

Exodus 27:9–19

What the Tabernacle Hangings Taught about God's Presence Among His People

Friday, December 16, 2022 ▫ Read Exodus 27:9–19

Questions from the Scripture text: What does v9 command to be made? Which side is described first? Of what is this side made up? What are they made of? How long is the side of the court? How many pillars (v10)? How many sockets? Made of what? What two features will each pillar have? Made of what? Which side does v11 describe? With what length and features? Which side does v12 describe? How long is it? With how many pillars and sockets? Which side does v13 describe? With what length? How much of this length is to the one side of the gate (v14)? With how many pillars and sockets? How much on the other side (v15)? With how many pillars and sockets? How long, then, is the gate itself (v16)? Of what is the screen for it made? Made by whom? And how many pillars and sockets? What features are restated in v17? For how many of the pillars around the court? What does this make the full dimensions of the court (v18)? How tall are these hangings? Of what are all the tools and parts to be made (v19)?

What would non-priests' experience of the tabernacle be? Exodus 27:9–19 looks forward to the p.m. sermon on the coming Lord's Day. In these eleven verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the tabernacle had a large court, with tall walls that communicated spaciousness, separation, and specialness.**

From the Holy of Holies, God's instructions for the tabernacle construction have moved further and further out until this point, where we get to the very outside of the tabernacle. There are several things that we can observe from the instructions for the outer court.

Spaciousness. The court for this tent was roughly ¼ the size of a football field (approximately half the width and half the length). This is going to be a hub of activity, and room will be needed for all of this.

Separation. Israel were not a people of giants, which would become an obstacle before long. So the 7.5 foot tall pillars and hangings all the way around would definitely give the tabernacle precinct the sense of distinctness and separation. Later, Solomon's temple would have two courts, and at the time of Christ's earthly ministry, Herod's temple had four courts. Gentiles could only go as far as the furthest out. This separation becomes a tangible reminder not only of our separation from God and one another, but of the reconciliation that Christ alone brings (cf. Eph 2:14–22).

Specialness. Even this far out, rich materials are being used. Finely woven linen for the hangings. The twenty cubit (!) screen in v16 is of the same material as the one that led into the Holy Place. Sixty pillars of bronze, 7.5' tall, with sockets of bronze and hooks and bands of silver, held up these hangings. In fact, not only was bronze used for these, and for the pegs, but even for the tools for making the tabernacle and any tools used within the tabernacle.

There is no longer a tabernacle or temple complex because Christ has torn down the dividing wall. All who are in Him have the same access to God, because all who are in Him are brought into the nearest intimacy with God. Praise and thanksgiving were the proper disposition with which to come to His court.

Now, having been instructed by the tabernacle construction, we learn to be conscientious about approaching God in worship. Even though we may do so in any place, yet we must do so with reverence and awe, and with thanksgiving and praise.

How can you come near to God? In what manner ought you to do so? How have you practiced this?

Sample prayer: Lord, we thank You for bringing us near to Yourself in Jesus Christ—for giving us access to Yourself through Him and in Him. You have brought us near to Yourself, so give us to praise and adore You with reverence and joy. And You have brought us near to one another, so give us to be kind to one another and tenderhearted, loving and forgiving one another. We thank You for being so unto us in Christ, in Whose Name we pray, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP51B "From My Sins, O Hide Your Face" or TPH275 "Arise, My Soul, Arise"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Exodus 27 verses 9 through 19. These are God's words. You're also make the court of the tabernacle for the south side. There should be hangings for the court made of fine wave and linen. 100 cubits long for one side. And it's 20 pillars and they're 20 sockets shall be bronze.

The hooks of the pillars and their bands shall be silver. Likewise along the length of the north side. There shall be hanging. So 100 cubits long with its 20 pillars and they're 20 sockets of bronze. And the hooks of the pillars and their bands of silver. And along the width of the court on the west side shall be hangings at 50 cubits.

