



## VAYAKHEL - AND HE ASSEMBLED

Exodus 35:1 to 38:20

1 Kings 7:13-26

Hebrews 9:1-14

### The Tabernacle Assembly: Part One

With these last two studies, we draw to the close of Exodus. In Exodus, we viewed the Israelites journey of freedom from a world of Egyptian slavery to God's/*Elohim* betrothed Bride at Mount Sinai. After exchanging vows and the cup of the Covenant, Moses was ushered up the mountain for forty days and forty nights. There he received the blueprint containing the outline of the Bridal Chamber. These instructions were to be executed exactly on earth as seen on the mountain. The Tabernacle encompassed the likeness, character, and lifestyle of the Messiah, the King of Israel, and His Kingdom. However, soon after Moses left the camp, the newly betrothed Bride fell into idolatry, violating her wedding vows. When Moses returned and saw her worshiping this golden calf, he shattered the tablets containing their wedding vows. This fracturing exposed the truth. After the camp was cleaned and restored, Moses again entered into God's/*Elohim* Presence. He returned with a new set once more inscribed by the finger of God/*Elohim* outlining their *ketubah*.

### The Sabbath

Exodus 35:1-3

Up to this point, the Children of Israel still had not heard God's/*Elohim* impartation to Moses while he was on Mount Sinai the forty days and forty nights. With their hearts in a better place, Moses was now able to share. The Sabbath acts as a plumb line for the Bride, as every seven days she comes to meet with her Bridegroom and rest in His Presence. When God/*Elohim* confirmed the Marriage Covenant, He showed Moses His Kingdom through the pattern of the Tabernacle. Once Moses returned with the renewed tablets he began to share that pattern with Israel, starting with the Sabbath. As the Sabbath contains the Bridal Chamber, it is lovingly referred to as the wedding ring and is the reason why the Sabbath begins the earthly teaching of the Tabernacle/*Mishkan*, for, without the Sabbath, there is no Wedding Chamber.

The Sabbath represents not only the seventh day but also God's/*Elohim* Feast Days and Sabbath years. In the spring, the first day and last day of the seven-day *Feast of Unleavened Bread* are both honored as 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*, 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*, a High Holy *Sabbath*. *Shemini Atzeret* falls the day after the reception when all the wedding guests have departed. This is the moment the Bridegroom says to His new Bride “*Let us savor this occasion just one more day.*” This one-day is as a thousand years representing the 7000<sup>th</sup> year, Messianic Era and new beginnings – a *Sabbath Rest* (Hebrews 3:1 to 4:16).

🌿 **2 Peter 3:8** “But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord [*Messiah*] one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.”

A true worshipper (Bride of Yeshua) wants to be found celebrating and keeping the Sabbath days holy, undefiled, and separate from all other activities. Activities such as work (trade and commerce) or pursuing personal interests 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*. Yeshua’s people can accomplish their everyday work and other activities in the six days provided for her, but this one-day, called the Seventh Day, belongs to her Bridegroom. He asks her to keep it *entirely* for Him, *the joy of her life*. The Sabbath sets Yeshua’s Bride apart from all others (Exodus 16:4-5). (*For more information regarding the Sabbath, please see the [www.sheepfoldgleanings.com](http://www.sheepfoldgleanings.com) index.*)

## Offerings Exodus 35:4-5

After sharing the instructions regarding the Sabbath, Moses outlined the Tabernacle, along with the building materials needed for its assemblage and functionality. The Israelites had no worries concerning these materials, as God/*Elohim* initially supplied all the resources upon their leaving Egypt. However, there was one condition. All the offerings must come from a willing heart. A circumcised heart would give freely. An uncircumcised heart covets compromise, rebellion, and idolatry. Therefore, only offerings from 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 LORD/*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 asked for those who were skilled to come forward to help with the design work of the furnishings and priestly garments. Many responded enthusiastically like a wave offering

bringing all kinds of gold jewelry, silver, copper, and acacia wood. Skilled women spun the blue, purple and scarlet yarn along with the fine linen for the fabric while the leaders brought onyx stones and other gems for the ephod and breastplate. They also brought spices, olive oil for the light, the anointing oil, and fragrant incense.

📖 **Exodus 35:29** “The children of Israel brought a freewill offering to the LORD/*Yahweh*, all the men and women whose hearts were willing to bring *material* for all kinds of work which the LORD/*Yahweh*, by the hand of Moses, had commanded to be done.”

