

THE TABERNACLE

Handout

(INSIDE THE COURTYARD)

"THE BRAZEN ALTAR OF BURNT OFFERING" AND "THE BRAZEN LAVER "

Please remember that God's **ULTIMATE PURPOSE in our lives is for you and me "to be **CONFORMED** to the **IMAGE** of His **SON**." (Romans 8:29) Your **PURPOSE** in **SERVICE/LIFE** will "grow and flow out" of God **FORMING** Christ in you.

Last week we saw that we begin to approach the Manifest Presence of God (*His Holiness, i.e., The Most Holy Place*) by way of **The Eastern Gate**, the **ONLY** entrance into the courtyard and, remember, we are moving **FROM EAST TO WEST**. **WHY?** (See Psalm 103:12) _____

QUESTION: What are the elements of The Eastern Gate that pointed to Jesus?

ANSWER: _____

QUESTION: Instead of an animal sacrifice, what does any sinner bring **TODAY** to "The Eastern Gate" (which is the person of Jesus Christ) in order to "walk" toward the place of salvation, the **Cross**, the **True Brazen Altar**?

ANSWER: (See Romans 12:1, Psalm 51:17 and 2 Corinthians 7:10) _____

From Romans 12:1 we see that we stand **ALONE** before Almighty God, before the **ONLY ENTRANCE WAY**, that is, **THE EASTERN GATE**, that is, **JESUS**. Salvation is a **PERSONAL** experience and Jesus is a **PERSONAL** Savior. We won't have momma, daddy, sister, brother, the preacher, or the Sunday school teacher with us at the **FINAL JUDGMENT** at the end of the age, either. It's all about **YOU** and **JESUS**. No excuses about other Christians who have mistreated you or all the "hypocrites" in the churches. **NO EXCUSES, PERIOD!** Others may have been

UNFAITHFUL to you, but the Lord Jesus Christ **ABSOLUTELY CANNOT** be **UNFAITHFUL** to **YOU!** That is impossible because it is **NOT** in **HIS** "CHARACTER" or **ESSENCE** of what He is. Oh, it make me want to SHOUT!!!

THE BRAZEN (BRASS OR BRONZE) ALTAR

Scripture Text: "And thou shalt make an **ALTAR** of **SHITTIM** (*Acacia, incorruptible*) **wood**, **FIVE** cubits long, and **FIVE** cubits broad; the **ALTAR** shall be **FOURSQUARE** : and the height thereof shall be **THREE** cubits. And thou shalt make the **HORNS** of it upon the **FOUR CORNERS** thereof: **HIS HORNS** shall be of the same: and thou shalt overlay it with **BRASS**. And thou shalt make **his** pans to receive **his** ashes, and **his** shovels, and **his** basons, and **his** fleshhooks, and **his** firepans: **all** the vessels thereof thou shalt make of **BRASS**. And thou shalt make for it a grate of **network** of **BRASS**; and upon the **NET** shalt thou make **FOUR BRASEN RINGS** in the **FOUR CORNERS** thereof. And thou shalt put it under the compass of the altar beneath, that the **NET** may be even to the midst of the altar. And thou shalt make **STAVES** (*rods or poles*) for the altar, staves of shittim wood, and **overlay** them with **BRASS**. And the **staves** (*poles*) shall be **put into the RINGS**, and the staves shall be upon the **TWO sides** of the **altar**, to bear it. Hollow with boards shalt thou make it: as it was shewed thee in the mount, so shall they make it." (*Exodus 27:1-8*)

*Notice the location of the **Brazen** Altar of **Burnt Offering** in the first handout I gave you. Also notice the illustration in today's handout and the video depiction.

