

Bible Basics 2022

Session 4

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Exodus 27

tents of 3 tribes

tents
of 3
tribes

tents of
Merarites

tents of
Gershonites



tents of
Moses &
priests

tents of
Kohathites

tents
of 3
tribes

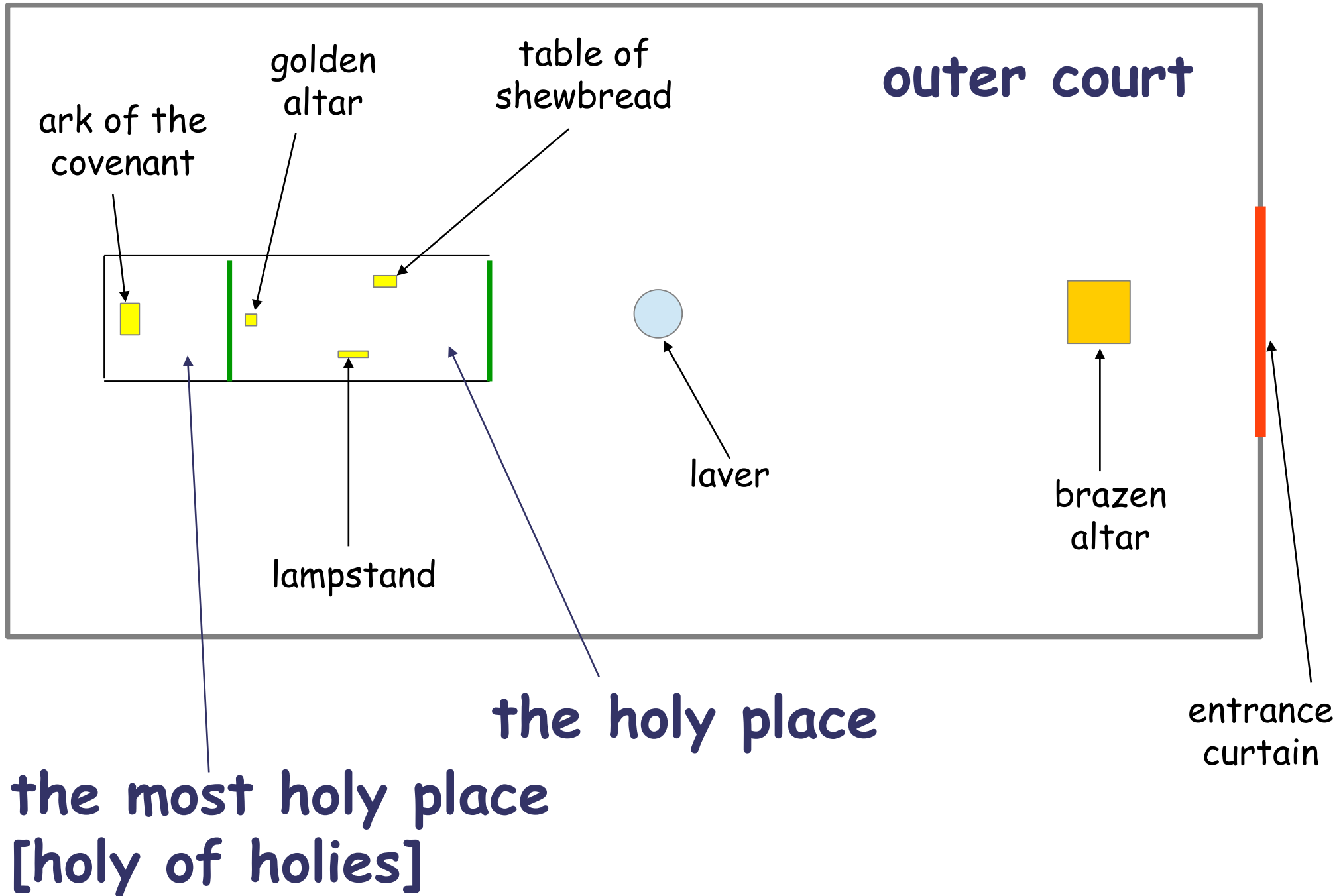
tents of 3 tribes

Gershonites, Kohathites and Merarites were families of the tribe of Levi
The priests were Aaron and his sons
Moses & Aaron were from the Kohathite family

one suggestion re structure of tabernacle



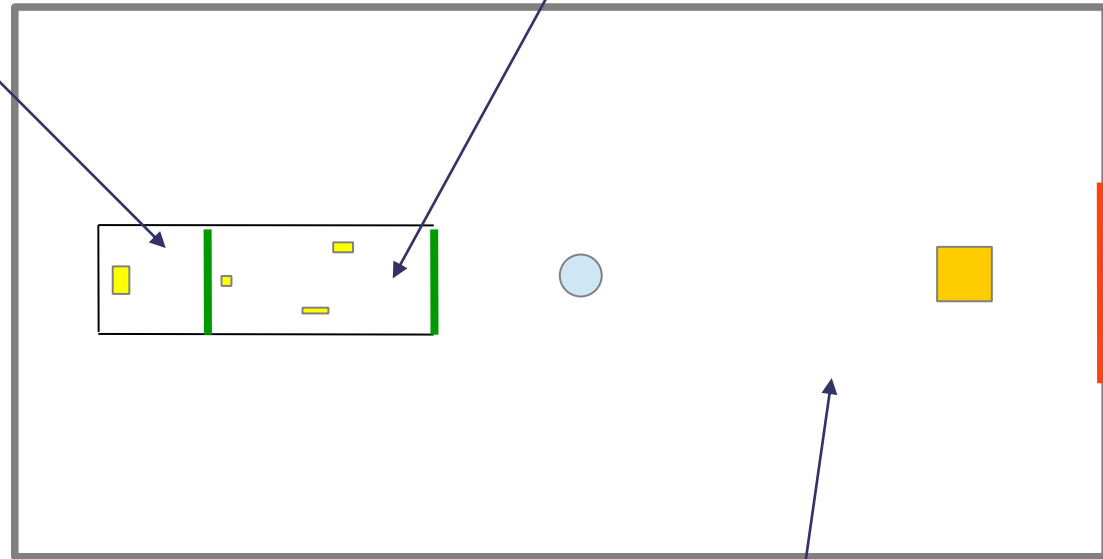
from 'House of Gold Welcome' by J Rouw



we have already looked into:

the most holy place
[holy of holies]

the holy place



in this lecture we will be mostly
concerned with the outer court

our topics come from Exodus 27:

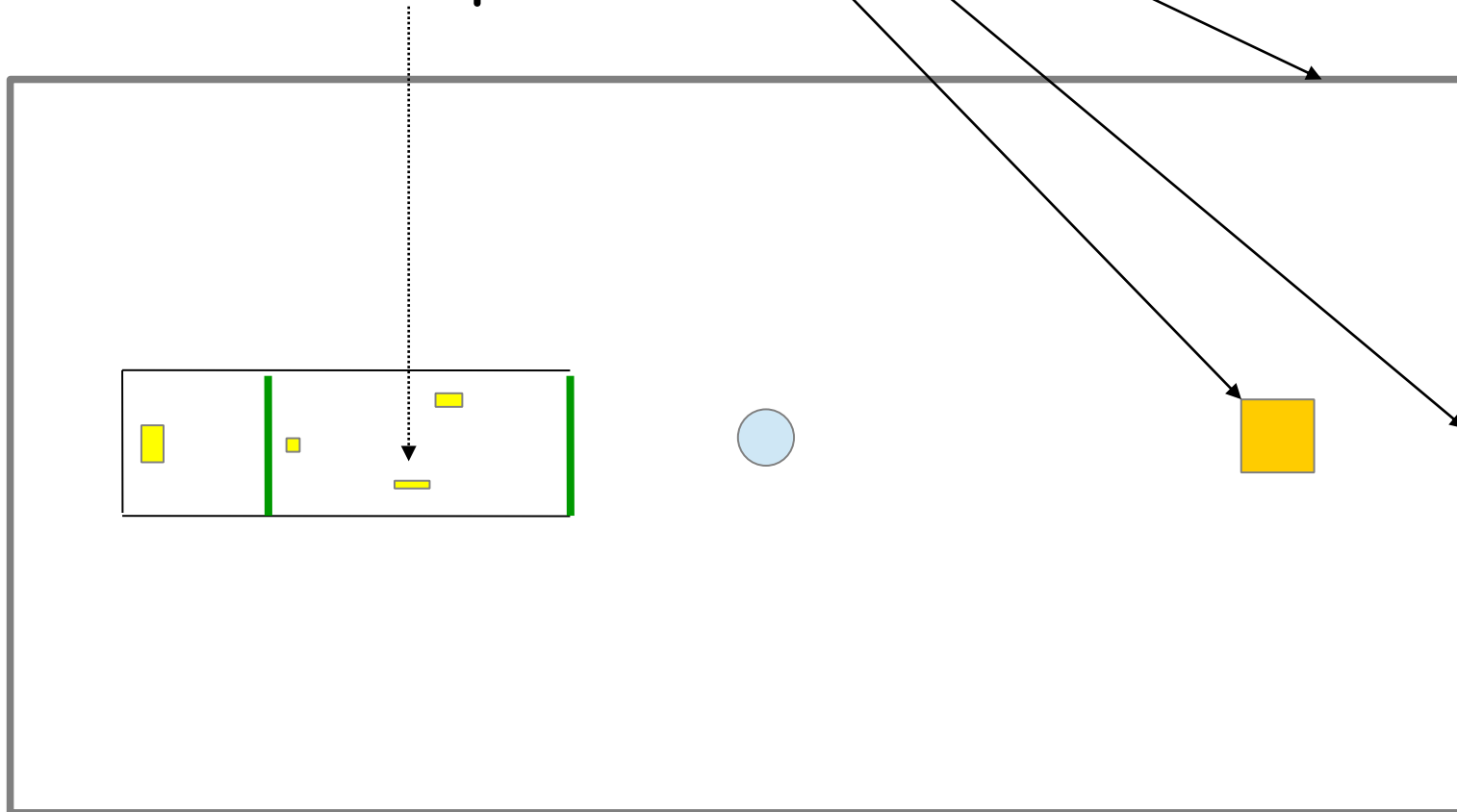
1) the 'brazen' altar

2) the perimeter of the outer court

- the linen wall

- the entrance 'gate' for the court

3) oil for the lamps



the
'brazen'
altar

the 'brazen' altar

The Lord said to Moses:

“And you shall make the altar of acacia-wood,
five cubits the length, and five cubits the breadth;
the altar shall be square;
and the height of it three cubits.

And you shall make its horns at the four corners of it;
its horns shall be of itself;
and you shall overlay it with copper.” [Exodus 27:1-2]

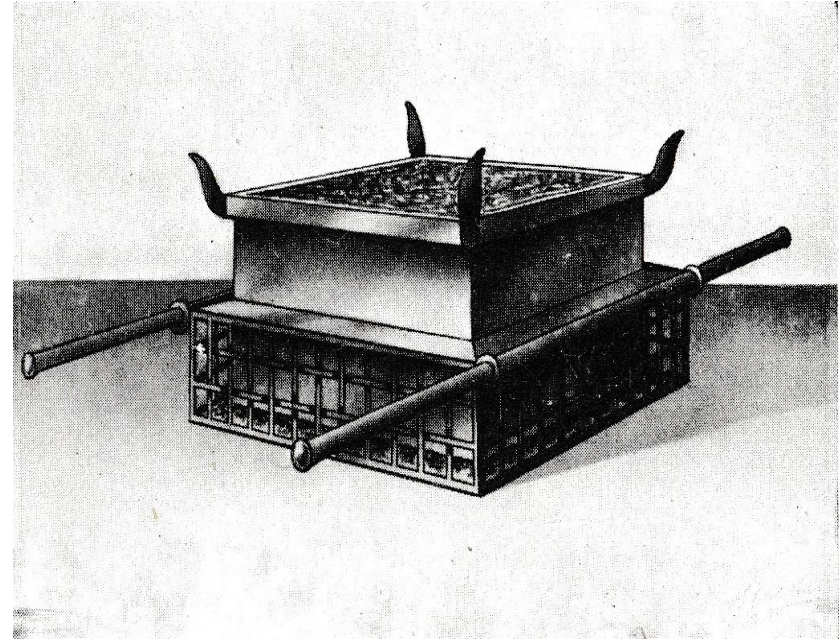
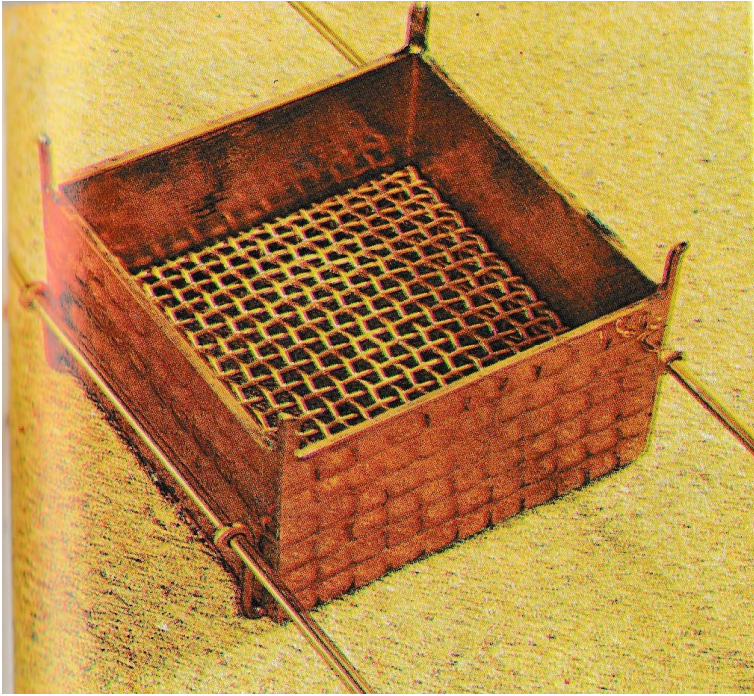
some translations have:

- 'shittim' for 'acacia' ['shittim' seems to be a transliteration of the Hebrew word]

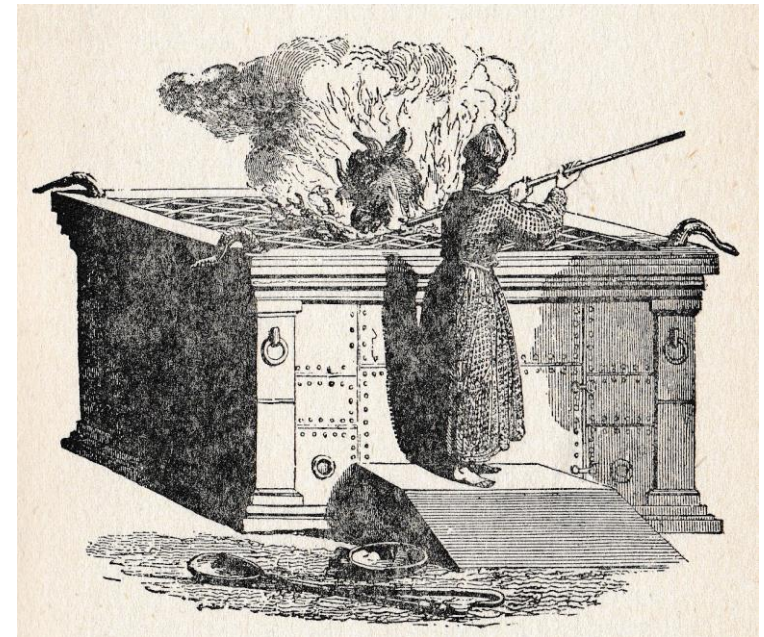
- 'brass' or 'bronze' for 'copper'

[brass and bronze are alloys of copper]

the 'brazen' altar



we can't be sure what it looked like but Moses was
"as it has been shown you
on the mountain,
so shall they make it"
[Exodus 27:8]



the 'brazen' altar

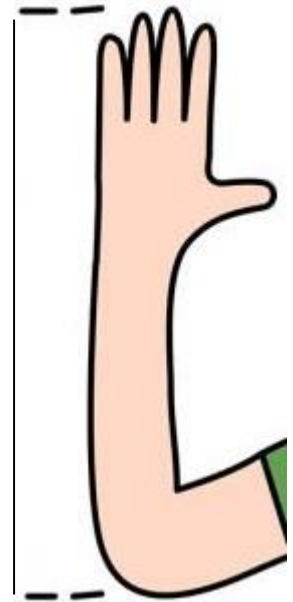
materials

acacia wood [shittim]
overlaid with copper
[bronze/brass]

size

square: 5x5 cubits
(approx 8x8 feet
or 2.5x2.5 meters)
height: 3 cubits
(approx 5 feet or 1.5 meters)

a cubit

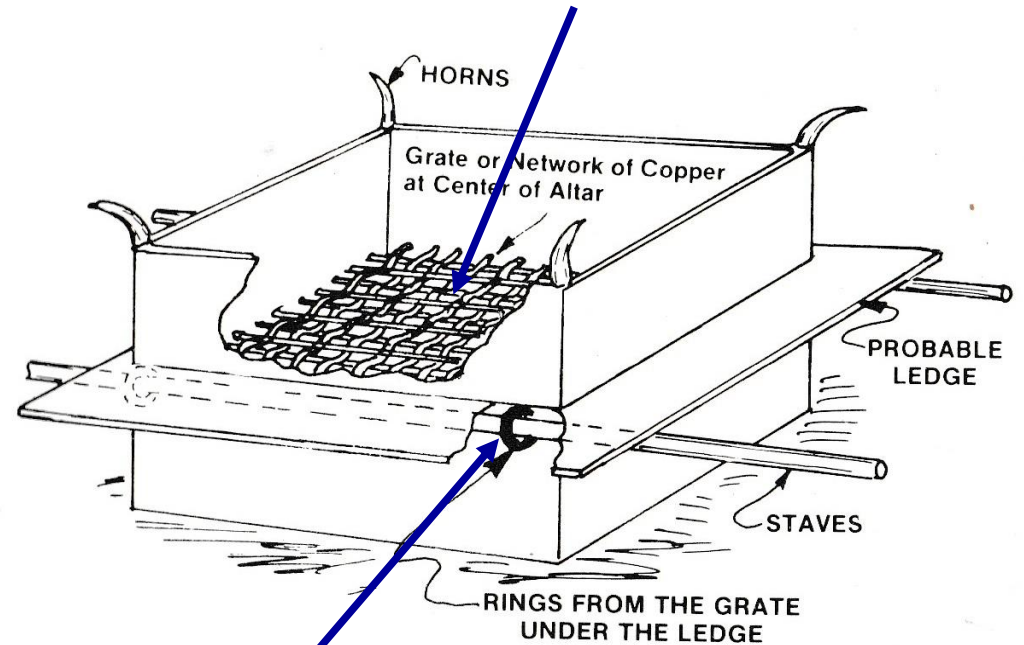


between approx
18 & 22 inches
[45-55 cm]