### Bezalel and Aholiab

Exodus 35:30-36:7

As the offerings came forward, Bezalel and Aholiab, appointed by God/*Elohim*, administered the work of the Tabernacle. Bezalel from the tribe of Judah was a gifted craftsman in gold, silver and copper, stone, and woodwork. Aholiab from the tribe of Dan was to assist him and train other artisans as designers, embroiders, and weavers. These men represented the two witnesses of God/*Elohim*: the House of Judah and the House of Israel working together with one heart and purpose. The people continued to bring freewill offerings every morning until the craftspeople said, “*The people are bringing more than enough for doing the work the LORD/Yahweh commanded to be done. And the people were restricted from offering more*” (Exodus 36:5-6).

### The Tabernacle - Mishkan

Exodus 36:8-38

God/*Elohim* made it very clear that the building of the Tabernacle/*Mishkan* was to be followed *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.”

📖 **2 Corinthians 3: 2-3** “You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men; being manifested that you are a letter of Christ/*Messiah*, cared for by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God/*Elohim*, not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts.” (NAS)

Every detail in the *earthly* Tabernacle was replicated to reflect the *heavenly* Tabernacle. Many furnishings in the Tabernacle were constructed from acacia wood and covered with gold. Acacia wood represents man’s humanity and the gold 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 denote Yeshua’s pure nature. Blue represents His heavenly nature, purple for His Kingly sovereignty, and scarlet His sacrifice. The white linen speaks of His purity; silver indicates 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 with the ten curtains. They were made 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 roof fastened by copper clasps and topped with red dyed ram skins plus another similar layer to provide an excellent covering and protection over the Tabernacle/*Mishkan*.

The frames of acacia wood followed, using two silver bases for support of each frame. Silver stands for redemption. Thus the foundation of the Tabernacle is built on redemption, the fulfillment of which exists solely in the Messiah. The two support bases represent the two witnesses of the Messiah Yeshua, the House of Israel and the House of Judah (Hebrews 8:8-10).

The craftsmen also built acacia crossbars to support the roof and connect to a center crossbar that extended end-to-end. These frames and crossbars were overlaid with pure gold. Pure gold corresponds to Yeshua, who has forgiven His people and covered them with the righteousness of His love.

A curtain (also called *veil*) woven of blue, purple, and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen with cherubim designs embroidered into the fabric partitioned the Tabernacle into two chambers. Silver bases held four acacia wood posts overlaid with pure gold, while hooks of pure gold hung the curtain in place - again all speaking of Yeshua's Redemption.

The entrance curtain to the Tabernacle/*Mishkan* was of blue, purple, and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen. The five support posts at the entryway with overlaid tops and bands of gold were placed in bronze footings. Five 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 God/*Elohim* Tabernacling with His people/*ekklesia*. Now, a look inside...

## The Most Holy Place

Exodus 37:1-9

### The Ark

God/*Elohim* works in our lives from the inside out, beginning first with our heart. It is the same with the Tabernacle/*Mishkan*. The Ark was made of acacia wood covered with pure gold. It contained the Ten Wedding Vows/Statements and stood alone in The Most Holy Place. The Ark represents our heart seeking the lifestyle of the Messiah and joining with Him in Covenant.

### The Mercy Seat

The covering over the Ark is called the Mercy Seat. It is fashioned from one piece of pure hammered gold. The design speaks of heavenly things, namely God's/*Elohim* instruction for life, as well as Yeshua's covering over us. The English word *ark* is equivalent to the Hebrew *aron*. The verbal root indicates *a 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/*Elohim*, as expressed in

the two tablets. We identify with Yeshua as the Incarnate Word of God/*Elohim* and thus the Torah as our covering and gathering place.