With their 10 pillars and their 10 sockets. The width of the court, on the east side, shall be 50 cubits, the hangings on one side of the gate shall be 15 cubits with their three pillars. And there are three sockets. And on the other side there shall be hanging so 15 cubits.

With their three pillars and their three sockets. And for the gay to the court, there shall be a screen, 20 cubits long. We have enough blue, purple, and scarlet, thread, and five. Find woven linen made by a weaver. It shall have four pillars and four sockets. And the pillars round, the court shall have bands of silver.

Their hooks shall be of silver and their sockets of bronze. The length of the court shall be 100 cubits. The width 50 throughout and the height five cubits made of fine woven linen. And it's sockets of bronze. All the utensils for the tabernacle for all its service, all its pegs And all the pegs of the court shall be.

Of bronze. So far, the Reading of god's inspired and inherent worked.

This week, we come from. The bronze altar which was right outside. The holy place.

All the way out to the. Outer border of the tabernacle court. Where we have these hangings and There's a pillar every few cubits. And then the hangings. And the hangings are five cubits high, which is about seven and a half feet. And so, You know, a foot taller. Uh, then peter So, maybe if Um, Ezekiel, or someone taller.

Sat on peter's shoulders. They could just barely see over the top of the hangings. That were around the court of the tabernacle. Now. The court itself. Communicates. Uh, the spaciousness of This tent area, it would be clear to israel who was the king in the center of the camp.

Because you think about how many people there were in the camp. It's unlikely that they were well spaced out. Um, but this tint precinct was half the width of a football field and half the length of a football field. Uh, which sounds like it's half the size, but it's actually a quarter of the size since you could.

Uh, you could fit four of those and but it's pretty big, isn't it? Uh, quarter size of the football field with the hangings tall enough, that certainly no. Israelite. Although perhaps one of the anochem or One of the fellows from gap would be, it would have been tall enough to look in, but the israelites aren't giants.

We know that because it was a problem for them that other people were giant. And so, Uh, you'd have the The height and the width and the length of it. Would communicate to them the kingliness of god. And it would also feature very strongly in the camp itself. It would be the tallest thing in the camp.

Uh, so Wherever. Uh, wherever the tabernacle was Wherever you were in the camp, you could look around. And if you had line of sight to it, you can see it because it was the tallest thing. Nothing was Um, Nothing was Else would be tall enough to get in your way, i guess.

If Extra short. Everything's tall enough to get in your way. As Sofia probably knows. Since everything is still huge to her. Um, But, The lord is emphasizing his kingliness the importance. Of his presence with them, the importance of the worship, and particularly the sacrifices through which Access to the the holy place.

Was granted. And, As you remember, all the The the different reasons for sacrifice and so forth. It would also be a hub. Of activity. So even as he gives us, you know, the height of the curtains and the length and width of the Of the temple, precinct of the temple court, he is reminding.

Us of and emphasizing to us. The kingliness of god, the importance of his presence, among his people that, This. Uh, this tabernacle complexes tabernacle with its court and, and the precinct inside. There inside the hangings. Would be the primary feature. Of the people of god. Just as our own.

Uh, worship and interaction with god, is dwelling among us. Uh, ought to be the primary feature of our lives. Not only in the set times when we actually gather for worship or sit down for prayer. Reading. Well, but that we would always be able to have it and view that the rest of our life would be lived in view of and in awareness of That aspect of worship.

So there's The holiness and consecration of the worship time itself and that communicates to us by its prominence, And significance. That we are to be consecrated to god in all of life. And even the dimensions of the tabernacle did that for them? It would however also communicate to them separation that Uh, that this is a a different world and it's a world that unless you come Uh, through the screen through the way that has been.

Provided for you. And as you come in the east end there, the first great thing that you would see is the altar, you couldn't go into the holy of holies, but you could come with your sacrifice to the priests, you would Um, you would have the sacrifice and they would enter the holy place.

