fulfillment of which is solely found in the Messiah (Hebrews 8:8-10).

The craftsmen also made acacia crossbars to support the roof and connect to a center crossbar that extended end-to-end. The frames and crossbars of acacia wood were also overlaid with pure gold. Pure gold corresponds to Yeshua, who has forgiven and covered the believer's sinful nature with His righteousness.

The curtain that partitioned off the Ark of the Covenant was made of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen also with cherubim embroidered into the fabric. Four posts of acacia wood were overlaid with pure gold supported by four silver bases (again, speaking of redemption). The curtain was hung using pure gold hooks.

The entrance curtain to the tabernacle/*mishkan* was made of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen. The five support posts had overlaid tops and bands of gold held by five bronze bases which indicates the way into the tabernacle was through His Word: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy – *The Gospel*.

The tabernacle/*mishkan* is a picture of Yahweh tabernacling with His *ekkllesia*/people, and how our hearts are to be made in the image of Him. Now, let's look inside....

### The Most Holy Place Exodus 37:1-9

The Ark: Yahweh works in our lives from the inside out, beginning first with our heart. It is the same with the tabernacle/*mishkan*; this is why the teaching of the Most Holy Place begins with the ark. The ark was made of acacia wood covered in pure gold. It contained the Ten Statements and stood alone in the Holy of Holies. The ark represents our hearts seeking to walk in the lifestyle of the Messiah and joined with Him in Covenant.

The Mercy Seat: The covering over the ark is commonly called the mercy seat. It is made of one piece of hammered pure gold. Its design speaks of heavenly things, namely Yahweh's instruction for life, as well as Yeshua's covering over us. The English word *ark* is equivalent to the Hebrew

*aron*; the verbal root of which speaks of *gathering*. Keeping this word in context, we can understand the ark to be the vessel or gathering place for the testimony of the Word of God, as expressed in the tablets. We identify with Yeshua as the Incarnate Word of Yahweh and thus the Torah as our covering.

The mercy seat was to be placed on the ark from above. The mercy seat is translated from the Hebrew word *kapporet*, which is from the root *kopher*, which means to *atone*, *cover*, or *ransom*. This word is translated as *propitiation* in Romans 3:25. As it is with all words in the New Testament/ *Brit Chadashah*, their meaning is established in the Tanakh (Genesis to Malachi). Yeshua's atoning blood surrounds the principles of God and only after this ransoming work of grace is placed on the ark, is the heart of the Holy of Holies complete. The mercy seat is to be the place where the blood is to be sprinkled by the High Priest. The mercy seat *and* the ark together form one vessel. His covering must precede our approach to God. This ark, a furnishing in the singular, is Yahweh's witness covered by His mercy. Torah and grace are intrinsically connected, just as the vessel and the cover form the whole, so too the Testimony and His covering form the whole message of the Good News called *The Gospel*. In other words: Torah without Yeshua is invalid and Messiah without Torah is lawlessness. Only when Torah and Messiah come together can there be truth - Life!

The two cherubim, made of one piece with the mercy seat, represent the two witnesses of the Messiah, the House of Judah (believers coming from the Jews – the Law) and the House of Israel (believers from the church – the Messiah). Together they represent the Messianic Age. The two people groups are facing each other in agreement and bowing under their *wings* (a Hebrew idiom for *tallit*), focused and committed to the Word of Yahweh. They represent the purpose and goal of all Israel – “*and then all Israel will be saved*” (Zechariah 4; Jeremiah 31:31-33; Hebrews 8:8-10; Romans 11:21-27).

✠ **Ephesians 2:14-16** “For He Himself is our peace, who has made both [*House of Israel and the House of Judah*] one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation [*their sin*], having abolished in His flesh the enmity [*the death sentence*], that is, the law of commandments [*against the sin*] contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two [*Houses*], thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity [*the guilt coming from the sin of dishonor*]” (Zechariah 4; Jeremiah 31:31-33; Hebrews 8:8-10; Romans 11:21-27).

✠ **Romans 11:25-27** “For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel [*House of Judah*] until the fullness of the Gentiles [*House of Israel*] has come in. And so all Israel [*all twelve tribes*] will be saved, as it is written: ‘The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob [*all twelve tribes of Israel*]; for this is My [*Marriage*] Covenant with them, when I take away their sins [*of dishonor*].’”