The Mercy Seat and the Ark together form one vessel. The Mercy Seat is translated from the Hebrew word *kapporet* from the root *kopher* meaning 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). One of the High Priest's duties was to sprinkle the blood of atonement on the Mercy Seat. Yeshua's atoning blood surrounds the principles of the Marriage Covenant. Only after His ransoming work of grace is placed on the Mercy Seat over the Ark, is the heart of The Most Holy Place complete. His covering must precede our approach to God/*Elohim*. This Ark, a furnishing in the singular, is Yeshua's witness covered by His mercy. Torah and grace are intrinsically connected, just as the vessel and the cover form the whole, so to the Testimony and His covering form the entire 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

The two cherubim, made of one piece of gold with the Mercy Seat, represent the two witnesses of the Messiah, the House of Judah (believers *before* the time of the cross of crucifixion – the Law of the Marriage Covenant) and the House of Israel (believers coming to knowledge *after* the crucifixion – the Messiah). 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 God/*Elohim*. They represent the purpose and goal of all Israel – “*and then all Israel will be saved*” (Isaiah 63:11; Zechariah 4; Revelation 11:4; Jeremiah 31:31-33; Hebrews 8:8-10; Romans 11:21-27; 1 John 5:6-8).

✠ **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 – those believers before the cross*] until the fullness of the Gentiles [*House of Israel – those believers after the cross*] 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*].’”

What is the purpose of the Cross? The Cross is a picture of Yeshua (the Ark and His Mercy Seat) with the two witnesses (the Cherubim). It is here His Presence meets with His people face to face (*panim*), *forgiven* and *gathered* under His wing.

✠ **Ephesians 2:14-16** “For He Himself is our peace, who has made both [*House of Israel – those after the cross and the House of Judah – those before the cross*] one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation [*their sin, represented by the veil that partitioned the Tabernacle in two*], 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 [*Tabernacle chamber*] new man from the two

[*chambers/Houses*], thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God/*Elohim* 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).

✠ **Exodus 26:6** “And you shall make fifty clasps of gold, and couple the curtains together with the clasps, so that it may be one tabernacle [*not divided into two chambers!*].

✠ **1 Corinthians 3:16-17** “Do you not know that you are the temple of God/*Elohim* and that the Spirit of God/*Elohim* dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God/*Elohim*, God/*Elohim* will destroy him. For the temple of God/*Elohim* is holy, which *temple* you are.”

Yeshua, the very personification of God/*Elohim*, atoned and covered the sin of both Houses once and for all. “*We are justified freely by his mercy through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus/Yeshua HaMashiach. God/Elohim 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 face to face/paniym - presence to presence (Exodus 25:22).

It is interesting to note that the two poles never left the Ark. The permanent placement of the poles indicated that the Ark was to be ever mobile according to the Holy Spirit’s/*Ruach HaKodesh* leading, in that it had not reached its final resting-place.

### The Holy Place Exodus 37:1-29

The Tabernacle consists of two chambers. The first chamber is called *The Holy Place* and contains *the Table of Showbread, the Menorah, and the Altar of Incense*. The second chamber, where the Ark resides, is called *The Most Holy Place*. A veil separated these two chambers. Only the High Priest could enter through this veil from The Holy Place into The Most Holy Place and only once a year. When Yeshua died, it was this *veil of separation* that ripped in half from *top to bottom* (Matthew 27:51). Therefore, when it rent, no longer was there a separation between the two chambers. Yeshua broke the chains of death thus freeing the way for *the atoned ones in Him to walk out a redeemed lifestyle*. When a believer circumcises (rents the veil) of his or her heart according to Yeshua’s ways, they will no longer be a slave to the law of sin and death.

✠ **Hebrews 10:19-22** “Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus/*Yeshua*, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and *having* a High Priest over the house of God/*Elohim*, 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.”

✠ **Revelation 21:6-7** “And He said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha/*Alef* and the Omega/*Tav*, the Beginning/*Genesis/Beresheet* and the End/*Revelation*. 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/*Elohim* and he shall be My son.’ ”

To enter the Tabernacle and access the two chambers one must first pass through the Outer Court. No common person (one who mixes holy with unholy) could enter the Tabernacle. Only the Levitical Priests (Kohath) were permitted to care for the furnishings *inside* the Tabernacle. The Levites (Gershon and Merari) attended those in the Outer Court and also assisted the priests in their duties. However, they could not go into the Tabernacle. A veil at the entrance to the Tabernacle is called *the gate* or *the door*. It is this *door* Yeshua stands at and knocks.

🌿 **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 furnishings could not be seen if one were standing in the Outer Court. One had to *enter* the Tabernacle to see and understand the ministries they represent. For this reason, the redemption of the soul through Yeshua is imperative, as only a circumcised heart is allowed into the ministry of The Holy Place. A believer’s walk and behavior must match his or her confession. As it is for the High Priest, a lifestyle of holiness is still the only accessible way into The Holy Place. Yeshua has appropriated the way for His people, but first, they must be willing to *apply* His redemption, as holiness does not come because one *says* they are *born again*.

