

Pearl Seeking

TREASURING HIS WORD

Let's do a quick overview of the entire Torah portion:

Monday:	Ex. 30:11-31:18	The half-shekel contribution to Yahweh; The bronze basin, anointing oil and incense; Appointing Betsal'el and Oholiab, Sabbath instruction; The 2 tablets of the Witness
Tuesday:	Ex. 32	The golden calf incident
Wednesday:	Ex. 33:1-11	Seeking Yahweh after the golden calf incident; The Tent of Meeting outside the camp
Thursday:	Ex. 33:12-23	Mosheh asks to see Yahweh's esteem
Friday:	Ex. 34	Mosheh cuts the second tablet of stones and sees Yahweh's esteem; The 13 attributes of Yahweh; Instruction to the children of Yisra'el

Our journey through the last few parshas have taught us about the Dwelling Place that Yahweh wanted the children of Yisra'el to build for Him. In this week's Parsha Pearls lessons we will continue learning about the Dwelling Place, and will now cover the making of the courtyard and its furnishings - the bronze altar, its utensils and the bronze wash basin. In order to get the most complete picture of the courtyard, this lesson will include verses from other parshas as well. Now, let's read Ex. 27:1-19; 30:17-21; 38:1-20 & 40:6-7.

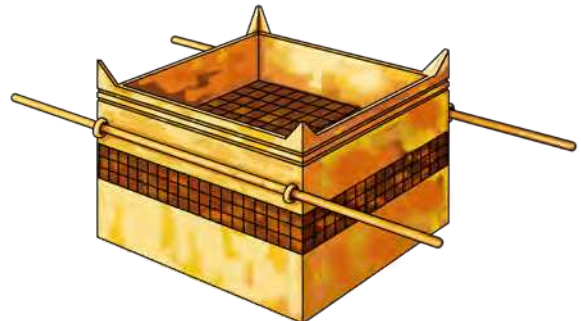
Terms to know: For the following 3 terms, we at MTOI have chosen to use the wording in the earlier edition (98" version) of the ISR Scriptures. Please use this as a resource for your study.

Tent of Meeting = Tent of Appointment
altar = slaughter-place
burnt offering = ascending offering

PARSHA POINTS

Altar (27:1-8; 38:1-7; 40:6)

- Yahweh's specifications for the altar (**mizbeach**)
 - made of acacia wood
 - hollow with boards, as shown on the mountain
 - overlaid with bronze (**nechoshet**)
 - its shape was to be a square
 - to be placed before the door of the Dwelling Place of the Tent of Meeting



- The altar's measurements
 - 5 (**chamesh**) cubits long ($7\frac{1}{2}$ ft.)
 - 5 cubits wide ($7\frac{1}{2}$ ft.)
 - 3 (**shalosh**) cubits high ($4\frac{1}{2}$ ft.)
- The altar's parts
 - 4 (**arba**) horns on its 4 corners - all the same size
 - 1 (**achat**) removable bronze grating network under the rim, placed halfway up the altar
 - 4 bronze rings at its 4 corners, as holders for the 2 (**shtayim**) poles

Poles for Altar (27:6-7; 38:6-7)

- Yahweh's specifications for the poles
 - 2 poles
 - made of acacia wood
 - overlaid with bronze
 - each pole was to be inserted into 2 rings on each side of the altar
 - their purpose was to help lift the altar



Bronze Utensils for Altar (27:3, 19; 38:3)

- pots and pans - to hold the ashes that were taken outside the camp
- shovels - used to clear away the ashes from the altar and place them into the pots/pans
- basins - the priests would catch the blood in the basin and use it to sprinkle blood on the altar and pour blood at the base of the altar
- forks - an instrument with 3 prongs used for placing the pieces of the offering upon the altar
- fire holders and fire pans - for moving coals from the bronze altar to the altar of incense



