

Exodus 38:1-31 The Outer Court

Moses had been instructed and given the pattern of the Tabernacle by YeHoVaH. The work of constructing the Tabernacle, and all of the components needed to do the work, had been committed to Bezaleel, Aholiab, and every wise hearted person in whose heart YeHoVaH had put wisdom, even everyone whose heart stirred them up to come and do the work. Moses gave them the pattern and all the offerings that had been given for the work.

As the work commenced, a pattern emerged that revealed the order in which the construction of the Sanctuary of YeHoVaH was made. The Most Holy Place and the Holy Place were completed along with the items that would be placed in the Sanctuary for the work of the service that would be commanded.

In this portion of Exodus, the focus of the work turns to the construction of an essential, indispensable, vital part of the Tabernacle service. Without it, the work and function of the Priests and High Priest would virtually cease.

The Brass or Brasen Altar

Ex 38:1 And he made the altar of burnt offering of shittim wood: five cubits was the length thereof, and five cubits the breadth thereof; it was foursquare; and three cubits the height thereof.

Ex 38:2 And he made the horns thereof on the four corners of it; the horns thereof were of the same: and he overlaid it with brass.

Brass/Brasen/Copper – 05178 נְּשִׁיחַ nechosheth {nekh-o'-sheth} Meaning: 1) copper, bronze 1a) copper (ore), bronze (as copper alloy) 1b) fetters (of copper or bronze) 1c) copper (as value) 2) lust, harlotry 2a) meaning dubious

Usage: AV - brass 103, brasen 28, fetters 4, chain 3, copper 1, filthiness 1, steel 1; 141

Ex 38:3 And he made all the vessels of the altar, the pots, and the shovels, and the basins, and the fleshhooks, and the firepans: all the vessels thereof made he of brass.

Ex 38:4 And he made for the altar a brasen grate of network under the compass thereof beneath unto the midst of it.

The Brasen Altar was possibly the most important item in the Tabernacle.

Brasen is the same word for Brass.

The Brasen Altar was used daily.

In fact, after the Babylonian Captivity, the Ark of the Covenant was never recovered, and the High Priests continued to do their work without it up until the Temple was no more.

After the Maccabean revolt, it was the Altar that was rededicated resulting in modern day Hanukkah.

Ex 38:5 And he cast four rings for the four ends of the grate of brass, to be places for the staves.

Ex 38:6 And he made the staves of shittim wood, and overlaid them with brass.

Ex 38:7 And he put the staves into the rings on the sides of the altar, to bear it withal; he made the altar hollow with boards.

The Brass or Brasen Laver

Ex 38:8 And he made the laver of brass, and the foot of it of brass, of the looking glasses of the women assembling, which assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

The Tabernacle Courtyard

The outer courtyard was holy, for without the work performed in the outer court, the work in the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place could not be done.

The Tabernacle Courtyard was where all the animal sacrifices were prepared and offered on the Brasen Altar.

Ex 38:9 And he made the court: on the south side southward the hangings of the court were of fine twined linen, an hundred cubits:

Ex 38:10 Their pillars were twenty, and their brasen sockets twenty; the hooks of the pillars and their fillets were of silver.

Ex 38:11 And for the north side the hangings were an hundred cubits, their pillars were twenty, and their sockets of brass twenty; the hooks of the pillars and their fillets of silver.

Ex 38:12 And for the west side were hangings of fifty cubits, their pillars ten, and their sockets ten; the hooks of the pillars and their fillets of silver.

Ex 38:13 And for the east side eastward fifty cubits.

Ex 38:14 The hangings of the one side of the gate were fifteen cubits; their pillars three, and their sockets three.

Ex 38:15 And for the other side of the court gate, on this hand and that hand, were hangings of fifteen cubits; their pillars three, and their sockets three.

Ex 38:16 All the hangings of the court round about were of fine twined linen.

Ex 38:17 And the sockets for the pillars were of brass; the hooks of the pillars and their fillets of silver; and the overlaying of their chapters of silver; and all the pillars of the court were filleted with silver.

Ex 38:18 And the hanging for the gate of the court was needlework, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen: and twenty cubits was the length, and the height in the breadth was five cubits, answerable to the hangings of the court.