🌿 **James 1:22** “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only.”

🌿 **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 was given them by God/Elohim through Moses at Mount Sinai*], to which they [*the Israelites with Moses*] also were appointed. But you [*Israelites*] [*today*] 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/*Elohim*, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy” (Peter was quoting: Exodus 19:5-6 and Hosea 2:21-23 to bring identity to the people he was speaking with).

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

The Showbread Table/*shulchan* is in The Holy Place with the Menorah and Altar of Incense. The Table is made of acacia wood and overlaid with pure gold. It is the priest’s job to place twelve unleavened loaves on the table weekly, thus, the name Showbread. The Showbread 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, 1 Chronicles 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:

- 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.

Also, bread is represented as Strong's H1320 בָּשָׂר *basar*. *Basar* is the Hebrew word for *flesh*, *good news*, and *report – the Gospel*.

📖 **John 1:1,14** “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God/*Elohim*, and the Word was God/*Elohim*. And the Word became *flesh* and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

📖 **Matthew 26:26** “And as they were eating, Jesus/*Yeshua* took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, ‘Take, eat; this is My body’” (Luke 4:4).

📖 **John 6:47-51** “Most assuredly, I [*Yeshua*] say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.” (John 6:31-35, 41)

*Yeshua*, therefore, is the Word (Marriage Covenant) made *flesh/basar*, *the good news*, and *the gospel*. A believer's walk is through the priesthood and the furnishings of The Holy Place. The twelve unleavened loaves represented *Yeshua's* Kingdom authority that He imparted to His Bride, the twelve tribes of Israel/*Jacob*, and those who follow the God/*Elohim* of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Obeying His Word gives His people the *power* and *authority* to share His Gospel of Heaven on earth to the Nations.

📖 **Matthew 6:9-11** “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as *it is* in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread [*Showbread*].”

📖 **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 the LORD/*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 Hebrew root word for Lampstand is Strong's H4501 *menorah* מְנֹרָה meaning *plow* and *light*. The ancient pictograph is *a seed beginning*. As flowing water enriches the land, the plow aerates the soil so the seed can germinate. Its derivatives are *light*, *lamp*, and *fire*.

The Lampstand needs a flow of oil to support the fire to produce the light. The Menorah is made of one solid piece of pure hammered gold in the exact pattern and design as Moses witnessed on the mountain. The process of shaping pure gold by hammering represents the purification of a believer's walk.

From the main branch are six branches, three on each side. The root word for branch is Strong's H6780 *tsemach* תְּמָח meaning *sprout, as a plant springs out of the ground or a bud on a tree*. The exquisite detail on the Menorah mirrors the walk the Bride will take to her wedding. The design called for cups in the shape of almond flowers with buds and blossoms placed under the cups on the branches. The cups represent the Bridegroom's Feast Days. Each Feast holds direction that guides the Bride to her wedding. The design of buds and blossoms on the stems of the Menorah depicted the fruit produced as the Bride observes His ways and celebrates His Feasts and Sabbaths at their appointed time.

Yeshua is called *The Branch* in reference to the Lampstand. He is also known as *The Light*; thus, those in Him branch out producing the oil/light. Through a walk of holiness, the Bride will have plenty of oil to light her path to see His Word (See reference section for more information on the Menorah) (Psalm 119:105; Hosea 2:9-23).

🌿 **Isaiah 4:2** “In that day the Branch of the LORD/Yahweh shall be beautiful and glorious; and the fruit of the earth *shall be* excellent and appealing for those of Israel who have escaped.”

🌿 **Jeremiah 33:15** “In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David a Branch of righteousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth (Jeremiah 23:5; Isaiah 9:7).

🌿 **John 15:2-4** “Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ‘You are already clean because of *the word* which I have spoken to you. ‘Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.”

### The Sons of Fresh Oil

🌿 **Zechariah 4:1-3,14** “Now the angel who talked with me came back and wakened me, as a man who is wakened out of his sleep. And he said to me, ‘What do you see?’ So I said, ‘I am looking, and there *is* a lampstand of solid gold with a bowl on top of it, and on the *stand* seven lamps with seven pipes to the seven lamps. Two olive trees *are* by it, one at

the right of the bowl and the other at its left.’ So he said, ‘These *are* the two anointed ones, who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth.’”

