

- THE PLACE FOR PREPARATION
- THE MULTITUDES
- VESSELS OF HONOR
- THE GLORY
- OUTER DARKNESS

3

## THE OUTER COURT (PREPARATION)



A large space was reserved around the tabernacle; this space was called the court or outer court. [Exodus 27:9-19] The outer court was the place where the priests prepared themselves before entering into the Tabernacle. The space was also used for sacrificing animals and reception of gifts from people without. It was not as splendid as the tabernacle itself neither was it as sacred as the Tabernacle.

**Exodus 27:9 -19** And thou shalt make the court of the tabernacle: for the south side southward there shall be hangings for the court of fine twined linen a hundred cubits long for one side: 10 and the pillars thereof shall be twenty, and their sockets twenty, of brass; the hooks of the pillars and their fillets *shall be* of silver. 11 And likewise for the north side in length there shall be hangings a hundred cubits long, and the pillars thereof twenty, and their sockets twenty, of brass; the hooks of the pillars, and their fillets, of silver. 12 And for the breadth of the court on the west side shall be hangings of fifty cubits; their pillars ten, and their sockets ten. 13 And the breadth of the court on the east side eastward shall be fifty cubits. 14 The hangings for the one side *of the gate* shall be fifteen cubits; their pillars three, and their sockets three. 15 And for the other side shall be hangings of fifteen cubits; their pillars three, and their sockets three. 16 And for the gate of the court shall be a screen of twenty cubits, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, the work of the embroiderer; their pillars four, and their sockets four. 17 All the pillars of the court round about shall be filleted with silver; their hooks of silver, and their sockets of brass. 18 The length of the court shall be a hundred cubits, and the breadth fifty every where, and the height five cubits, of fine twined linen, and their sockets of brass. 19 All the instruments of the tabernacle in all the service thereof, and all the pins thereof, and all the pins of the court, shall be of brass. (ASV)

## THE PLACE FOR PREPARATION

Reading verse **19 of Exodus 27** we read that the Furniture and Utensils in the outer court were all made of bronze (brass). The curtains that demarcated the outer court were hung on wooden pillars with bronze sockets, silver hooks and Silver bands. This is in contrast with all the furniture pieces in the tabernacle that were all coated with gold.

God had by this very act distinguished the Outer court and the Tabernacle, and in doing so He has a message to His Children and indeed the whole world. To get to the Lord's presence in the Tabernacle the Priests had to pass two Furniture pieces namely the Bronze altar and the Bronze laver.

Principally the priests and the Levites used this place as a place of preparation for the greater rituals and more sacred rites that were to be performed in the Tabernacle. The Priests and Levites normally washed themselves, anointed themselves, and ensured that they meet all the necessary requirements before going into the Tabernacle to perform other duties unto the Lord.

Today we have a spiritual order of things, as we know the priesthood of God is now in the heavens with God giving us the privilege to be part of this new priesthood. Peter stated clearly in His first letter that we are part of that priesthood today. [**1 Peter 2:9-10**]. We are called to be kings and priest unto God [**Revelation 5:9-10**]. A priest is one who approaches God and takes the needs of the people to God. They act as mediators between God and man. Today we are privileged to be part of a real priesthood which is eternal in the heavens. All the references to priests and the priesthood before the coming of Christ were only pointers to we who take hold on God's truth.

Spiritually speaking the outer court is a place of preparation for the children of God, it is a place for every one to start His walk with God. It is place were one prepares His heart on following on to know the Lord.

The wood signifies human nature; the Bronze signifies judgment while the silver signifies redemption. Knowing that the outer court had every thing made of wood, bronze and silver, God by His spirit is simply telling the Church that this place is a place relating to God's Judgment of Sin and His price for Redemption, it also talks of repentance. It is the starting point of our faith as Christians where we repent and learn the very basics of our faith in Christ Jesus.

### **PLACE FOR THE MULTITUDES**

The outer court was open to the whole tribe of Levi, which was a tribe set aside for service unto God; in that number was the High priest and His sons. Going further, only the High priest which was Aaron during the wilderness wanderings and the sons of the High priest had the right to go beyond the outer court into the holy place to perform higher things unto God.