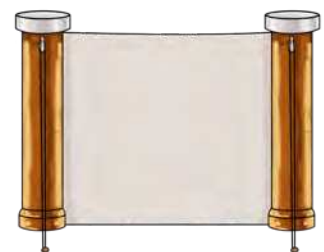
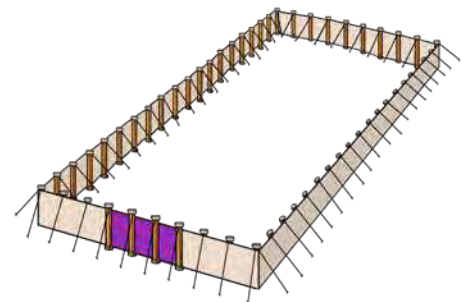
Wash Basin and Stand (30:17-21; 40:7)

- Yahweh's specifications for the wash basin (**kiyor**) and stand
 - made completely of bronze
 - to be placed between the Tent of Meeting and the altar
 - to have water in it
- The basin and stand were made from the bronze mirrors of the serving women who did service at the door of the Tent of Meeting - 38:8
- Aharon and his sons were to wash their hands and feet in the basin when they:
 - went into the Tent of Meeting
 - came near the altar to attend it
 - offered an offering made by fire to Yahweh
- The priests were to wash their hands and feet with water from the basin before performing their service - a law forever to them and their seed, lest they die - 30:20-21



Courtyard (**Khatzer**) of the Dwelling Place (27:9-19; 38:9-20)

- Measurements of the courtyard
 - 100 (**me'ah**) cubits long (150 ft.)
 - 50 (**chamishim**) cubits wide (75 ft.)
 - 5 cubits high (7½ ft.)
- Screens
 - made of fine woven linen
 - 5 screens (1 on the south, 1 on the north, 1 on the west, 2 on the east) - on each side of the gate
 - suspended from columns/pillars which were 5 cubits apart (7½ ft.)



- Measurements of the screens
 - 100 cubits long (150 ft.) on south
 - 100 cubits long (150 ft.) on north side
 - 50 cubits wide (75 ft.) on west side
 - 30 (**shloshim**) cubits wide (45 ft.) on east side (to allow for the 20-cubit (**esrim**) gate)
 - 5 cubits high (7½ ft.) on all sides

- Columns, Sockets, Pegs

- made of bronze
- 60 (**shishim**) bronze columns
- 60 bronze sockets
- 60 pegs

- Bands and Hooks

- made of silver
- 60 bands
- 60 hooks

South and North side

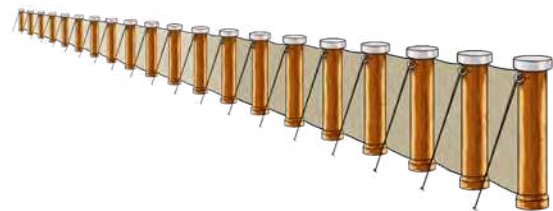
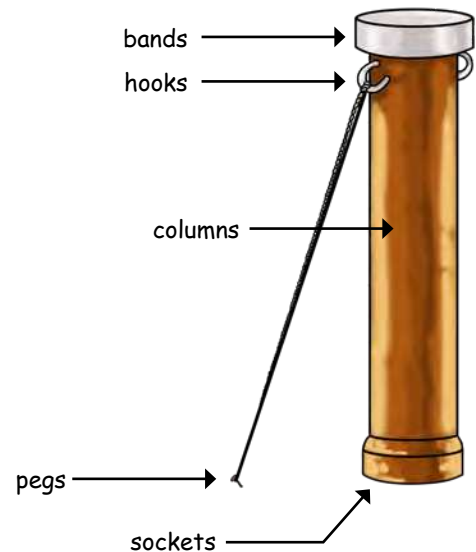
- Screens

- made of fine woven linen
- 1 screen on each side

- Measurements of the screens

- 100 cubits long (150 ft.) on each side
- 5 cubits high (7½ ft.) on each side

- 40 (**arba'im**) bronze columns (20 on each side)
- 40 bronze sockets and pegs (20 on each side)
- 40 silver bands (20 on each side)
- 40 silver hooks (20 on each side)