The word **ALTAR** means "a place of **SLAUGHTER**" in the Hebrew and "high place" in the Greek. The **Brazen** Altar of **Burnt Offering** was the first thing someone entering at The Eastern Gate would see. You might say, it **CONFRONTED** that person, just as the **Cross** **CONFRONTS** us with our sin. As soon as the person who was entering saw the Altar, he was probably also confronted with **THE SMELL OF DEATH--the STENCH** of a **SLAUGHTER HOUSE**, since even though there was clean up, sacrifices were ongoing. The Bible says that the "wages of sin is **DEATH**."

Did you know that sin **pays wages**, has a **payment schedule**, and ends up with a **BONUS CHECK** called **DEATH**?



If you or I entered the courtyard back then, we would probably want to hold our noses and say,

"Whew! What is that horrific **SMELL?**"



Yet, it is in His **Courts** that we are to enter with **PRAISE!** (*Psalm 100*). Why?... Because as we entered **THE EASTERN GATE**-- in **THANKSGIVING** that He is **THE WAY** and has **offered** us **ENTRANCE**-- (*entrance not only to Heaven but to HIS PRESENCE NOW*), we then realize we must **PRAISE** HIM since **EVERYTHING** in the Court demonstrates that HE HAS **JUDGED SIN** and the **PRICE HAS BEEN PAID** for us to **MEET** with God as much as we want! This is why the tabernacle was also called "The Tent of **Meeting**." It could have been called "The Tent of **RELATIONSHIP**." Plus...God says that Jesus is the **fulfillment** of the **totally consumed BURNT OFFERING** and that His sacrifice is a "**SWEET**" **SAVOR** (*smell*) unto Him.

How do I know that in the courts I **PRAISE HIM** for **JUDGMENT**? Well, as we previously studied, **BRASS** symbolizes **JUDGMENT**. **ALL** items in the tabernacle that were associated with **JUDGMENT** upon sin (*that is, sin was given the DEATH sentence*) were overlaid or made of **BRASS**:

The **BRASS SOCKETS** (*sovereign foundations of brass of the posts*)

The **BRASS PINS** (*nails in the ground to secure the cords*)

The **BRASS ALTAR OF BURNT OFFERING**, with its **BRASS** vessels of:

SHOVELS (*to remove the ashes of the burnt sacrifices*),

BASONS (*basins for holding blood to sprinkle on the Brazen Altar, the Altar of Incense in The Holy Place, and the Ark of the Covenant in The Most Holy Place once a year*),

FLESHHOOKS (*pitchforks to move the sacrifices in place*),

FIREPANS (*fireholders or censers to carry hot coals from the Brazen Altar to the Altar of Incense in The Holy Place*)

The **BRASS LAVER** (*large wash bowl*)

Note that the **Brazen Altar** was **5** cubits (*the number of Grace*), (*that's 7.5 feet*) long and broad. It was **3** cubits in height (*the number associated with the Triune God and His will being manifest in the earth--the earth was created on Day 3 in Genesis*), (*that's 4.5 feet*). The **Brazen Altar** was the **TALLEST** piece of furniture

in the tabernacle--just like Calvary's **TALL** Cross, for all to see. Also, history tells us that since God had forbidden the priests to ascend by steps upward to the altar (indicating **NO MAN-MADE** effort to approach God, Exodus 20:26), dirt was mounded up around three sides, **making a hill** or high place, so that the priests could better handle the sacrifices. This hill foreshadowed the **hill of Golgotha**.

The **Brazen** Altar was **FOURSQUARE**. "Scripture interpreting scripture" helps us to understand why the altar was foursquare.

QUESTION: What else in the Bible is spoken of as being **FOURSQUARE**?