The *Tabernacle/Mishkan* has no illumination of its own. Therefore, it is imperative that the Menorah be kept burning at all times. The Lampstand was the only light by which the priests were able to see the Showbread Table – representing His Word. In the same way, believers have no light of their own. The truth/Word is *in the Tabernacle (The Tree of Life)*. Truth cannot be seen from the Outer Court (*the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil*). To *see the Word* His people must *enter* the Tabernacle in the role of a Priest (not as a Levite) to glean the truth. That is how the Bride maintains a brightly lit lamp and preserves a good supply of oil (Matthew 5:20, 25:1-10).

🌿 **Psalm 23:5-6** “You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD/Yahweh Forever.”

🌿 **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. Its flowers are called *firstfruits* that appear on the branch even before the leaves. The almond tree is known as the *awakening* tree. This tree naturally points to Yeshua and His chosen people. Scripture says of Yeshua, “[He] is the *firstborn from the dead*” (Colossians 1:18). In Him is life, and the life is the light of men, who are also *firstborn* 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 radiantly represents the atoning sacrifice of Yeshua (Isaiah 53:5). The light from the oil also typifies the progressive redemption of a believer. Yeshua works deep within the heart, pressing and regularly trimming to produce the Light of His Glory as a testimony to the Nations. The wicks came by way of recycled worn white linen priestly garments. These garments were torn in strips, braided, and used for the seven lamps in the Lampstand. All these components were needed to shed light on the Showbread (the Word) and the Altar of Incense (the praises of His people) in The Holy Place. The linen wick represents the priestly role the Bride walks. It is this priestly connection that bridges the oil for the light in the Menorah. Without the priestly link in attitude, lifestyle, and bonding, the fire of The Holy Spirit/*Ruach HaKodesh* will have no support or reference point for the flame to ignite (Exodus 19:5-6; 1 Peter 2:9).

🌿 **John 8:12** “Then Jesus/Yeshua *HaMashiach* spoke to them again, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.’”

🌿 **Hebrews 10:19-23** “Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus/Yeshua, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and *having* a High Priest over the house of God/*Elohim*, 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. Let us hold fast the confession of

our hope without wavering, for He who promised *is faithful.*”

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 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 the Lord 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 [*the sons of fresh oil*], 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 [*Yeshua*] of the earth.”

In Hebrew, the phrase *sons of fresh oil* is used in Zechariah, Jeremiah, and Revelation. They are the two witnesses or people groups that shine forth and testify Yeshua’s goodness and glory throughout the earth.

🌿 **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 in the Tabernacle before their Holy God/*Elohim*. The *sons of fresh oil*, coming from the House of Israel and the House of Judah, are a remnant that witnesses the truth and walks the priestly *lifestyle*, hence produces fresh oil. The two people groups unite together in one accord in Yeshua to become a tightly braided wick acting as a conductor for the oil in the Menorah. This priestly walk denotes an understanding of how to enter His Holy Feast Day Sabbaths in their season and what is clean and holy versus what is not. The *sons of fresh oil* represent the *reunified* twelve tribes of Israel walking in the order of Melchizedek and the restoration of David’s Tabernacle. That is the act of a disciple of the *Gospel* of Yeshua to the Nations (Isaiah 35; Ezekiel 22:26, 44:23-25; Amos 9:11; Acts 15:16-17; Hebrew 7; 1 Peter 2:9).

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

### The Altar of Incense - *Mitzbe'ach*

Exodus 37:25-29

The Altar of Incense of acacia wood overlaid with pure gold was placed between the Showbread and the Menorah in front of the veil in The Holy Place. The Incense represents the believer’s worship (not supplication) that continually rises as a fragrance before God/*Elohim*.

🌿 **Luke 1:10** “And the whole multitude of the people were in prayer outside at the hour of the incense offering.”