Uh they wouldn't enter the holy of Holies and just expect that you couldn't enter the holy place but they could because they are priests But this adds yet another layer, this very tall. A set of hangings all the way around the tabernacle adds another layer. Of distinctness and separation, which of course.

We feel even now. Uh, because of our sinfulness although by faith, we know that we have come near in christ, and one day, we will be in the meat immediate presence of the display of his glory. Um, and so there was this Uh, there was this communication of Uh, separation.

And Being. Uh, kept out except for by special occasion. But there was not the Uh, the familiarity or intimacy with god now. Uh, we don't have that anymore. We come all the way into the holy of holies as it worked through christ. And he has also overcome. Or. Um, put away the the feeling of separation, even by sending the spirit of his son into our hearts, because we are his children as Galatians 4 says, and the holy spirit teaches us to call God, our abba.

Our father. This doesn't diminish God's glory at all. Um, And we must never be those who are casual with god or treat him lightly, or take him lightly and yet this closeness to him. And this Um, this nearness to him that we have is all the greater by its contrast to the separateness Uh, that he communicated, even by the hangings, that surrounded, the court, and then closely related to the separatenesses, the specialness, even of the outer hangings, even of the outer courts.

Uh, you have the hanging made of fine web and linen. Um, Now, it doesn't have the The blue and purple and scarlet. Thread like the screen does. But the screen does have the blue and purple and scarlet, thread. And you have Pillars and sockets. Uh, made of bronze and Hooks made of silver.

And all of this communicates. Again, the specialness the value, the, the holiness, the greatness, Of the tabernacle and not just the holiness of the tabernacle itself. One of the things that i think is obscured a little bit by our English translation verse 19. And when it says, all the utensils of the tabernacle for all its service, Um, Is, it's not just Pegs that you would drive into the ground to hold the pillars in place with everything stretched around, but even those were made of bronze, but it would include everything that was used for fashioning.

Things from the tabernacle. So Uh, tools that were That were employed for. For the making of the different things. Those also. Uh, were to be fashioned. From bronze. And so, The. The specialness of this tint would communicate to them. That's centrality, the greatness of their god and his kingliness among them.

And mercy and the majesty. Of his presence with them. And, of course, all of these things are not communicated to us. By temple hangings, by Um, But by the fact that in order to Uh, draw near to us and have us draw near to him. God himself took on flesh.

And the person of our lord jesus christ. And the way that he has saved us is by uniting us through jesus to jesus through faith. That we might be adopted as sons in the only begotten son. And that because we are sons. We have been in dwelt by god, the holy spirit.

He has sent forth the spirit of his son into our hearts and Um, That communicates to us the significance. And, The holiness, the value. Of belonging to god. And Having him. As the. Center of our lives that That we would not. Just think of him every once in a while.

When it's worship time. But that the The majesty of his worship. Uh, would shape how we think how we feel. What we desire, our purpose and everything we do. So that we would live consecrated lives. As those who have been adopted by the father united to the sun. And then dwelt by the holy spirit.

Let's pray. Our father in heaven. We thank you for Your mercy too. Israel, that Long before. They could have understood. Many of the things that we now know, About how we are brought near and Even who it was. Who would be the The redeemer. Still, you were already communicating.

To. The greatness. And Of your presence among them and the centrality. The importance of your presence among them and The value. Love your presence among them. And we pray, lord that you would Help us. To value. You appreciate you adore you Respond to you. For if it was important that they would understand and respond to you, The weather as much as you had shown them.

How much more When you? I have sent your only begotten, son. And in him. You have. Come near and brought us near to you. Shortly. Oh lord. We ought All the more. To adore you and be aware of our lives being consecrated to you. And to live that way.

So we pray for the help of your spirit. That he would grant to us to know. The reality of your. Having dwelt with us. The lord jesus and Having comment. Made your and his home with us by the ministry of your spirit. For which ministry, we ask in jesus name.

Amen.