

**Into the Promised Land  
Joshua's Story  
Lesson #7 – The Courtyard & Beyond  
•HANDOUT•**

► With this new study, we will continue to work our way through the Courtyard and into the Holy Place. As we were to enter through the eastern Gate [the only gate] into the Compound, the first vessel we encounter is the Brazen Altar of Sacrifice.

Behind the Altar, placed before the entrance to "The Holy Place " is the Bronze Laver, which is the focus of the first part of this study.

Exodus 30:17-21 • Then the Lord said to Moses, "Make a bronze basin, with its bronze stand, for washing. Place it between the tent of meeting and the altar, and put water in it.

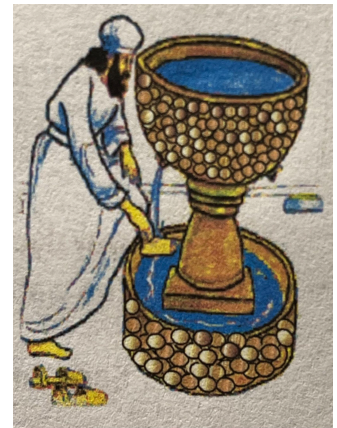
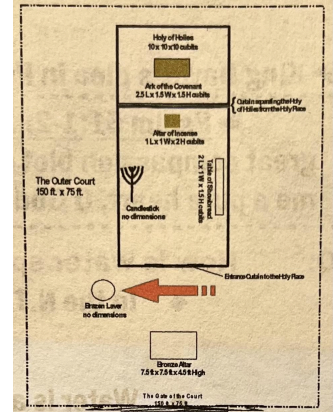
Aaron and his sons are to wash their hands and feet with water from it. Whenever they enter the tent of meeting, they shall wash with water so that they will not die. Also, when they approach the altar to minister by presenting a food offering to the Lord, they shall wash their hands and feet so that they will not die.

This is to be a lasting ordinance for Aaron and his descendants for the generations to come.

Scripture doesn't give a lot of specific information about the Laver; in fact we don't even know its dimensions. But we do know its purpose and where it was to be placed in the Courtyard.

From Exodus 38:8 we are given this information regarding the Laver.

Exodus 38:8 • They made the bronze basin and its bronze stand from the mirrors of the women who served at the entrance to the tent of meeting.



Q. What is significant about the Lord telling Moses to place the Laver past the Altar, but before the entrance into the Holy Place?

Q. Is it significant that the Bronze Laver was made from the mirrors of the women?

Q. Does the Altar of Sacrifice and the cleansing water of the Laver pertain to us today?

1 Peter 2:4-5; 9-10 • As you come to him, the living Stone - rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him - you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

• But you are chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

**Now let's look at the contents of the Laver - The Water itself.**

Q. How is water spiritually used in the Old Testament?

► King David's plea in Psalm 51 speaks to the spiritual meaning of water in the Old Testament:

Psalm 51:1-2; 10 • Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Q: How is water spiritually used in the New Testament?

- ◆ In the N.T. church we are baptized with water as .....
- ◆ Water is a symbol of God's .....
- ◆ Water is a symbol of the .....

Q: In what way does the water in the Laver point to, and reveal, Jesus Christ?

- ◆ The water in the Laver is a symbol of Jesus Himself because ..... [1 John 1:7-9]
- ◆ Scripture refers to the Lord as a ..... [Jer 2:13;17:13]
- ◆ Jesus bids us to drink from His living water because ..... [John 4:10]
- ◆ We will be washed from this spring of living water and ..... [Rev 7:17]

Q: Once Israel was on the march toward Canaan Land, every vessel was covered and protected while they traveled. There was on exception: The Laver and the water in it were kept open to view. Why?

**Next, let's take a look at the Tabernacle Structure.  
We begin where God began with His instructions to Moses: with the curtains...**

Exodus 26:1-6 • "Make the tabernacle with ten curtains of finely twisted linen and blue, purple and scarlet yarn, with cherubim worked into them by a skilled craftsman. All the curtains are to be the same size - twenty eight cubits long and four cubits wide. Join five of the curtains together, and do the same with the other five. Make loops of blue material along the edge of the end curtain in one set, and do the same with the end curtain in the other set. Make fifty loops on one curtain and fifty loops on the end curtain of the other set, with the loops opposite each other. Then make fifty gold clasps and use them to fasten the curtains together so that the tabernacle is a unit.