the 'brazen' altar

“And you shall make for it a grating of network of copper;
and on the net shall you make four copper rings at its four corners;
and you shall put it under the ledge of the altar beneath,
and the net shall be to the very middle of the altar.” [Exodus 27:4-5]

square copper grating
(holding the sacrifice)
fitted halfway down altar



rings at corners of grating
pushed through the boards
of altar at its corners

the 'brazen' altar

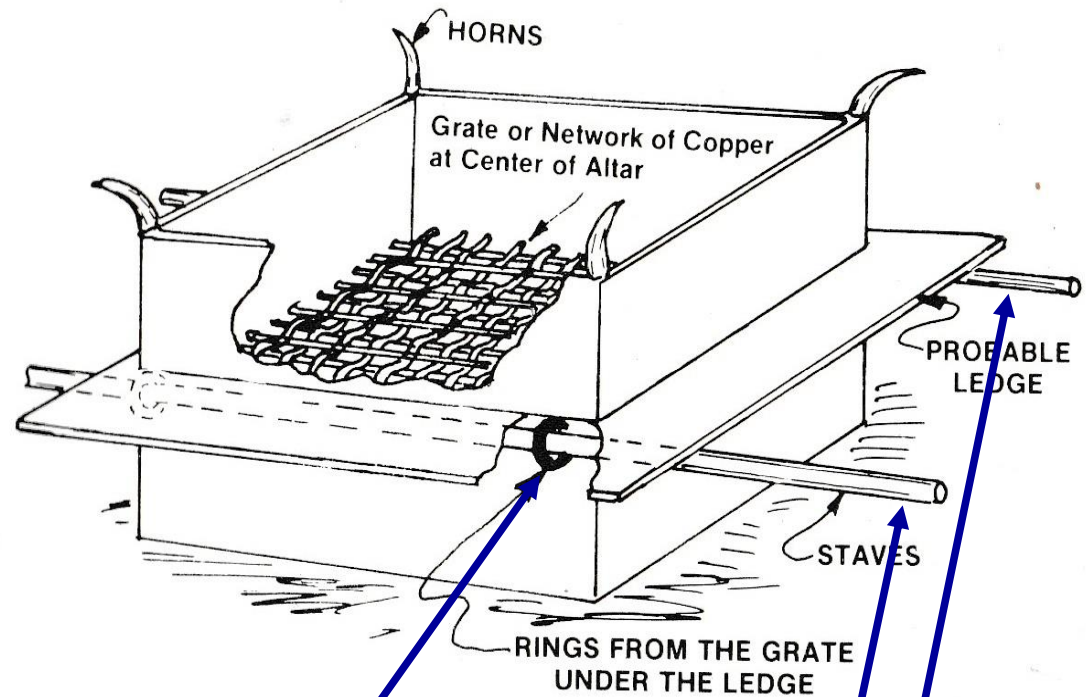
“And you shall make staves for the altar, staves of acacia-wood, and overlay them with copper.

And its staves shall be put into the rings, that the staves may be on both sides of the altar, when it is carried.

Hollow with boards shall you make it:

as it has been shown you on the mountain, so shall they make it.”

[Exodus 27:6-8]



staves (poles) for carrying altar

rings at corners of grating pushed through the boards of altar at its corners

the 'brazen' altar - its use

the altar was used for burning animals for sacrifice, including:

burnt offerings

peace/fellowship offerings

sin offerings

trespass offerings

there were to be:

- regular offerings (e.g. daily morning & evening burnt offerings)
- offerings from individuals
- offerings for the whole congregation

“A continual fire shall be kept burning on the altar: it shall never go out.” [Leviticus 6:13]

the 'brazen' altar

what does the 'brazen' altar
give a picture of?

why is it relevant to us?

this is not myth
this is not religious waffle
this is the truth

God is holy

being holy means that He is
separate from sin

He cannot accept wrong (sin) in
any form

we all do, think & say things that
are wrong

He cannot accept us

we deserve to be banished from
His presence for ever

God is righteous
righteous means:
just & impartial
as the righteous
Judge He must, in
justice, condemn &
punish all wrong
our sins must be
punished

there is nothing that we can do to change this

the 'brazen' altar & its use pictures

the
impossible for us
made
possible

you & I can approach the holy God and be accepted
by Him!

the 'brazen' altar & its use pictures the basis on
which this impossibility is made possible

without what the
'brazen' altar &
its use pictures
there would be
no hope for
any of us

God is holy & righteous
and He is also love

the 'brazen' altar & its use
pictures:

- 1) Christ as the sacrifice
dying for us on the cross
- 2) Christ as the altar

the 'brazen' altar & its use pictures

1) Christ as the sacrifice at Calvary nailed to the cross

Christ, the 'Lamb of God', died for us
and took the punishment due to us
for our sins

Christ suffered the wrath of
the holy God instead of us

This is the basis for, and means by which,
we sinners can be forgiven
and approach the holy God

the 'brazen' altar & its use pictures

2) Christ as the altar

the altar - made of acacia wood covered with copper

the **wood** symbolises **Christ's humanness**

the **copper** (a metal highly resistant to corrosion) symbolises **God's unchangeable righteousness shown in judgment**

the **fire** of the burning of the sacrifice symbolises **God's judgment consuming all that is opposed to Him & His perfect will**

the sacrifice is secure on the altar

the altar supporting the sacrifice symbolises **Christ's capacity to endure the fire of God's judgment**

on copper & related matters

so, for clarity & emphasis ...

gold represents
God's intrinsic glory
& righteousness -
what He is
because of who He is

copper represents
God's glory &
righteousness in
judgment

glory = manifested excellence
excellence that is shown in some way

righteousness = the character or
quality of being right or just

copper represents God's glory & righteousness in judgment

some examples where we see this:

the 'brazen' serpent

[Num 21:6]

God, in justice, had to judge

His rebellious people

but those who looked on the

'brazen' serpent lived -

this symbolises Christ bearing
the righteous judgment of God

for our sins [John 3:14,15] -

with eternal life for those who

believe on Him

One like the Son of Man

[Rev 1:15, 2:18]

'His feet as fine brass'

- a glorious One

righteously judging the

7 churches of Rev 2&3

so, the brazen altar & its use tells us of:

- 1) Christ as the sacrifice dying for us on the cross
- 2) Christ as the altar

God's glory & righteousness were made known at
the cross -

they were made known in judgment
on all that was against Him -

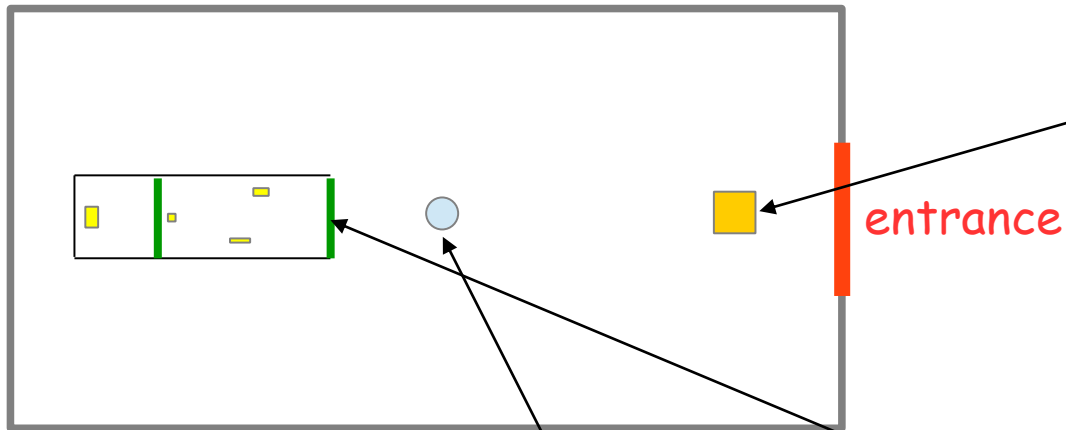
God's righteous demands have been met by
Christ's sacrifice

so that we can be justified (accounted righteous)

... the shewing forth of His righteousness in the
present time so that He should be just, and
justify him that is of the faith of Jesus

[Romans 3:26]

the 'brazen' altar - the limit



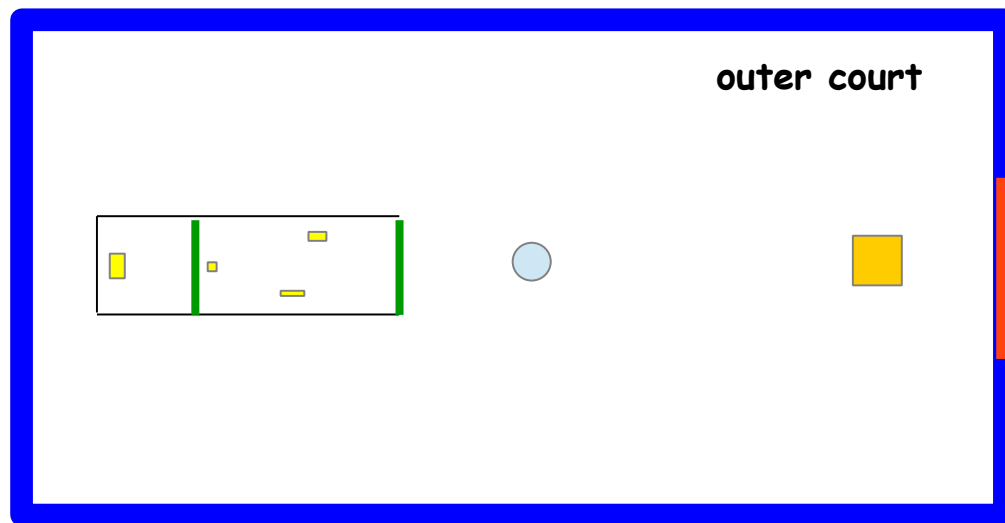
the 'brazen' altar was the limit for the ordinary Israelite; there was nowhere further for him to go

only priests would go further to wash at the laver & enter the holy place

**we, who have accepted the sacrifice of Christ, are now priests [1 Peter 2:9]
we (in picture) can wash at the laver & enter the holy place**

the
perimeter
of the
outer court

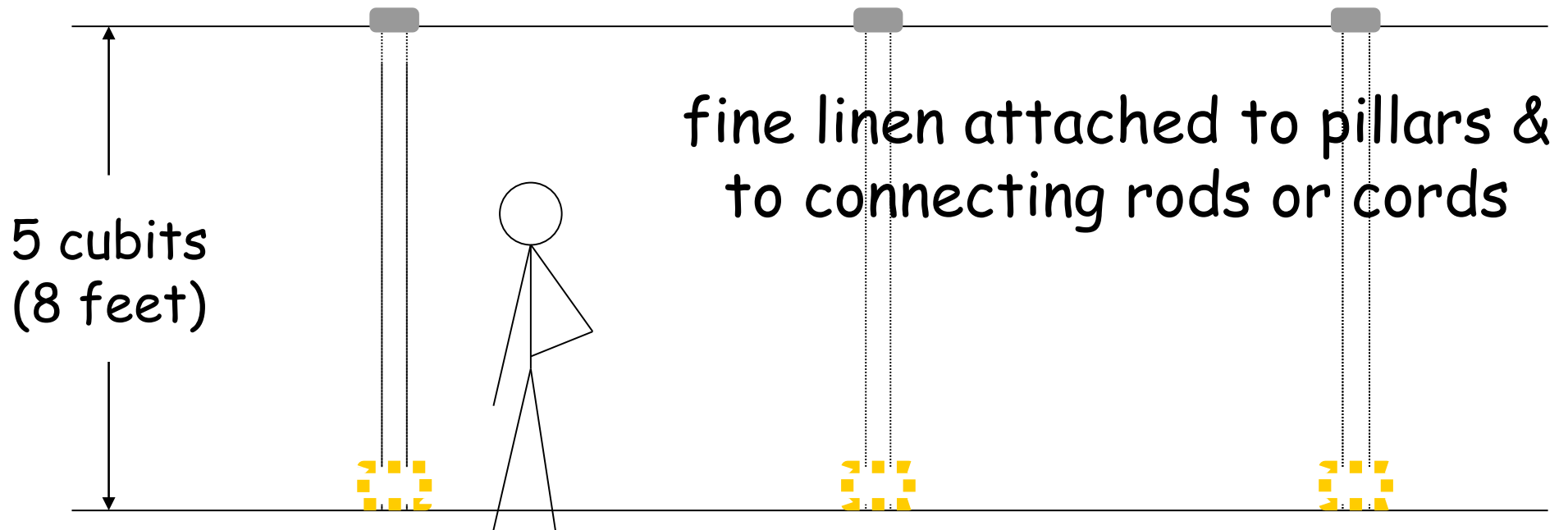
let's pretend
that we are ordinary Israelites
standing outside our tents
looking towards the tabernacle



what
will we
see?