ANSWER: (See Exodus 28:16, Ezekiel 40:47, Revelation 21:16)_____

As with the dimensions of **The Brazen** Altar being **FOURSQUARE**, there were also **FOUR HORNS**, one on each **CORNER**. With "scripture interpreting scripture" we learn that **HORNS** represent **POWER/AUTHORITY** or **LEADERSHIP** or **KINGDOM RULE**. Look what the Psalmist says in the following scripture:

"But my **HORN** shalt thou exalt like the horn of an unicorn..." (Psalm 92:10)

The Old Testament prophet Daniel, in a vision, prophesies of a future end-time warfare against the people of God and uses the term "**HORN**" when speaking of a fierce, evil leader:

"I (Daniel) beheld, and the same **HORN** made war with the saints, and prevailed against them..." (Daniel 7:21)

The **FOUR HORNS** of the **BLOODY** Altar demonstrated that **Jesus' Power and Authority** as the **TRUE ETERNAL** Burnt Offering is **BLOOD BOUGHT** with the **BLOOD** of **GOD!!!** These **FOUR HORNS** were speaking prophetically of the **POWER OF THE CROSS**, which also had **FOUR "POINTS"** as not only representative of the **FOUR DIRECTIONS (FOUR CORNERS)** of Earth, but also that the **TRUE BURNT ALTAR** of **CALVARY'S CROSS** would be **EXALTED** to **JUDGE** and **PUT AWAY SIN!** Jesus has **ALL AUTHORITY** in **Heaven** and in **EARTH--ALL FOUR CORNERS OF EARTH**. He conquered sin, death, hell and the grave (*all FOUR*) **FOR ALL OF US!** He, as **second ADAM**, **REGAINED ALL** that First Adam and Eve had lost!!! Remember, the tabernacle **Brazen** Altar of **Burnt Offering** was made

of Shittim Wood (*Acacia or incorruptible wood*) which was a symbol of the **INCORRUPTIBLE HUMANITY OF JESUS CHRIST**, our **PERFECT second Adam**. Remember, too, that the Shittim (*Acacia*) wood was difficult to work with because of the **THORNS**. Every piece of furniture in the tabernacle which was constructed with Shittim (*Acacia*) wood was **repeatedly reinforcing** the association of **THORNS** with the **CURSE of the Fall of Adam and Eve**. The builders' hands were probably very **bloodied** from working with this wood which foreshadowed the **one and only incorruptible man, Jesus**, who would **take the CURSE** for us and demonstrate it by allowing Himself to be **CROWNED WITH THORNS!!!**



The tabernacle **Brazen Altar of Burnt Offering** also had a grate of **NETWORK**. It is also simply called "**The NET.**" This **Brazen NET GRATE** was where the sacrifice was placed and **TIED (CORDED)** to the **FOUR HORNS** when necessary. Remember, the **CORDS** of the fence were representative of **THE LOVE OF GOD**. The Roman soldiers tied Jesus to the Cross, but it was **His unseen CORDS of LOVE** for us that held Him there to finish the work! Hallelujah! During His earthly ministry, Jesus alluded to a **NET**. It was the only time this particular form of the word **NET** as it is associated with the **NET of the Brazen Altar** is used:

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a **NET**, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:" (*Matthew 13:47*).

The **NET** of the **Brazen Altar of Burnt Offering**, the place of the sacrifice, speaks of the **Glorious Gospel** of Jesus Christ, our **Burnt Offering Lamb**, being cast and carried to every person--gathering all peoples, tribes, nations--"of every kind."

That the **Brazen Altar of Burnt Offering** foreshadowed the carrying of the **Gospel** throughout the world can be further seen in the **BRASS RINGS** situated at the **FOUR BRASS CORNERS**. When the Pillar of Cloud or Fire lifted, they were to pack up the tabernacle and follow. These **BRASS RINGS** were used to place the **INCORRUPTIBLE WOODEN STAVES (overlaid with BRASS)** through so that the Altar could be transported. There were **TWO STAVES (poles)**. The **STAVES PIERCED** through the **rings!!!** The **Gospel** is the **Gospel of/for ETERNITY**. Just as