Q: What is the purpose of these curtains?

Q. Why were the curtain to be edged in blue?

Q. Why did God instruct Moses to have the image of Cherubim embroidered into the curtains?

**Here are the instructions for the Curtain at the entrance to the Tent from the Courtyard...**

Exodus 26:36-37 • “For the entrance to the tent make a curtain of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen-the work of an embroidered. Make gold hooks for this curtain and five posts of acacia wood overlaid with gold. And cast five bronze bases for them.

Q: What is different about the “entrance” Curtain when compared to the other curtains God instructed Moses to use as ceiling and wall coverings, including the Curtain separating the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies?

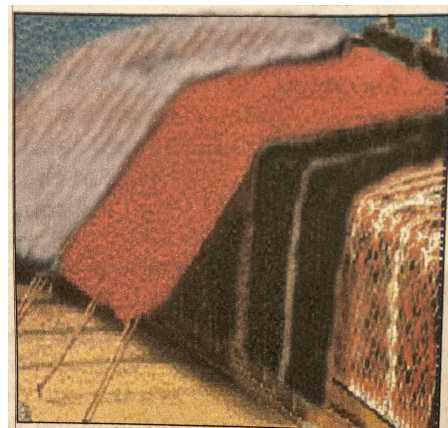


**Next, are the coverings over the Tabernacle Tent itself...**

Exodus 26:7-14 • “Make curtains of goat hair for the tent over the tabernacle-eleven altogether. All eleven curtains are to be the same size-thirty cubits long and four cubits wide.

Join five of the curtains together into one set and the other six into another set. Fold the sixth curtain double at the front of the tent. Make fifty loops along the edge of the end curtain in one set and also along the edge of the end curtain in the other set. Then make fifty bronze clasps and put them in the loops to fasten the tent together as a unit. As for the additional length of the tent curtains, the half curtain that is left over is to hang down at the rear of the tabernacle. The tent curtains will be a cubit longer on both sides; what is left will hang over the sides of the tabernacle so as to cover it.

Make for the tent a covering of ram skins dyed red, and over that a covering of hides of sea cows.



Q: What are the specific layers - four in all - that were to cover the Tabernacle, beginning with the first or outer layer?

◆ First Layer: \_\_\_\_\_

◆ Second Layer: \_\_\_\_\_

◆ Third Layer: \_\_\_\_\_

◆ Fourth Layer: \_\_\_\_\_

Q: What is the spiritual meaning of each layer?

- ◆ First Layer: \_\_\_\_\_
- ◆ Second Layer: \_\_\_\_\_
- ◆ Third Layer: \_\_\_\_\_
- ◆ Fourth Layer: \_\_\_\_\_

Q: Why did God specify that the second layer for the Tabernacle covering had to be a Ram's skin? Wouldn't any skin dyed red carry the same message for the people?

► To fully understand why, we need to go back to part of Abraham's story in Genesis:

Genesis 22:1-2; 9-14 [NLT] • Some time later, God tested Abraham's faith. "Abraham! God called. "Yes," he replied. "Here I am." "Take your son, your only son - yes, Isaac, whom you love so much - and go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you."

• When they arrived at the place where God had told him to go, Abraham built an altar and arranged the wood on it. Then he tied his son, Isaac, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. And Abraham picked up the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice.

At that moment the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Yes," Abraham replied. "Here I am!"

"Don't lay a hand on the boy!" the angel said. "Do not hurt him in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld from me even your son, your only son." Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. So he took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

Abraham named the place Yahweh-Yireh (which means "the Lord will provide"). And to this day it is said "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."

Q: God had sent Abraham to the region of Moriah and after God had rescued Isaac by providing a Ram for the sacrifice, Moses named the place "**On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.**" Where is this region of Moriah?

► **Before going into the interior of the Tabernacle we will take a brief look at the Framework and the Metals God instructed Moses to use. This is where we will pick up next time.**



Next Time • Lesson #8  
"Going Inside"