Scripture reveals that believers represent the living temple. The ministries of the Tabernacle furnishings are still active; therefore, we are to serve them in our daily walk and lifestyle, as they all point to the Messiah. Understanding these ministries helps believers learn how to walk in Covenant. Many are returning to the prayers and making daily offerings at the Altar of Incense. As exemplified by Moses, Daniel, Peter, and even Cornelius, they all 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 (prayers of supplication). No fleshly prayers, either for themselves or others, are offered on this Altar. The Altar of Incense is holy and a place of intimacy where Yeshua alone is glorified (Daniel 6:10; Acts 10:9-16; 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/*Elohim*, as he had been doing previously.”
- ✿ **Psalms 141:2** “May [*our prayers*] be set before [*Him*] like incense; may the lifting up of [*our*] hands be like the evening sacrifice.”
- ✿ **2 Corinthians 2:15** “For we are to God/*Elohim* the fragrance of Christ/*Messiah* among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.”
- ✿ **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 [*not supplications*] 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 the gold hooks and silver bases, along with the animal hides lining the roof over gold covered planks and boards. The rabbis believed that the Tabernacle 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 current. 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 God/*Elohim*, in The 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 the LORD/*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 the LORD/*Yahweh*. Thus Aaron will always bear the means of making decisions for the Israelites over his heart before the LORD/*Yahweh*” (NIV).

## The Anointed Ones – The Book of Acts

The ministry of The Most Holy Place (*with the Ark, the Mercy Seat, and the two cherubim*) along with the ministry of The Holy Place (*with the Menorah, the Showbread Table, and Altar of Incense*) coming together in one accord, is the sounding of the heavenly trumpet of authority and power that propels the Living Gospel of Yeshua to the nations. Those who *actively* walk in one accord in the understanding of the ministry of the *Tabernacle* carry the anointing executed under these ministries and are called *the sons of fresh oil*. The eyewitness accounts and the *activities* of *these anointed ones* are recorded in a book for future generations. This book is called, “*The Book of Acts*.” Its pages are filled with detail regarding those who *actively* chose to *believe and walk* in the principles contained in the ministry of the *Tabernacle*. All of their testimonies, the miracles, and healings performed, confirm the overwhelming truth contained within Yeshua’s Gospel, as seen through Moses’ *Tabernacle* that is forever etched in our hearts and minds. Today, the *Book of Acts* is still being written upon the heart of Yeshua’s *Bride* - *all those who actively walk as sons of fresh oil in the Song of Moses* (Revelation 15:9).

 **Revelation 15:3** “They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God/*Elohim*, and the song of the Lamb/*Yeshua*, saying: “Great and marvelous *are* Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true *are* Your ways, O King of the saints!”

### The Brazen Altar

Exodus 38:1-7

Continuing in the study of the *Tabernacle*, Scripture now takes us to the activities of the *Outer Court* where the *Brazen Altar* and the *Laver* are located. 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 the *circumcision of the heart* for *sanctification and redemption of the soul* (for issues of the heart). This *Altar* reveals *how* the redeemed walk out a redeemed lifestyle. The journey of the *Bride/priesthood* desiring an intimate relationship with *Yeshua* starts here. The *Tabernacle* is a picture of our redemption – *body, soul, and spirit* functioning as a 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* *Yeshua’s* *Covenant* and surrender all that does not come into agreement with it, such as *unforgiveness, hurts, idolatry, immorality, bitterness, envy* or any independent self-wills.

The tendency for humankind is to attempt to save themselves by their own set of rules. However, people cannot attain salvation through their own works or by trying to be 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 sin. Only in the shedding of *Yeshua’s* perfect blood, a higher pure blood offering, could a believer be atoned and their sin absolved. This atonement can only be achieved if a believer truly surrenders his or her heart to *Yeshua*. Redemption and sanctification come by faith in His word/*Covenant*, and by walking in agreement and 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/*Elohim*, 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/*Elohim*.”
- ✠ **Romans 10:9** “That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus/*Yeshua* and believe in your heart that God/*Elohim* raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

“But Christ/*Messiah* came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect Tabernacle not made with hands, that is, *not of this creation*. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ/*Messiah*, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God/*Elohim*, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God/*Elohim*?” (Hebrews 9:11-14)

As believers in Yeshua, if the offering of the Lamb of God/*Elohim* 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 their Marriage Covenant. Behavior like this brings death spiritually and/or physically. Repenting is a sweet aroma before Him. Turning from lawlessness restores His people. When they do repent, Yeshua’s blood covers all in HIS Righteousness.