from outside

looking at the tabernacle from the north, west or south we would see a wall of fine white linen



it is possible that we may also see:

- pillars
- silver tops on pillars
- copper bases for pillars

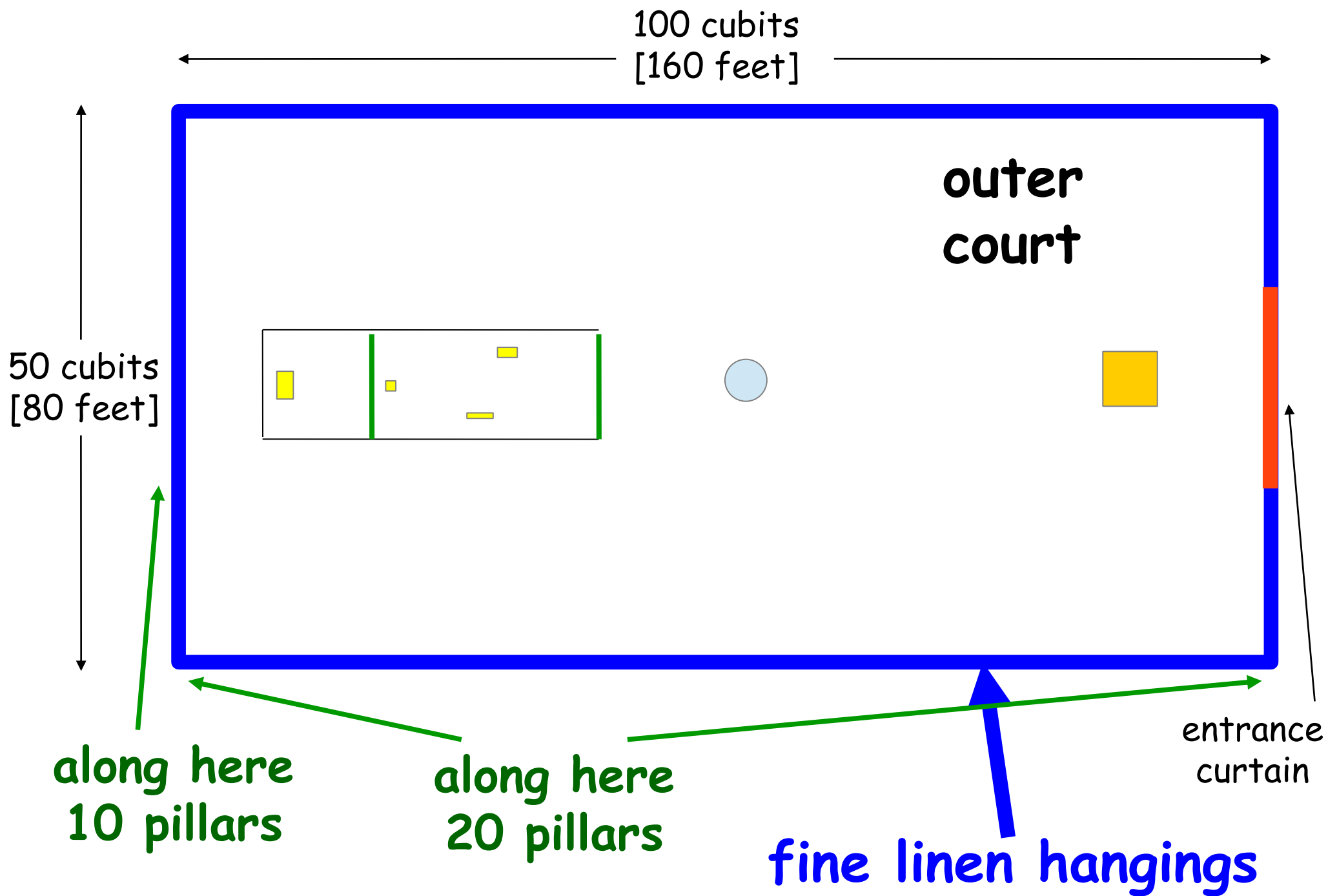
the linen wall

the instruction

“And you shall make the court of the tabernacle.
On the south side, southward,
hangings for the court of twined byssus [linen];
a hundred cubits the length for the one side,
and the twenty pillars of it,
and their twenty bases of copper,
the hooks of the pillars
and their connecting-rods of silver.”
[Exodus 27:9-10]

similarly, proportionately, for the other
sides - excluding the entrance

Exodus 38:16-17 records the work having been done



the linen hangings - what they say of Christ

a high long unbroken curtain of fine linen
reminds us of
the perfect righteousness of Christ
and of all that He did and said

we read in the gospels of
the practical righteousness of His life,
His blameless walk
and His spotless purity

the linen hangings - what they say to us

in another aspect:

"Fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints"

[Revelation 19:8]

[righteousnesses = righteous acts]

our responsibility is to walk (to live our lives, to conduct ourselves) righteously, as Christ lived His life

"He that says he abides in Him ought, even as He walked, himself also so to walk" [1 John 2:6]

others see our walk

the curtains were 5 cubits high

5 is taken as the number of human responsibility

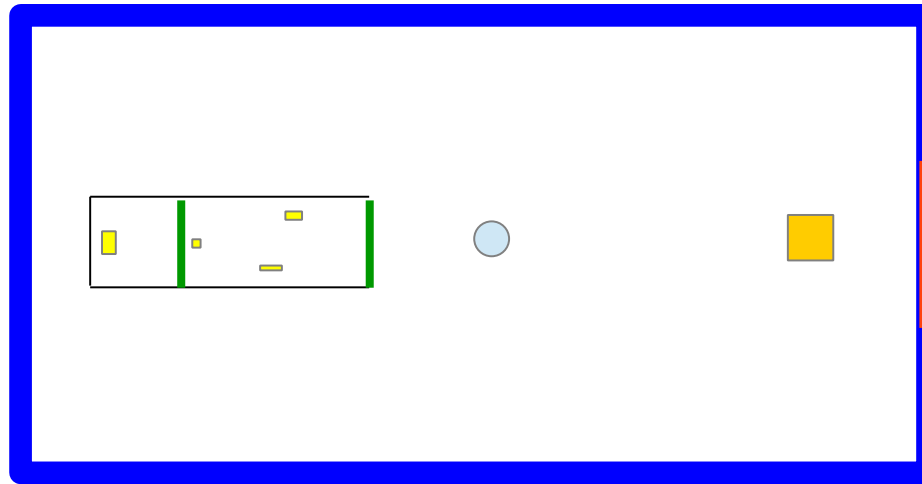
we are responsible to present Christ in what we do & say

the pillars

pillars, hooks & cords or connecting rods supported the linen curtain

20 pillars on the north side

10 pillars
on the
west side



3 pillars north
side of 'gate'