Yeshua, the very personification of Yahweh, atoned and covered our sin of disobedience once and for all. “*We are justified freely by his mercy through the redemption that came by Yeshua.*”

*Yahweh presented Him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith [obedience] in His blood”* (Romans 3:24-25). It is here “*above the cover between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the Testimony*” that He meets with us face to face/*paniym* - presence to presence.

It is interesting to note the two poles never left the ark. This indicates that the ark was to be ever mobile according to the Holy Spirit’s/*Ruach HaKodesh* leading and that it had not reached its final resting-place.

## The Holy Place Exodus 37:1-29

The tabernacle consisted of two chambers. The first chamber was called *The Holy Place* and it contained *the table of showbread, the menorah and the altar of incense*. The second was called *the Most Holy Place* or *the Holy of Holies* and contained *the ark*. A veil on the inside of the tabernacle separated these two chambers. It was this *veil of separation* that was torn from *top* to *bottom* when Yeshua died (Matthew 27:51). The ark was contained in the second chamber, the Most Holy Place. Only the High Priest could enter this chamber and only once a year. Therefore when this veil was rent no longer was there a separation between the two chambers. Yeshua broke off the chains of death thus opening the way for *anyone* to walk out a redeemed lifestyle in Him. When a believer circumcises (rents the veil) of his/her heart according to Yeshua’s ways, they will no longer be a slave to the law of sin and death.

🔱 **Revelation 21:6-7** “And He said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.’ ”

To enter the tabernacle from the outer court to access the two chambers one first had to go through a veil. No common person (one who mixed holy with unholy) could enter, only the priest (circumcised heart). This veil was also called *the gate* or *the door*. It is this *door* that Yeshua stands and knocks at.

🔱 **Revelation 3:20-21** [*Written to believers*] “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone [*believer*] hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.”

As mentioned earlier, the first chamber of the tabernacle (the Holy Place) contained *the table of showbread, the menorah and the altar of incense*. These could not be seen from the outer court. One had to literally enter into the tabernacle *as a priest* in order to see and understand the ministries they speak of. This is why *redemption of the soul* through Yeshua is so important as only the circumcised heart can enter into the ministry of the Holy Place. A believer’s walk and behavior must match their confession, as a lifestyle of holiness is still the only way into the Holy Place. Yeshua has appropriated the way in for us but we must be willing to apply His redemption. It just does not come out of thin air just because we say we are born again.



📖 **John 8:39** “They answered and said to Him, ‘Abraham is our father.’ Jesus/Yeshua said to them, ‘If you were Abraham’s children, you would do *the works of Abraham.*’ ”

📖 **1 Peter 2:8-10** “They [*the Israelites*] stumble, being disobedient to the word [*the Marriage Covenant given them by Yahweh through Moses at Mount Sinai*], to which they [*the Israelites with Moses*] also were appointed. But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.” (Peter is quoting: Exodus 19:5-6 and Hosea 2:21-23 to bring identity to the people he is speaking with).

### The Table of Showbread - *Shulchan* Exodus 37:10-16

The showbread/*shulchan* is in the Holy Place with the menorah and altar of incense. Only the priests were anointed to care for the showbread. The table was made of acacia wood overlaid with pure gold. In John 6:51 Yeshua shared, “*I am the living bread that came down from heaven, [the manna that fell in the desert]. If anyone eats of this Bread, he will live forever. This Bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.*” And in John 6:48 Yeshua said, “*I am the Bread of Life.*” This bread is called *the bread of the face/paniym, the bread of the presence, the continual bread, the bread of ordering, consecrated bread, and Holy bread.* (Exodus 25:23-30; 35:13, Numbers 4:7, 1Chronicles 9:32, 1 Samuel 21:3-6, Leviticus 24:1:9, Matthew 12:3-4, Hebrews 9:2).

Three Hebrew words reveal the ministry of the table of showbread and the bread:

- *Lechem* (Strong’s H3899) bread, to eat, to consume or feed upon.
- *Paniym* (Strong’s H6440) face, countenance, inquire or meet at the mouth and speaks of His Presence.
- *Ma’Areketh* (Strong’s H4635) to arrange in a row, set in a pile or to stack up.

All are a reference to Yeshua and His disciples/*talmudim* (the Bride). A believer’s walk is displayed through the priesthood and the furnishings of the Holy Place in accordance to His Word, His Marriage Covenant with His Bride.

The showbread table displays twelve unleavened loaves, which stand for Yeshua’s Kingdom authority given to the twelve tribes of Israel (Jacob) to govern the earth.

📖 **Isaiah 9:7** “Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of Yahweh of hosts will perform this” (Ezekiel 37:21-28).

