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## Lesson 24 – The Court and It's Services

### Read Exodus 27:9-18

The tabernacle was surrounded by a court one hundred cubits long and fifty cubits wide. This court was enclosed by curtains of fine twined linen hung from pillars of brass. The pillars were trimmed with chapiters (a fancy top) and fillets (bands) of silver, and the curtains were suspended from silver hooks. The court formed a rectangle and was placed with its longest sides toward the north and south and the ends toward the east and west. The door, or entrance, of twenty cubits width, was in the center of the east end of the court. The curtains forming the door of the court were of **“blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen wrought with needlework,”** and were suspended from four pillars of brass, trimmed with silver.

The height of the court was only half that of the tabernacle, so that above the beautiful curtains of the court and the glitter of the silver and brass of the many pillars could be seen the golden walls of the tabernacle, with its gorgeous curtains and coverings. Like the one outside the court, in order to behold the glories of the tabernacle, had to look above the court; so the one who by faith beholds the beauties of the heavenly sanctuary, must lift his thoughts above the things of this earth, and center them upon heavenly things.

1) What two things were in the courtyard?

**Exodus 40:6** And thou shalt set the \_\_\_\_\_ of the burnt offering before the door of the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation.

**Exodus 40:7** And thou shalt set the \_\_\_\_\_ between the tent of the congregation and the altar, and shalt put water therein.

There were two principal articles of furniture in the court, the laver and the altar of burnt-offering. The altar was overlaid with brass; the laver and all the vessels of the court that were used in the services connected with the altar were of brass. The great brazen altar was placed between the sanctuary and the gate, but nearer the gate than the sanctuary.

2) How were these things to be made?

**Exodus 27:8** ...as it was \_\_\_\_\_ thee in the mount, so shall they make it.

No part of the sanctuary or of the court was made according to the plans of men, but every part was fashioned after the divine model.

3) How was the Altar of Burnt Offering made?

**Exodus 27:1** And thou shalt make an altar of shittim wood, five cubits long, and five cubits broad; the altar shall be \_\_\_\_\_: and the height thereof shall be three cubits.

**Exodus 27:2** And thou shalt make the \_\_\_\_\_ of it upon the four corners thereof: his horns shall be of the same: and thou shalt overlay it with brass.



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**Exodus 27:3** And thou shalt make his pans to receive his \_\_\_\_\_, and his shovels, and his basons, and his fleshhooks, and his firepans: all the vessels thereof thou shalt make of brass.

**Exodus 27:4** And thou shalt make for it a \_\_\_\_\_ of network of brass; and upon the net shalt thou make four brasen rings in the four corners thereof.

**Exodus 27:5** And thou shalt put it under the compass of the altar \_\_\_\_\_, that the net may be even to the midst of the altar.

**Exodus 27:6** And thou shalt make \_\_\_\_\_ for the altar, staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with brass.

**Exodus 27:7** And the staves shall be put into the rings, and the staves shall be upon the two \_\_\_\_\_ of the altar, to bear it.

**Exodus 27:8** Hollow with \_\_\_\_\_ shalt thou make it: as it was shewed thee in the mount, so shall they make it.

The altar was a hollow box, five cubits square and three cubits high, made of boards of acacia wood. There was a horn of the same wood on each corner. A network of brass in the center held the fire and gave draft for it, and allowed the ashes to fall beneath. The entire altar with the horns was all overlaid with brass.

4) Who started the fire in the beginning?

**Leviticus 9:23-24** And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of the congregation, and came out, and blessed the people: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the people. And there came a fire out from before the \_\_\_\_\_, and consumed upon the altar the burnt offering and the fat: which when all the people saw, they shouted, and fell on their faces.

5) How often was the fire to be lit?

**Leviticus 6:13** The fire shall \_\_\_\_\_ be burning upon the altar; it shall never go out.

All burnt-offerings of the sanctuary were burned upon the brazen altar. The fire was kindled by the Lord Himself and was kept burning continually. It was never to go out. The fire which destroys all sin from the earth, like the fire on the brazen altar, will come down from God out of heaven, and will not be quenched as long as there is any sin to be consumed (Revelation 20:9).

The entire body of the whole burnt-offering and portions of various offerings were burned upon this brazen altar. It consumed that which typified sin; and as the fires were continually burning, it has been called "**the altar of continual atonement.**" Sin separates man from God, and all sin must be put away before the sinner can be **at-one-ment** with God. Therefore, the work done upon this altar was a symbol of the final destruction of sin, which will be necessary before the redeemed can enjoy their eternal inheritance.

6) To what did the author of Hebrews liken to Christ?