the prophet Ezekiel saw the vision of a "wheel in the middle of a wheel," or **ETERNITY**, the **BRASS RINGS** signify **INFINITY** or **ETERNITY**. The **RINGS** and Ezekiel's **WHEELS** are **NEVER ENDING CIRCLES**, the symbol of **FOREVER**. The **Gospel** of Jesus Christ is the **ETERNAL GOSPEL**. He, as the **STAVES** represent, was **PIERCED** through for **ALL ETERNITY!!!** There will be **NO OTHER HEAVENLY GOSPEL** but **HIS!** As with **TWO STAVES**, the revealing of the **Gospel** has **TWO PARTS**: 1.Old Testament and 2.New Testament. **TWO PARTS**: 1.Jesus crucified and 2.Jesus raised from the dead. Every time God's Pillar of Cloud or Fire directed them to move and change locations, the **CARRYING OF THE BRAZEN ALTAR OF BURNT OFFERING** by the priests using **brass staves pierced** through the **rings** repetitively showed them and future Bible readers that Almighty God's **Gospel of His Son's Personal BURNT OFFERING** at Calvary was the **EVERLASTING GOSPEL** of judgment upon sin and that this **GOOD NEWS** was to be preached to "every creature" by the Church--the New Testament priests.

Lambs were offered by the priests on the **Brazen Altar of Burnt Offering** in the morning and in the evening. **Jesus**, the **Lamb** of God who takes away the sin of the world, was **placed on the Cross** at the time of the morning lamb sacrifice and He willingly **surrendered His life** at the time of the evening lamb sacrifice, thus perfectly fulfilling the types and shadows of the tabernacle lambs.

The Hebrew had to pass through the gate with his offering. When he entered with his sacrifice, he was required to place his hand on the animal's head, thus identifying with the animal as his substitutionary sacrifice. There were **5** (*the number of **GRACE***) offerings specified by God and that's a whole other study:

- (1) The Burnt Offering
- (2) The Sin Offering
- (3) The Meat (*which was really MEAL or FLOUR*) Offering
- (4) The Trespass Offering
- (5) The Peace Offering

Regarding these sacrifices, it does behoove us to note the **BLOODINESS** of the **Brazen Altar of Burnt Offering** and why God specified that it be such a **BLOODY PLACE**. **BEFORE** the tabernacle was constructed, Moses came down from Sinai and they all sacrificed at an altar made with 12 pillars representing the 12 tribes of

Israel. (*Exodus 24:3-9*) Moses took **half the BLOOD** and placed in basons. The other **half he SPRINKLED** on the altar and pillars. He then read the **TEN COMMANDMENTS** to them. After the reading, Moses took the remaining **BLOOD** in the basons and **SPRINKLED it on the people!!!** (*WOW--a little yucky!*) Moses said,

"Behold the **BLOOD OF THE COVENANT**, which the Lord hath made with you concerning all these words."

God was reinforcing the spiritual and scriptural principle that the "**LIFE IS IN THE BLOOD**" (*Leviticus 17:11*) and that **WITHOUT** the shedding of **BLOOD**, there is **NO REMISSION of sin** (*Hebrews 9:22*). This **BLOOD COVENANT** graphically illustrated on a daily basis for hundreds of years in the tabernacle and later, temple worship, that **PERFECT BLOOD** was coming which would be a "once and for all" atonement for sin. From **where** does **PERFECT BLOOD** come? Well, God had a plan from the beginning when He cut covenant with Abraham. We are given insight as to the plan in the New Testament Book of Hebrews (6:13) where it says:

"For when God made promise (*covenant*) to Abraham, because He (*God*) could swear by **NO GREATER**, He sware **BY HIMSELF**."