📖 **John 6:57-58:** “As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me. This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate, and died, he who eats this bread shall live forever.”

## The Lampstand - *Menorah* Exodus 37:17-24

The menorah was made of one solid piece of pure hammered gold in the exact pattern and design as Moses witnessed on the mountain. The process of refining gold to a pure state, then hammering, represents a believer's walk abandoning the exile of a slave mindset and transforming into the walk of the priesthood in His Holy Presence (Hosea 2:9-23). The exquisite detail on the menorah mirrored the walk of the Bride to her wedding. The design called for cups in the shape of almond flowers with buds and blossoms to be placed in a specific arrangement on the menorah. The cups represent the Bridegroom's Feast Days that points the Bride's way to their wedding. As the Bride celebrates His Feasts this produces abundant fruit, which is depicted in the design of buds and blossoms on the stems of the menorah. Yeshua's fruit in her produces the light or oil to see His Word. (See reference section for more information on the menorah).

The *tabernacle/mishkan* had no light of its own therefore it was imperative the menorah stay lit. The menorah was also the only light by which the priests (believers) were able to see the showbread table, which represents His Word. In the same way we, as believers, have no light of our own therefore we need to fill our hearts with oil from the menorah everyday in order to see His Word (Presence) and keep it burning brightly.

🕯️ **Psalm 119:105** *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."*

The almond tree is the first to bloom in the spring and its flowers, called *firstfruits*, appear on the branch even before the leaves. The almond tree is also called the awakening tree. This tree obviously points to Yeshua and His chosen people. Scripture says of Yeshua, "[He] is the *firstborn from the dead*" (Colossians 1:18). In Him was life, and the life was the light of men, who are also *firstborns* in Him. In John 8:12 is Yeshua's declaration, *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

The light shines brightly when pure finely pressed olive oil and regularly trimmed wicks are in order. The pure oil that burns brilliantly represents the atoning sacrifice Yeshua went through for us (Isaiah 53:5). The light from the oil also typifies the progressive redemption of a believer as the vinedresser. Yeshua works deep within our hearts, pressing and trimming us regularly to produce the light of His Glory as a testimony to the Nations.

The wicks were made from the worn white linen priestly garments that were torn into strips, woven and rolled then placed in the seven lamps on the menorah. They represent the priestly connection. The menorah sheds light on the showbread, the Word of Yahweh, and the altar of incense, the prayer and praises of His people. It is the process of the Vinedresser that keeps the light burning continually in the heart that is circumcised.

🕯️ **Ecclesiastes 4:12** *"Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken."*

In Zechariah 4:2-14 the prophet sees a menorah with seven bowls, and two olive trees on either side. The angel asks Zechariah, *"What are these two olive trees on the right and the left of the*



*menorah?*” Zechariah does not know. The angel asks him again about the two olive branches beside the two gold pipes that pour out golden oil. Again Zechariah does not know. Finally the angel says, “*These are the two who are anointed to serve Yahweh of all the earth.*” The two olive trees are the two anointed ones called *the sons of fresh oil* that produce oil, which then flows into the menorah. The *sons of fresh oil* are two people groups.

📖 **Revelation 11:3-4** “And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.”

It is the menorah that provides light for the intentions of Yeshua on earth and therefore to the world. We see it is His plan to use two witnesses represented by the two olive trees and the two lampstands in Revelation 11. In Hebrew the phrase *sons of fresh oil* is used in Zechariah, Jeremiah and Revelation. It is these two witnesses or people groups that shine forth and testify of Yeshua’s goodness and glory.

📖 **Matthew 4:16** [*Yeshua quoted Isaiah 9:2 in the synagogue*] “The people who were sitting in darkness saw a great light, and to those who were sitting in the land and shadow of death, upon them a light dawned.”

The worn priestly garments that make up the wicks represent those who are *priests*, those who are well acquainted with how to serve a holy God. These people come from the House of Israel and the House of Judah, the *sons of fresh oil* who walk a priestly *lifestyle* and so produce fresh oil. The two people groups are united together with Yeshua to become a tightly braided wick that acts as a conductor for the oil in the menorah. This priestly walk denotes an understanding between what is clean versus unclean, what is called holy as opposed to unholy, and how to enter into His Holy Sabbath Feast Days in their appointed seasons. The *sons of fresh oil* are from the two houses of Israel—united together—one in Yeshua’s hand. Unified, they represent the reunified twelve tribes of Israel, who are the light of Yeshua to the Nations - walking in the order of Melchizedek and the restoration of David’s fallen tent (Isaiah 35; Ezekiel 22:26, 44:23-25; Amos 9:11; Acts 15:16-17; Hebrew 7; 1 Peter 2:9).