Bear in mind that the whole tribe of the Levites could have been hundreds or even thousands, while the sons of the high priest were but a hand few. This signifies Multitudes where given access to the Outer court while fewer had access to the tabernacle.

We are all priests unto God when we accept Jesus as savior, but we will soon realize that there lies a distinction between priests according to their spiritual insight in God.

It is a known thing that the multitudes of Professing Children of God are actually in the outer court realm. God is not revealing this to hurt anyone or to close the door on anyone, He is revealing this so that people will move on into greater heights in Him.

The more we set our minds on the High calling of God the higher we go into His very presence which was found only in the Tabernacle. Even Jesus separated the disciples on several occasions. He separated the disciples on the Mount of transfiguration; he did the same at Gethsemane just before His final walk to the cross. Nine of the disciples remained at the foot of the mountain where He was to be transfigured while only three were taken up to behold the glory of

the Christ as He transfigured before them. The other nine were satisfied to remain there and Jesus knew this. If they had insisted on ascending the Hill with Jesus they too would have beheld the glory of the Christ. Remember that they were all still disciples. So we ought to seek greater things as His disciples not remaining on the earth seeking and enjoying only material blessings like the rest of the world does. Let us seek to know Him intimately like Paul once wrote that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection [**Philippians 3:10**]. Knowing Him is life and favor.

The multitudes are always known to follow the Lord, but when counting the costs of true discipleship comes, the numbers are pruned down. Many say Lord, Lord but very few ever pick up the cross and deny themselves to follow on to Know God. Jesus says this in **Luke 14:25-33**. People turn back from following on to know God on fears of leaving that false sense of existence, because their inward thoughts say that their form of self existence is eternal. Humanity will only discover with time that they have lived in the realm of the dead, they will soon discover that living means living in the knowledge of the true son of God.

The outer court is a place of decision, where the people have to search their hearts to know if they really love God and really want to fellowship with Him. It is a place where we choose to remain in the likeness of men or be transformed into the likeness of The Son, Jesus Christ to the glory of the Father. It is a place where we make up our mind to follow after the approval of men or seek after that which is from the living God. When these choices come before us, most leave the faith and prefer to hang out in religious deceit.

Reading **John 6:25-27**, Jesus had hours earlier on fed a great multitude with bread and fish, after this miracle of multiplication, this same multitudes followed Him, Why did they follow Him ? Jesus explained that they were following Him because they were filled with bread and actually desired more and more. He said they did not really want to know Him and listen to His message on the kingdom.

The same happens over and over again among the multitude of professing Christian; they seek and follow after the Lord to satisfy their belly and inner lusts for earthly things. People follow after God for promotion at work places, for riches, for Childbirth, for healing from physical diseases and sickness, for future partners and all sort of Physical natural forms of Blessing.

The multitudes do not ask for spiritual healing so that they can be perfect; they do not ask the Lord for spiritual promotion in the heavens where they can reign in the glory of the Father. They do not ask for riches in Glory; they do not ask for healing of their spiritual barrenness that they might produce seed after Christ. The moment spiritual things are preached the people categorized as the multitudes leave the presence of God. Jesus says clearly labor and seek not for things that perish but seek things about God and His kingdom that never perish.

The mystery and delusion in all this is that those who seek after earthly things get earthly things and people think they are blessed because they obtain these earthly goods. The thing here is that this earthly goods end up destroying those who receive of them, these riches cause you to be entangled with the world and eventually causes you to enter the snare of the Devil. [**1Timothy 6:5**]

We are not against wealth but we prefer to acquire wealth through the eyes of the kingdom. Seek ye first the kingdom of God and all other needs in terms of material provision will be added.

Listen to the preaching in most of the Churches today; notice that they clearly lure people into earthly lusts without knowing it. The multitudes gather unto these Churches because this is what they want to hear, they want bread for their physical bodies but very few ever ask or even seek the true spiritual bread from God that causes us to live in God's full Glory.