God showed from the beginning that **ONLY GOD** can **CUT COVENANT** with **GOD!** He cut covenant with **HIMSELF (deity)** in the Person of His **SON (deity AND humanity)**, thereby satisfying the claims of justice by God the Father, yet **benefiting HUMANITY** by virtue of **Jesus' own INCORRUPTIBLE HUMANITY!** **WHAT A PLAN!!!**

We need to also note that at the **Brazen** Altar of **Burnt Offering** the **BLOOD** of the sacrifices was to be **SPRINKLED** "all around" the Altar. As we proceed to the Holy Place next week, we will see **MORE SPRINKLING**. All of this **SPRINKLING** was pointing to "**THE GREAT SPRINKLING**" of Calvary's Cross, which was spoken of by Isaiah and in the New Testament Book of Hebrews:

"So shall He **SPRINKLE** many nations..." (*Isaiah 52:15*)

"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**." (Hebrews 10:22)

"And to Jesus, the mediator of the **NEW COVENANT**, and to the **BLOOD of SPRINKLING**, that speaketh better things than that of Abel." (Hebrews 12:24)

It is made **PLAIN** in 1 Peter 1:2:

"Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and **SPRINKLING** of the **BLOOD of JESUS CHRIST**..."

Lastly, the **FIRE** for the **Brazen Altar of Burnt Offering** had been lit by **God Himself** (Leviticus 9:24). **No other fire was allowed!!!** God was painting pictures that **ONLY HE COULD CONSUME SIN!** This fire was to **NEVER** go out and it was **NEVER** to be substituted with **FIRE MADE BY MAN**. Nadab and Abihu tried that and God **KILLED THEM!!!** The embers from this fire were used for burning incense in the Altar of Incense and were used to begin the eternal flame of the wicks of the Golden Candlestick in The Holy Place. Everything is **GOD INITIATED** in **REDEMPTION**. **GET THE PICTURE?**

THE BRAZEN (BRASS OR BRONZE) LAVER

Scripture Text: "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Thou shalt also make a **LAVER OF BRASS**, and **HIS FOOT** also of **BRASS**, to **WASH** withal: and thou shalt put it between the tabernacle of the congregation and the altar, and thou shalt put **WATER** therein. For Aaron and his sons shall **WASH** their **HANDS** and their **FEET** thereat: When they go into the tabernacle of the congregation, they shall **wash 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 hands and their feet**, that they die not: and it shall be a **statute for ever** to them, even to him and to his seed throughout their generations." (Exodus 30:17-21)

"And he made the **LAV**ER of **BRASS**, and the **FOOT** of it of **BRASS**, of the **LOOKING-GLASSES** (*mirrors*) of the women assembling, which assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation." (*Exodus 38:8*)

*Notice the location of the **LAV**ER (**WASH BOWL**) of **BRASS** on the previous handout. Also notice the illustration in today's handout and the video depiction.

With "scripture interpreting scripture" we find that **WATER** is associated with:

(1) **The infilling of the Holy Spirit.**

Jesus said, "He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow **rivers of living water**. (But this spake He of the **Spirit**, which they that believe on Him should receive : for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified .)" (*John 7:38*)

(2) **The Word of God.**

"Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it; That He might **sanctify and cleanse** it with the **washing of water** by the **WORD**,..." (*Ephesians 5:25-26*)

(3) **The piercing of the side of Jesus at the crucifixion.**

"But one of the soldiers with a spear **pierced his side**, and forthwith came there out blood and **WATER**." (*John 19:34*)

"This is he that came by **WATER** and blood, even Jesus Christ; **not by water only**, but by **water** and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth." (*1 John 5:6*)

"And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the **WATER**, and the blood: and these three agree in one." (*1 John 5:8*)

(4) **Jesus' explanation of being saved or "born again" to Nicodemus.**

"Jesus answered , Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of **WATER** and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (*John 3:5*)

(5) **Water baptism.** (*When Jesus was water baptized by John, He said that it **FULFILLED** all **RIGHTEOUSNESS**. He is saying that **HE** is **fulfilling** the **BRAZEN LAVER (WASH BOWL).***)

"And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the **WATER**: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:" (Matthew 3:16)

The word for the "**WATER**" used in the **LAVER** means "**LIVING WATER**" in the Hebrew. **WOW!** God was foreshadowing the **OUTPOURING** of the **Holy Spirit**. But there are many other aspects with the **BRAZEN LAVER** that God was showing us.