The priestly walk of the Bride is needed to join the menorah to the oil. Without the priestly attitude, lifestyle and connection, the fire of the Holy Spirit/*Ruach HaKodesh* has no place to ignite the flame. The priests in the tabernacle are to serve Yahweh not man.

### The Altar of Incense - *Mitzbe'ach* Exodus 37:25-29

The altar of incense was made of acacia wood overlaid with pure gold and placed between the showbread and the menorah in front of the veil in the Holy Place. The incense is for Yahweh not for man and represents worship from a believer’s heart that rises before Him continually. Scripture reveals that believers represent the living temple. All that we are learning about the tabernacle of Moses and the furnishings represents the Body of Messiah. As believers, walking in Covenant with Yeshua, the ministries of the furnishings are still active and are to be present in our daily walk and lifestyle. Today many are returning to these daily prayer offerings. As

exemplified by Daniel and in Acts 10:9-16 with Peter, they both prayed three times a day (9, 12 and 3), and their lives were profoundly impacted. At this altar believers are not to offer strange incense. No fleshly prayers, either for themselves or for others. This is a holy altar, a place where Yahweh is glorified. It is a place of intimacy (1 Corinthians 3:17; 6:19; 2 Corinthians 6:16).

- 📖 **Daniel 6:10** “Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously.”
- 📖 **Psalms 55:17** “Evening and morning and at noon [*the hours of prayer*] I will pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice.”
- 📖 **Psalms 141:2** “May [*our prayers*] be set before [*Him*] like incense; may the lifting up of [*our*] hands be like the evening sacrifice.”
- 📖 **Revelation 5:8 and 8:3-4** “And when He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, having each one a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints” (Matthew 20:1-16; Acts 2:1, 10:3).

### Urim and Thummim

The tabernacle described in Exodus is detailed right down to its gold hooks and silver bases, along with a fur lined roof over gold covered planks and boards. The rabbis believed that the tabernacle’s pattern—with its given dimensions, layers of fur on the ceiling and all the gold furniture set in their specific places—could have created a charge. Even the priestly garments, woven with gold and the ephod with stones set in gold, may have had a part in this electrical field. It is believed that when the High Priest came in to serve before Yahweh in the Most Holy Place, the Urim and Thummim, housed in the pocket of the ephod, illuminated the twelve stones and may have been the basis for directing the Children of Israel.

- 📖 **Exodus 28:29-30** “Whenever Aaron enters the holy place, he will bear the names of the sons of Israel over his heart on the *breastpiece of decision* as a continuing memorial before Yahweh. Also put the Urim and the Thummim in the breast piece, so they may be over Aaron's heart whenever he enters the presence of Yahweh. Thus Aaron will always bear the means of making decisions for the Israelites over his heart before Yahweh.”

### The Brazen Altar Exodus 38:1-7

Continuing in the study of the tabernacle, we now look at the outer court ministry, beginning with the brazen altar. After entering through the doorway (Abrahamic Covenant/*salvation*) into the outer court of the tabernacle, believers come face to face with the brazen altar. The purpose of its ministry is for sanctification and redemption of the soul (as in thought or heart issues). This altar reveals how to walk out a redeemed lifestyle. The journey of the Bride/priesthood desiring an intimate relationship in Yeshua starts here. The tabernacle is a picture of our redemption—

body, soul and spirit functioning as a whole complete unit. The heart is the seat of our emotions and guides our decisions and activities. The outer court ministry is there to serve believers. It can only be effective if believers are willing to follow in accordance with Yeshua's Covenant and surrender all that does not come into agreement with it, such as hurts, idolatry, immorality or any independent self-will ways.

The tendency of man is to try to save himself by creating *his* own set of rules governed by the dictates of *his* heart. People cannot attain their *own* salvation through their *own* works or by being a *good* person. The animal blood sacrifices offered thus far could not take away dysfunctional behavior in a believer's life. Animal blood could only cover (be a refuge for), but not conquer or bring victory over sin. Only in the shedding of Yeshua's perfect blood, a higher blood offering, could a believer be atoned and their sin absolved. This can only occur if a believer truly surrenders their heart to Yeshua. Redemption and sanctification comes by faith in His word / covenant *and* by walking in lifestyle to it.