3 pillars south
side of 'gate'

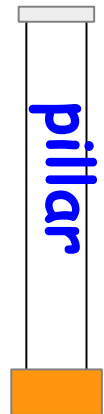
20 pillars on the south side

pillars have silver
hooks & are joined by
cords or connecting
rods

silver crown

pillar: acacia wood?

copper
base



the pillars - what they say to us

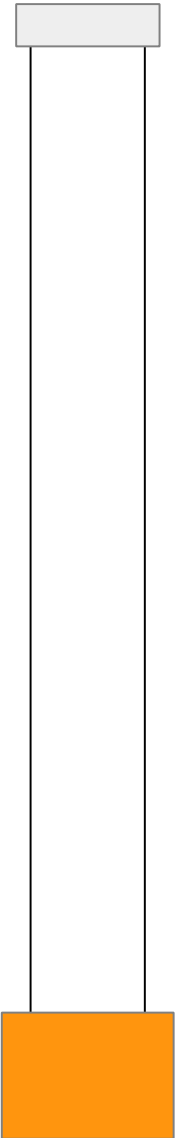
we may be considered as pillars in God's house

the pillars had silver crowns
silver typifies our redemption

there were hooks to
keep the linen in place
we need God's strength
& support for us to
maintain practical
righteousness

there were rods or
cords linking the pillars
we are not isolated
we are dependent on
each other

the pillars were on copper bases
we are grounded & stable in divine righteousness
- God's righteous claims have been met



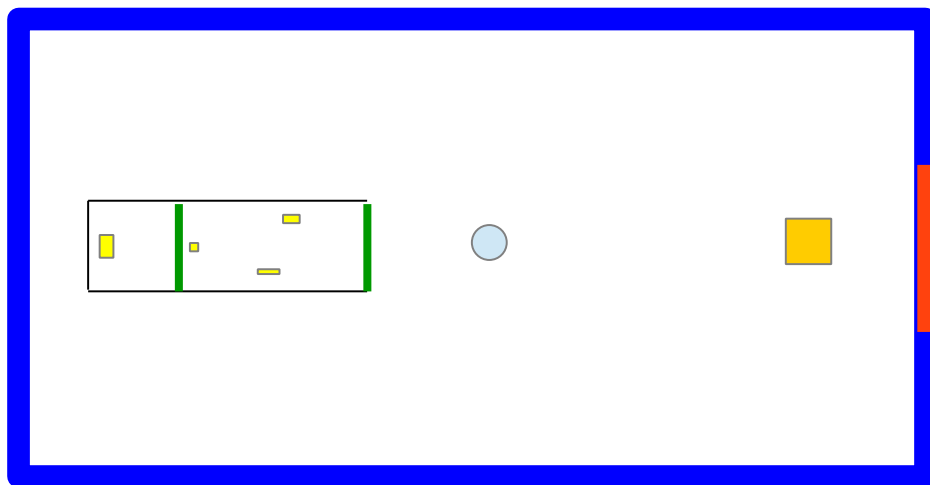
the outer court's perimeter

we've looked most of the way round

the perimeter:

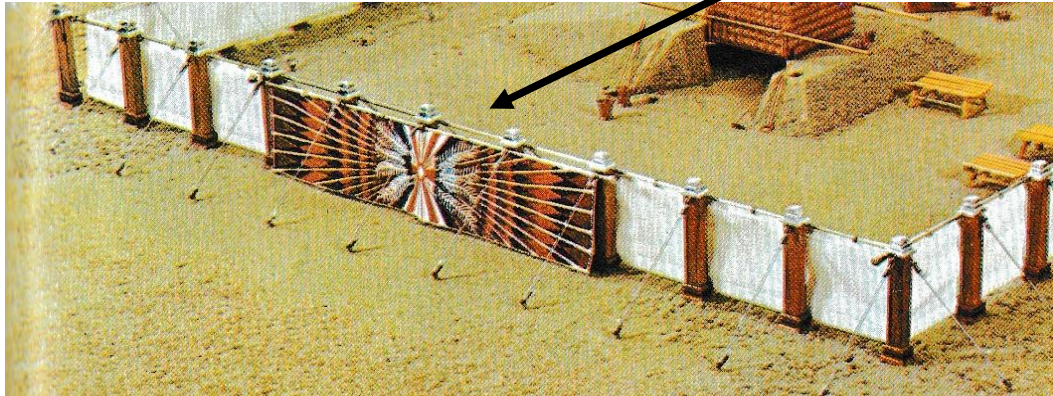
north, west, south

what about the east side?



looking from the east

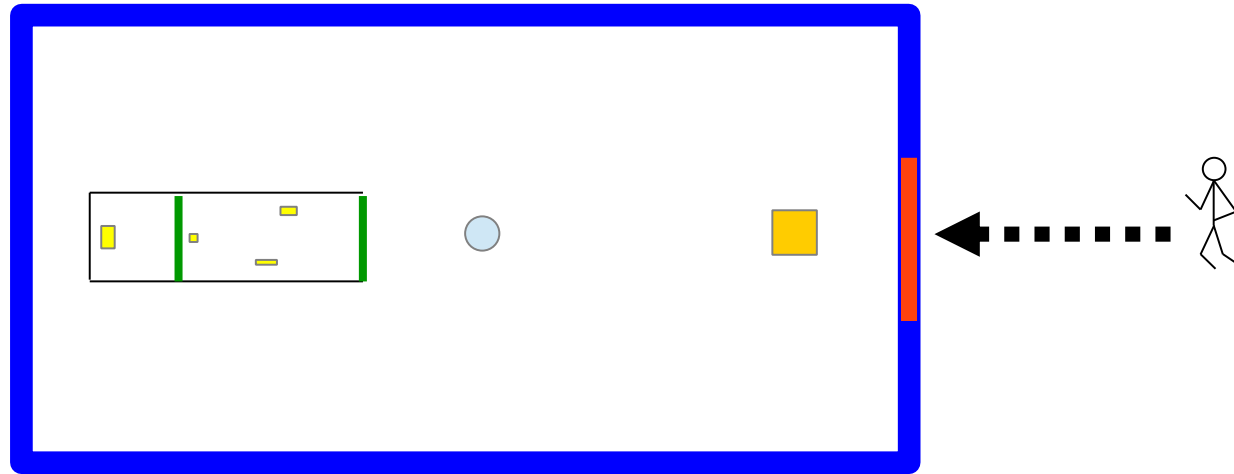
looking at the tabernacle from the east
we would have seen the entrance curtain