Those in the outer court are half-baked Christians who repent over and over again; they hear the faith message over and over again. They are known by their fruits of sicknesses, lack of love and death. It is so when we refuse to move on in the things of God that pertain to

His truth and to His glory. In the things of God we can not afford to be lukewarm or stay on a spiritual borderline. It is either we are moving on into life in Christ Jesus or we are perishing in ignorance.

### **VESSELS OF GREATER AND LESSER HONOR**

God uses vessels and utensils to describe people. Vessels like Jars or cups signify people whose true contents are within. A dish could be described as a person, when we interact with people we actually taste and eat of what they have on the inside of them, we also drink of what they have inside of them.

Jesus likened the religious scribes and Pharisees of His day as cups that looked clean on the outside but were indeed filthy inwardly. [**Luke 11:39**] Paul in His letters to the Corinthians also referred to our physical flesh bodies as vessels, which have the spirit and power of God resident in it. [**2Corinthians 4:7**]

In the same way all the vessels and utensils in the outer court were made of Bronze so were the vessels and utensils in the tabernacle made of Gold. Spiritually speaking all these vessels are types of the children of God doing service in the house of God.

They are all vessels in the House of God but some are more honorable than others. I am sure everyone wants to be a vessel of greater honor and glory in the Hands of the Lord. We therefore should not seek to be vessels of Bronze in the outer court but we should seek to be vessels of Gold in the tabernacle of God. Paul in a letter to Timothy spoke about something similar to this. [**2 Timothy 2:19-22**]. To be vessels of honor in God's House we ought to purify ourselves, and this can come only by entering deeper into the Word, by becoming more spiritual in our walk with God. Cleansing does not come from Church activities but by simply entering into a personal fellowship with God. In this fellowship we are cleansed from our filth through the realization of the God substance we are made of.

We ought to keep ourselves in honor before the Lord; we ought to clean ourselves from fornication.

**1Thessalonians 4:3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; 4:5 Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:**

Fornication talks about friendships with the world or a union with the world and the systems of the world, when we ought to be united with Christ. When I talk of the world I mean the spirit of the world which is the spirit of man or the spirit of carnality. That spirit is prevalent in the realms of religion because they worship and seek God after images raised by the traditions of men. The traditions of men are concepts thought out through the wisdom of carnal man. These is the spirit that rules the religious realm today, they are the likes of Nicodemus who was a teacher in His days. He was well respected and esteemed highly among men but lacked true knowledge and spirituality. The Lord is saying today that there is no way you can be married to religion or to the concepts of men and expect to be a sanctified vessel of honor and glory. These concepts of men like we will discover shortly are the things that corrupt and defile men. We must leave the outer court and get married to Christ and receive and be taught of Him according to the wisdom of God. The wisdom or the truth of God originates from the mind of God and sanctifies every aspect of our being.

There are vessels destined to be vessels of mercy in which the riches of His glory will be revealed. I know we all want to be in this number, so we ought to strive for Excellency before the face of God and His kingdom. [**Romans 9:23**]

When we sit back without progressing in God preferring to play Church and religion we actually remain in the outer court, the place of lesser honor and glory. This message has come to enlighten us and cause us to be converted to be like vessels of gold in the house of God. This comes by progressing spiritually.



### **THE ABSENCE OF GOD'S GLORY**

One very important thing to note is that the glory of the Lord was always confined to the Tabernacle. At the dedications of the Tabernacle the glory cloud appeared in the Tabernacle so that the priests could not enter to minister. When the Lord appeared to the children of Israel in the wilderness He normally appeared at the Door, the glory never came into the outer court. All this goes to show that the glory of God was not in the outer court. I know it is our desire to dwell in His presence where His very glory is. Abiding in the outer court will mean tapping from the glory from time to time, while going beyond the outer court in the tabernacle will mean dwelling and Living in the abundant glory of The Lord.

No wonder the psalmists which in most cases was David always longed to dwell in the house of the Lord. [Psalm 27:4-6] The psalmist did not ask that He should dwell outside the tabernacle but inside the tabernacle. The true glory and beauty of the Lord is not seen in the outer court, we can only sing for a short while after receiving salvation in the outer court but we can be rest assured that it will fade away with time. Remember the tears and love we felt when we first started with God, we would cry during praise worship and go on our very knees. All that ecstasy and joy fades away if we do not move on in God. God is saying let us move on into greater joy, peace and victory in Him. Eternal and true singing from the heart can only be found in the very tabernacle of God.