**Hebrews 13:10** We have an \_\_\_\_\_, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle.



The author of Hebrews referred to this altar as a type of Christ. All the work connected with the altar of burnt-offering typified the work connected with the destruction of sin, —a work which Christ alone can do. The Father has delivered into the hands of His Son the final destruction of sin and sinners.

The horns of the brazen altar were often touched with the blood of the different offerings, and the blood of every sin-offering was poured out at the base of this altar.

With only a few exceptions, all the sacrifices were slain in the court, at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, as the entrance of the first apartment was often called; for the whole congregation of Israel could assemble in the court and at this door. None but priests could enter within the sacred precincts of the tabernacle itself, for it typified the heavenly sanctuary, where God and Christ abide, surrounded by shining cherubim and seraphim. All the work performed in the court was typical of work done on the earth, while the work performed in the first and second apartments of the sanctuary was typical of work done in heaven.

No sacrifice was ever slain within the sanctuary, but the offerings were slain in the court, and the blood and flesh were carried within the sanctuary by the priest. Christ, the great antitypical Sacrifice, was slain in the antitypical court, this earth, and then entered the antitypical sanctuary in the heavens with His own blood and the same body in which He bore our sins on Calvary. Sins are forgiven and are blotted out from the books in the heavenly sanctuary, but they are not destroyed there.

7) What happens to sin and sinners at the end of the age?

**Revelation 20:9** And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and \_\_\_\_\_ came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

Just as in the type the fires of the brazen altar in the court consumed that which in the type represented sin; so in the antitype, the wicked will be **“on the breadth of the earth”** when fire comes down from God out of heaven and devours them. This earth is the great antitypical court, where all the work typified in the court of the earthly sanctuary will meet its fulfilment.

8) What did the priests do with all the ashes that were made at the Altar?

**Leviticus 6:10-11** And he shall put off his garments, and put on other garments, and carry forth the ashes \_\_\_\_\_ the camp unto a clean place.

Even the removal of the ashes was directed of the Lord to be done in a manner to typify a portion of the final work of Christ. The priest was to be clothed in the pure white linen garments when he removed the ashes from the altar. The ashes were first taken up by the priest and placed **“beside the altar”** on the east side. When the time came to remove them from beside the altar, the priest laid aside his priestly robes, and put on other garments; then he carried the ashes forth outside the camp to a clean place.



Ashes are all that remains of sin, sinners, and the Devil after the fire of the Lord has removed the last trace of sin, there will appear a new Earth, a clean place, without one taint of sin upon it; and as the righteous walk over the face of the clean, pure earth, the ashes of sin and all that clung to sin in this earth will be under their feet. Truly the type will then have met its antitype, and the ashes of all sin will be in **“a clean place.”**

When the priest placed the ashes beside the altar, he was clothed in his priestly robes. The ashes represented the confessed sins of the righteous. When Christ bears the confessed sins of His people, He wears His priestly robes; but the time comes when He will place the sins of the righteous on the head of Satan, lay aside His priestly garments, and come to this earth clad in kingly robes, to gather out of His kingdom all things that offend and do iniquity. Then all sin and sinners will be burned in the fire. Not in priestly robes will Christ come out into the antitypical court, the earth, to complete the final destruction of sin; but as King of kings and Lord of lords.

9) What did Jesus tell us about the tares in His parable?

**Matthew 13:41** The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that \_\_\_\_\_, and them which do iniquity;

**Matthew 13:42** And shall cast them into a furnace of \_\_\_\_\_: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

While the congregation of Israel could gather in the court, the priests alone were to perform the work at the altar. The Levites were given charge of the sanctuary, but they could not perform the service of the altar, for that typified work which none but Christ could do. He alone can destroy sin.

10) What were the instructions for the Laver?

**Exodus 30:20-21** When they go into the tabernacle of the congregation, they shall \_\_\_\_\_ with water, that they die not; or when they come near to the altar to minister, to burn offering made by fire unto the LORD: So they shall wash their \_\_\_\_\_ and their \_\_\_\_\_, that they die not: and it shall be a statute for ever to them, even to him and to his seed throughout their generations.

The laver was between the brazen altar and the door of the sanctuary. The laver and its base were both of brass. Water was kept in them, for the priests to wash both their hands and their feet before they entered the sanctuary to perform any service. They were also required to wash both hands and feet before they went **“near the altar to minister, to burn offering made by fire unto the Lord.”** Death was the penalty for performing service at the altar or within the tabernacle without first washing in the laver. As the people in the court beheld the priests wash in the water before they performed the work of the holy office, it taught them the truth that Christ gave to Nicodemus, **“Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God”**

*Can you see Jesus' work in the outer court? \_\_\_\_\_*

*Are you interested in walking the New Earth? \_\_\_\_\_*

*Will you now ask Him remove your sin? \_\_\_\_\_*