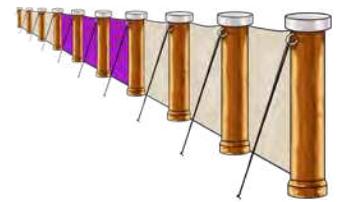
West side

- Screen
 - made of fine woven linen
 - 1 screen
- Measurements of the screen
 - 50 cubits wide (75 ft.)
 - 5 cubits high ($7\frac{1}{2}$ ft.)
- 10 (**eser**) bronze columns
- 10 bronze sockets and pegs
- 10 silver bands
- 10 silver hooks



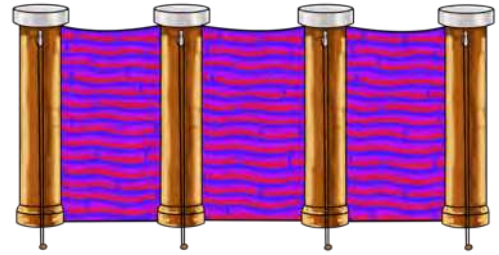
East side

- Screens
 - made of fine woven linen
 - 2 screens
 - 6 (**shesh**) bronze columns
 - 6 bronze sockets and pegs - (3 on each side of the gate)
 - 6 silver bands
 - 6 silver hooks
- Measurements of the screens
 - 30 cubits wide (45 ft.)
 - screens on either side of the gate were each 15 (**chamesh esre**) cubits ($22\frac{1}{2}$ ft.)



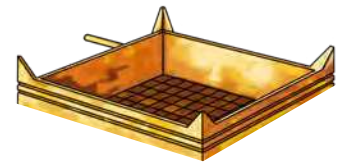
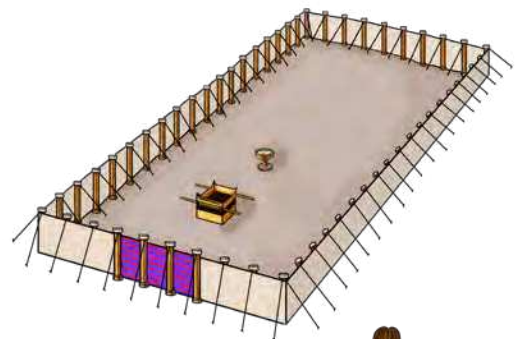
Gate

- made of fine woven linen, using 3 colors
 - blue
 - purple
 - scarlet
- had 4 bronze columns
- had 4 bronze sockets and pegs
- had 4 silver bands
- had 4 silver hooks
- Measurements of the gate
 - 20 cubits wide (30 ft.)
 - 5 cubits high (7½ ft.)



Fun Facts

- The length and width of the courtyard created 2 perfect squares. (75 ft. x 75 ft.)
- The pegs of bronze were like nails that were driven into the ground, to which the ropes/cords were attached. The pegged cords added strength and protection from wind, etc.
- We are told how they were to carry the altar - on its poles, but we are not told how they were to carry the wash basin.
- The priest would change out of his priestly garments and take the ashes from the bronze altar to a designated place outside the camp.
- The bronze grating allowed the fat to drip down and the ashes to fall below.
- The bronze grating was the same distance from the ground as the lid of atonement on the ark.



DIGGING DEEPER

Parents/Teachers may choose to use these prompts for further discussion of the Torah portion.

- What was the purpose of the horns on the bronze altar?
- Why do you think Yahweh had rings placed on the altar in order to hand carry it, instead of allowing it to be placed onto a wagon?
- Research the 5 types of offerings made on the bronze altar (found in Leviticus 1-6).
- Talk about the importance of following the pattern exactly so. What would happen if they created the tabernacle the way they wanted to, or used inferior materials?
- Why do you think Yahweh gave details about what to do with the ashes? Why were they taken to a clean place outside the camp, and why did the priest have to put on special clothing to do this?