- ✿ **Matthew 9:13** Yeshua said, "But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance" (Hosea 6:6).
- ✿ **Daniel 9:11** "All Israel has transgressed your law and turned away, refusing to obey you. Therefore the curses and sworn judgments written in the Law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against you."
- ✿ **Romans 5:12** "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned."
- ✿ **Romans 3:23** "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
- ✿ **Romans 10:9** "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Yeshua, is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

"When Yeshua came as high priest of the good things that are already here, He went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but He entered the Holy of Holies once for all by His own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. 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 Yeshua, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself unblemished to Yahweh, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living Yahweh" (Hebrews 9:11-14).

As believers in Yeshua, if the offering of the Lamb of Yahweh cleansed our soul/consciences, how much more does this understanding encourage us to place any wrong attitudes, characters and offenses that separate us from Him onto the brazen altar? Many believers still walk with mindsets that stand in opposition to Yeshua and bring death toward them spiritually and/or

physically. Repenting is a sweet aroma before Him. Turning from lawlessness restores believers. When they do repent, Yeshua's blood covers the righteous in HIS Righteousness.

📖 **2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1** “For we are the temple of the Living Yahweh. As Yahweh has said: ‘I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their Elohim, and they will be my people. Therefore come out from them and be separate,’ says Yahweh. ‘Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters,’ says the Lord Almighty. Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for Yahweh.”

### The Laver Exodus 38:8

By the time believers have learned the ministry of the brazen altar, they are ready to approach the laver. The laver is the renewing of the heart for service before Yeshua. Water is a representation of the cleansing power of the Spirit of Yahweh bringing the redeemed a change in spiritual status.

📖 **1 Corinthians 2:14** “But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned”.

In Exodus 38:8 we are informed that the laver was built using mirrors from the women who served at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. The giving up of their mirrors revealed what was in their hearts. As we saw with Moses, when he was in the Presence his face shown. When the heart is in the right place beauty radiates from the inside to the outside, therefore what use were the mirrors to them? Thus in giving over their mirrors it reminded them they were to reflect Yahweh's beauty, not a beauty of their own making. The laver is ever a reflection of the purified soul, and is the truth behind the ministry of the laver.

📖 **1 John 5:7-8** “For there are three that testify: *the Spirit, the water and the blood* and the three are in agreement.”

### The Outer Court Exodus 38:9-20

“And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, ‘Behold, the Tabernacle of Yahweh is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and Yahweh ‘Himself’ shall be among them’” (Revelation 21:3).

Yahweh has always desired to dwell among His people. This is one of the reasons why He revealed Himself at Mount Sinai.

“Let them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you” (Exodus 25:8-9).

The outer court is the place where the soul is purified. We learn that the furnishings of the brazen altar and laver illustrate the process of this cleansing. The entrance into the tabernacle was through Yeshua who called himself *the Gate* (John 10:7). Yeshua also said, “*I am The Way, The Truth and The Life*” (John 14:6). *The Way* is the name of the first gate or entrance leading to the outer court of the tabernacle. *The Truth* is the entrance into the tabernacle and the first room called the Holy Place, and *the Life* is the entrance into the Most Holy Place/the Holy of Holies. *The Way, the Truth and the Life* is also a Hebrew idiom for the Torah – *The Gospel*. Yeshua was saying He, the Living Word, was and is the Tabernacle. Through the design of the tabernacle Yeshua is showing us a visual picture of Himself and what the walk of redemption looks like. For those who take hold of *His Gospel* - it is a Tree of Life!

🌿 **Ezekiel 43:10-12** “Son of man, describe the temple to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities; and let them measure the pattern. And if they are ashamed of all that they have done, make known to them the design of the temple and its arrangement, its exits and its entrances, its entire design and all its ordinances, all its forms and all its laws. Write it down in their sight, so that they may keep its whole design and all its ordinances, and perform them. This is the law of the temple: The whole area surrounding the mountaintop is most holy. Behold, this is the law of the temple.”

🌿 **Philippians 3:8-12** Paul said, “What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Yeshua ha Mashiach, the Messiah, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Yeshua and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the Torah, but that which is through faith/*emunah* in Yeshua—the righteousness/*tzedakah* that comes from Yahweh and is by faith/*emunah*. I want to know Yeshua and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which the Messiah/*Yeshua ha Mashiach*, took hold of me.

*To be continued...*

*Shabbat Shalom*  
*Julie Parker*

## Reference

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