“And for the gate of the court a curtain of twenty cubits, of **blue**, and **purple**, and **scarlet**, and twined byssus [linen], embroidered with needlework; their pillars four, and their bases four.”
[Exodus 27:16]

the 'gate' - a curtain

this curtain was the only entrance to the
outer court of the tabernacle



the 'gate' was made of
embroidered

blue

purple

scarlet

linen

the 'gate' - what it says of Christ

the 'gate' signifies the Lord Jesus Christ

the 'gate' was made
of embroidered

blue

purple

scarlet

linen

reminding us of:

Christ's heavenly character

Christ's universal glory

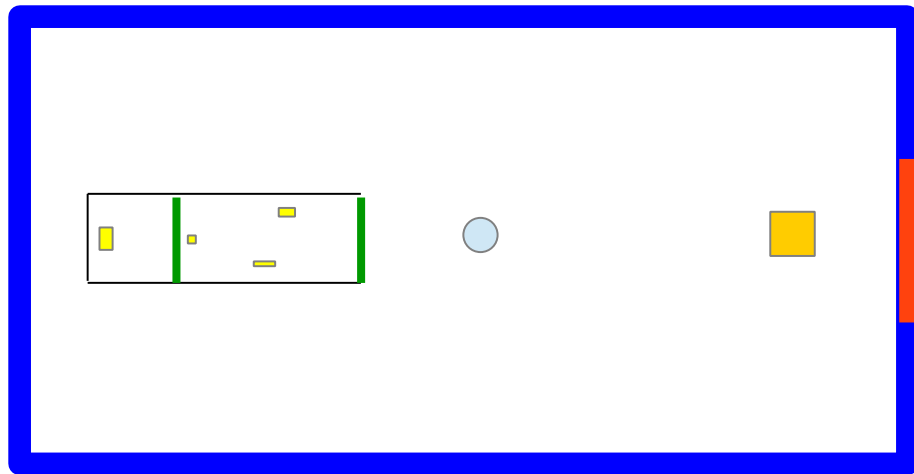
Christ's glory in Israel

Christ's spotless humanness

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father unless by me." [John 14:6]

the 'gate' - what it says to us

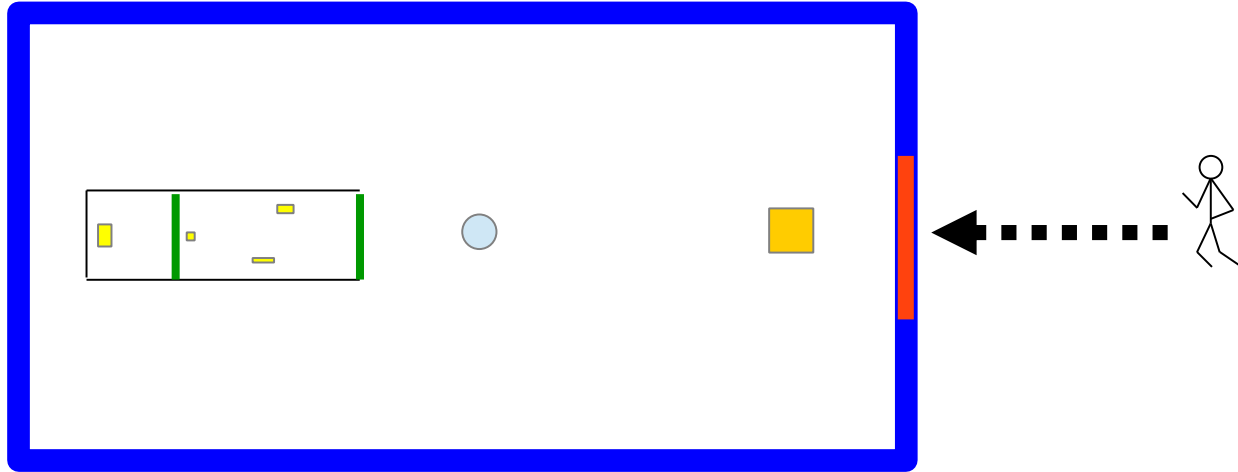
only ONE way



this 'gate' was
the only way
into the
tabernacle
area

Christ is the only way into
God's presence

on entering the 'gate'



and what did the person entering see immediately in front of him?

and what did the person
entering see immediately in
front of him?

the 'brazen' altar

this illustrates the truth that we need,
by faith, to accept the sacrifice of
Christ at Calvary
there is no other way for us to
approach God

oil for the
lampstand

oil for the lampstand

"And you shall command the children of Israel, that they bring you olive oil, pure, beaten, for the light, to light the lamp continually.

In the tent of meeting outside the veil, which is before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall dress them from evening to morning before Jehovah: it is an everlasting statute, for their generations, on the part of the children of Israel."

[Exodus 27:20-21]

oil for the lampstand - what this says to us

oil signifies the Holy Spirit

PERSONALLY

"Let your light thus shine
before men"
[Matthew 5:16]

only by allowing the Holy
Spirit to work can our
lives display the light of
Christ

CORPORATELY

"The seven lamps are seven
assemblies"
[Revelation 1:20]

the lamps need oil or there will
be no light

only by allowing the Holy Spirit
to work can assemblies display
the light of Christ

a very brief summary

**the 'brazen' altar
& its use**

pictures Christ and
His sacrifice for us

the 'gate'

was the only way
into the tabernacle
Christ is the only
way into God's
presence

the linen perimeter curtain
signifies Christ's perfectly
righteous life
and the righteous life that
we should display

oil for the lamps
we must allow the
Holy Spirit to work
within us so that we
shine for Christ