Ex 38:19 And their pillars were four, and their sockets of brass four; their hooks of silver, and the overlaying of their chapters and their fillets of silver.

Ex 38:20 And all the pins of the tabernacle, and of the court round about, were of brass.

Ex 38:30 And therewith he made the sockets to the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and the brasen altar, and the brasen grate for it, and all the vessels of the altar,

Brass or Brasen was also called Copper and Steel in the Scriptures.

Ezr 8:27 Also twenty basins of gold, of a thousand drams; and two vessels of fine copper, precious as gold.

Jer 15:12 Shall iron break the northern iron and the steel?

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Ex 38:21 This is the sum of the tabernacle, even of the tabernacle of testimony, as it was counted, according to the commandment of Moses, for the service of the Levites, by the hand of Ithamar, son to Aaron the priest.

Ithamar was appointed by Moses as treasurer of the items of gold, silver, and brass.

Ithamar was Aaron's youngest son. It is not clear if Moses was instructed by YeHoVaH to assign this responsibility to Ithamar, but we know YeHoVaH appointed Ithamar to oversee the Gershonites who were assigned to carry the Tabernacle curtains and utensils when they moved from place to place.

Numbers 4:21-28

Nu 4:21 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Nu 4:22 Take also the sum of the sons of Gershon, throughout the houses of their fathers, by their families;

Nu 4:23 From thirty years old and upward until fifty years old shalt thou number them; all that enter in to perform the service, to do the work in the tabernacle of the congregation.

Nu 4:24 This is the service of the families of the Gershonites, to serve, and for burdens:

Nu 4:25 And they shall bear the curtains of the tabernacle, and the tabernacle of the congregation, his covering, and the covering of the badgers' skins that is above upon it, and the hanging for the door of the tabernacle of the congregation,

Nu 4:26 And the hangings of the court, and the hanging for the door of the gate of the court, which is by the tabernacle and by the altar round about, and their cords, and all the instruments of their service, and all that is made for them: so shall they serve.

Nu 4:27 At the appointment of Aaron and his sons shall be all the service of the sons of the Gershonites, in all their burdens, and in all their service: and ye shall appoint unto them in charge all their burdens.

Nu 4:28 This is the service of the families of the sons of Gershon in the tabernacle of the congregation: and their charge shall be under the hand of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.

Ex 38:22 And Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, made all that the LORD commanded Moses.

Ex 38:23 And with him was Aholiab, son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, an engraver, and a cunning workman, and an embroiderer in blue, and in purple, and in scarlet, and fine linen.

Ex 38:24 All the gold that was occupied for the work in all the work of the holy place, even the gold of the offering, was twenty and nine talents, and seven hundred and thirty shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary.

Gold = about 2,200 pounds

Ex 38:25 And the silver of them that were numbered of the congregation was an hundred talents, and a thousand seven hundred and threescore and fifteen shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary:

Silver = about 7,545 pounds

Ex 38:26 A bekah for every man, that is, half a shekel, after the shekel of the sanctuary, for every one that went to be numbered, from twenty years old and upward, for six hundred thousand and three thousand and five hundred and fifty men.

Ex 38:27 And of the hundred talents of silver were cast the sockets of the sanctuary, and the sockets of the veil; an hundred sockets of the hundred talents, a talent for a socket.

Ex 38:28 And of the thousand seven hundred seventy and five shekels he made hooks for the pillars, and overlaid their chapiters, and filleted them.

Ex 38:29 And the brass of the offering was seventy talents, and two thousand and four hundred shekels.

Brass/Bronze = about 5,310 pounds.

\$10,089.00 at today's value

Gold = about 2,200 pounds

\$63,335,360.00 at today's value

Silver = about 7,545 pounds

\$2,692,056.00 at today's value

Combined Gold, Silver and Copper value today = \$ 66,037,416

Those numbers do not include the oils, spices, textiles/fabrics, wood, labor time, or maintenance of the Tabernacle. Also, those numbers do not include the daily, weekly, Feasts, or special offerings.

Ex 38:30 And therewith he made the sockets to the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and the brasen altar, and the brasen grate for it, and all the vessels of the altar,

Ex 38:31 And the sockets of the court round about, and the sockets of the court gate, and all the pins of the tabernacle, and all the pins of the court round about.