### **A REALM OF OUTER DARKNESS**

The view to the Tabernacle was veiled by

- 1) weaved goat hair
- 2) ram skin
- 3) Thick badger skin

Those in the Outer court had no view of the cherubim weaved on the Linen curtains of the inner tabernacle. They could not see the

beauty of the illumination caused by reflection of light on the gold objects from the lamp stands in the Holy place neither could they view the continuous light of God's glory that lighted up the Holies of Holies. All those in the outer court could view was dull Bronze furniture, bronze utensils, bronze sockets, silver hooks, and the dull covering of Badger skin over the tabernacle. [**Exodus 26:7-14**]

Staying in the outer court was like having People (both Christians and non-Christians) walking and, bound with the ignorance and lies of the vices of religion and of men.

The workings of God are so mysterious that those in the outer court normally will have only head knowledge of what is going on in the tabernacle. They don't see the Bread, or the light, of the lamps, they do not view the cherubim engraved all over the walls of the tabernacle, nor do they smell the incense from God's presence. [**Mark 4:10-12**]

There is always that possibility of being misunderstood by those abiding in the lower realm known as the outer court when you dwell in the Tabernacle. Coming out of the Tabernacle to tell the one outside the tabernacle what you see, what you feel and what you hear will be most certainly misunderstood because they have no view of what you see.

All this was demonstrated during the ministry of Jesus when He spoke to the crowds in parables and explained all to His disciples and others that were around Him. Notice in **Mark 4:10-12** that the Disciples and other enquirers asked Jesus to explain the parables to them, these ones were not interested in just material Bread and Physical healing, they were interested in the deeper thoughts of God. Jesus willingly and freely explained all the parables to them and said it was not given to the multitudes to understand these parables. Jesus said categorically that those outside can not understand the parables meaning they cannot understand truth which is light; they remain outside, in darkness. Christ can be found only in the tabernacle by true seekers of truth, as long as we remain outside we only view things in Parables and nothing more.

Anyone progressing in God who understands this should not get worried when some other Brethren do not understand you or when your family members begin to get worried about your view of God's creation and His plans for the salvation of mankind. The Lord has explained it all. When you speak of the things that God has revealed to you in the Tabernacle, some might actually think you have been deceived. Stopping you will look as a service to God because they are in outer darkness and they do not know the true God [**John 16:1-4**]

The outer court is like the world, it is like living in outer darkness from God's presence. As we see in the book of revelations the outer court has and will be given over to the gentiles. [**Revelations 11:1-6**] Who are the gentiles? The gentiles are the nations walking in ignorance of the Father and the Son; they walk and live according to the vanity of their minds like Paul will say. The whole world, both religious and non religious who have not tasted of the salvation of God are gentiles [**Ephesians 4:17**].

God's intention is to give His best to His saints; we must leave the outer court and move into the glorious presence of God in the tabernacle. When we refuse to hearken to the call to arise and go into His presence we remain in the outer darkness that is in the outer court. Just imagine the dullness of the furniture and utensils, all without illumination, that is the outer court.

Jesus always referred to a place called the place of outer darkness in His Parables; this simply describes the outer court. Playing religion will lead us no where, The Lord expects us to grow and He is glorified when we grow in the faith. He expects that the saints move from the elementary teachings of repentance and baptism and move on into perfection. He expects that we be transformed into His very likeness; His likeness is pure light and no darkness at all. His likeness is perfect Love, perfect health, power, might, and eternal life. We must move up from confessing sins every Sunday in Church, we must move up from daily altar calls. Let us move on from religious activities, let us move on to perfection in the Lord.

We will move on to unveil God's thoughts in relation to the two major Furniture pieces in **the outer court. They are**

- a) **THE BRONZE ALTAR**
- b) **THE BRONZE LAVER**

The next two Chapters will be dedicated to these two Furniture Pieces.