- ✠ **2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1** “And what agreement has the temple of God/*Elohim* with idols? For you [*believer*] are the temple [*Tabernacle/House*] of the living God/*Elohim*. As God/*Elohim* has said: ‘I will dwell in them and walk among *them*. I will be their God/*Elohim*, and they shall be My people.’ Therefore [*believer*] ‘Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord/*Adonai*. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD/*Yahweh* Almighty.’ Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God/*Elohim*.”

### The Laver Exodus 38:8

- ✠ **Exodus 30:18-21** “You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base also of bronze, for washing. You shall put it between the tabernacle of meeting and the [*brazen*] altar [*in the*

*outer court*]. And you shall put water in it, for Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet in water from it. When they go into the tabernacle of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister, to burn an offering made by fire to the LORD/*Yahweh*, they shall wash with water, lest they die. So they shall wash their hands and their feet, lest they die. And it shall be a statute forever to them - to him and his descendants throughout their generations.”

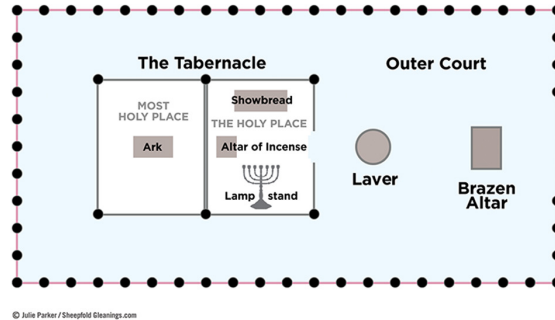
When a believer circumcises his or her heart at the Brazen Altar, they can then move toward the Laver. The ministry of the Laver stands for truth. Without truth, Yeshua’s people cannot approach the Tabernacle as only truth resides in The Holy Place and Most Holy Place. For that reason, God/*Elohim* warns His people to wash in the Laver/truth before entering the Tabernacle – where Holiness lives.

✚ **1 Corinthians 3:11-17** “For no other foundation can anyone [*believer*] lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ/*Yeshua HaMashiach*. Now if anyone [*believer*] builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, [*or*] wood, hay, straw, each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. If anyone’s [*believer’s*] work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s [*believer’s*] work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. Do you [*believer*] not know that you are the temple of God/*Elohim* and *that* the Spirit of God/*Elohim* dwells in you? If anyone [*believer*] defiles the temple of God/*Elohim*, God/*Elohim* will destroy him. For the temple of God/*Elohim* is holy, which *temple* [*Tabernacle*] you are” (Revelation 22:14-15).

✚ **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14** “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God/*Elohim* and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all. For God/*Elohim* will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.”

✚ **1 John 5:6-8** “This is He who came by *water and blood* - Jesus Christ/*Yeshua HaMashiach*; not only by *water*, but by *water and blood*. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is *truth*. For there are three that bear witness in *heaven*: 1) the Father, 2) the Word, and 3) the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness on *earth*: 1) the Spirit, 2) *the water*, and 3) the blood; and these three agree as one” (KJV/NKJ only).

In Exodus 38:8, we are informed that the Laver was made using mirrors from the women who served at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. A mirror reveals what is in the heart. We witnessed this when Moses was in God’s/*Elohim* Presence, his face shown. When the heart is in the right place, beauty radiates from the inside out, therefore, what use were the mirrors? Thus, in approaching the Laver, the mirrors are to remind us to reflect God’s/*Elohim* beauty, not a beauty of own making. The Laver is ever a reflection of the purified soul and contains the truth behind the ministry of the Laver.



## The Outer Court Exodus 38:9-20

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

God/Elohim has always desired to dwell among His people. That is one of the main reasons why He revealed Himself at Mount Sinai.

📖 **Exodus 25:8-9** “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.”

The Outer Court surrounding the Tabernacle is the area where the soul is progressively purified. We learn that the furnishings of the Brazen Altar and Laver illustrate the process of this cleansing. The entrance to the Tabernacle is 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 into the Outer Court. The Truth is the entry to the Tabernacle and the first room called The Holy Place, and The Life is the entry into the Most Holy Place. The term *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 His people a visual picture of Himself and the walk of redemption. 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** “Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus/Yeshua *HaMashiach* my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ/*Messiah* and be found



in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ/*Messiah*, the righteousness which is from God/*Elohim* by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus/*Yeshua HaMashiach* has also laid hold of me.”

*To be continued...*

*Shabbat Shalom*

*Julie Parker*

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