The priests (*and remember, we, the church, are the New Testament Priesthood with Jesus as the Eternal High Priest*) were commanded to wash their **HANDS** and their **FEET** **BEFORE** handling the sacrifices and **BEFORE** entering The Holy Place where they tended the Golden Candlestick, Table of Showbread, Altar of Incense. They would **DIE** if they did **not WASH** with the **WATER**. It is a picture that **without His Holy Spirit, we DIE SPIRITUALLY**. We can do **NOTHING** without Him and His **LIVING WATER**.

Hands symbolize our **SERVICE**. **Feet** symbolize our **WALK**. It is noteworthy that Jesus was **PIERCED** in **HIS HANDS** and **HIS FEET**! It shows us that **HIS SACRIFICE** has made our "**HANDS**" worthy of service and our "**FEET**" able to walk out our faith. Since it was especially specified that the **BRAZEN LAVER** would have a "**FOOT**" portion, God is drawing attention to the "**REDEMPTIVE FOOT**," that **BRUISED HEEL** of the Redeemer which was prophesied in Genesis after the Fall. God would further develop the theme of the "**REDEMPTIVE FOOT**" through implementing the law of the Kinsman Redeemer with the Israelites at a later time.

It is so important to know that the **BRAZEN LAVER** was made from the **MIRRORS** donated by the women. It is a clear picture of how we must see a **reflection** of ourselves through the context of, **NOT WHAT THE WORLD SAYS ABOUT US, BUT WHAT THE WORD OF GOD SAYS ABOUT US**. From the previous

scripture in Ephesians 5:25-26, we realize that the **WORD OF GOD** is a **WATER** that can **cleanse** us, **IF** we keep returning to look into it. Jesus said, "Now are ye **CLEAN** through the **WORD** which I have spoken to you." We need to be **BATHING** in **THE WORD EVERY DAY**. You don't wait till Saturday night to bathe your physical body, do you? So, if you want to be stay **CLEAN** spiritually, **BATHE DAILY IN THE WORD!** "Give us **THIS DAY**, our **DAILY BREAD**." He says to **STUDY** to show ourselves **APPROVED**. Dedication to reading, studying, or listening to the Word of God will "REWIRE" your brain! It has been scientifically proven by imaging the brains of addicts **PRIOR** to an encounter with Jesus Christ. After several months of intensive studying and reading the Word of God, the re-imaging of the brains showed **NEW "PATHWAYS"** created. The Bible promises this changed mind, that is, the mind of Christ, **TO US:**

"...but be ye **TRANSFORMED** by the **RENEWING** of your **MIND...**" (*Romans 12:2*)

FINALLY, the graphic picture in the courtyard is that after the Israelite identified with the sacrificial animal and the animal was offered upon the **Brazen Altar of Burnt Offering**, the Israelite could **GO NO FURTHER!** He could **NOT** proceed to **BATHE** in the "**LIVING WATER**" of **THE BRAZEN LAVER!** He had to have a **MEDIATOR!** God was again painting the picture of our need for a **MEDIATOR** who could **BRIDGE** the **GAP** and bring to us **FULL ACCESS** to His **PRESENCE**, His **HOLINESS**, His **POWER**, and His **GLORY!**

**Thank you, Lord Jesus, and we
PRAISE YOU IN YOUR COURTS FOR THE JUDGMENT
YOU HAVE RENDERED UPON SIN, OUR ENEMY!!!**

Next week, we will keep walking toward **THE WEST** in the tabernacle and toward **WORSHIP!!! WESTWARD HO!!!** Remember the **WESTWARD PROGRESSION:**

- (1) "**Thanksgiving**" (*at the Eastern Gate*)
- (2) "**Praise**" (*in His Court*)
- (3) "**Worship/Fellowship with others**" (*in The Holy Place*)
- (4) "**Intimate Worship/Alone with God**" (*in The Most Holy Place*)