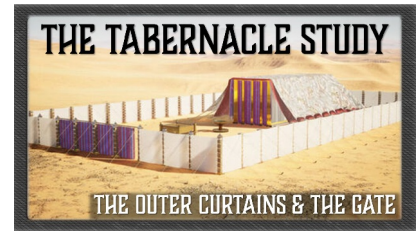


Church of God

Sunday School



THE TABERNACLE #2 – THE OUTER CURTAINS AND THE GATE

DAILY READINGS:

- ❑ **Monday:** The Tabernacle was surrounded by a wall of curtains (Exodus 27:9-15).
- ❑ **Tuesday:** God's people are pillars in the Church of God (Revelation 3:12; Colossians 2:6-7; 1 Timothy 3:15).
- ❑ **Wednesday:** Our flesh must be kept under the Word (Romans 8:8; 1 Corinthians 9:27; Galatians 5:24-25).
- ❑ **Thursday:** God's people are to be witnesses for Christ (John 14:8-9; Acts 3:4).
- ❑ **Friday:** Jesus is the only way to God (John 10:7-11; Acts 4:10-12).
- ❑ **Saturday:** Jesus is Divine (from Heaven), King, and Savior (John 8:23; Revelation 19:13-16; 1 John 1:7).

MEMORY VERSE: *"If I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."*

—John 12:32

A Wall of Curtains

The Tabernacle was surrounded by a wall of curtains. God gave Moses exact instructions about their size, color, material, and where to hang them. The curtains were the first thing people saw when they looked toward the Tabernacle. They separated the Tabernacle from the outside world. In this lesson, we will learn why the details mattered, what the curtains represent, and what they teach us about being one of God's people today.

The curtains (also called "hangings") were 100 cubits long, 50 cubits wide, and 5 cubits tall (Exodus 27:9-13, 18). A cubit was an ancient measurement from a man's elbow to his fingertip (approximately 18 inches). This means the outer court of the Tabernacle was about 150 feet by 75 feet, and the curtains were 7½ feet tall.



Curtains of "Fine, Twined Linen"

The curtains were made of "fine linen," a valuable cloth made from the flax plant. The linen curtains stood out in the dusty wilderness setting. "Fine linen" represents "the righteousness of the saints" (Revelation 19:8). A holy (sin-free) life shows others the way to God. The linen was also "twined," meaning each thread was made of many delicate strands. This made the linen stronger. This teaches a lesson about unity. Ecclesiastes 4:12 says, "A threefold cord [God, you, and me] is not quickly broken." Unity keeps God's people together. How important to avoid the things that tear us apart!

The distinctive curtains remind us God wants His people to live holy lives and have unity with other Christians. Some say the outward appearance does not matter because "God looks on the heart." While this is true, people cannot see our hearts. What they see is "the outward appearance" (1 Samuel 16:7), how we look, act, and live. One song says, *"Your life's the only Bible that some people read."* Does your life point others to Christ?

Curtains Held Up by Pillars

The curtains could not stand on their own. They needed to be attached to *pillars* to hold them up. A pillar is something strong that does not move. In the same way, when righteousness and unity are working in the lives of God's people, Christ is "lifted up," and others are drawn to Him (John 12:32).

"A pillar" is described as someone who overcomes (Revelation 3:12). You can have victory over sin by becoming

"rooted" and "stablished in the faith" (Colossians 2:7). This happens through reading the Bible, studying, praying, and being faithful in worship services. Pillars are not only the older, established saints—God wants younger people to be strong and grounded in the Word too. This helps you avoid being blown about (misled, deceived) by "every wind of doctrine" (Ephesians 4:14).

Pillars Made of Wood and Covered in Brass

The pillars were made of acacia wood but covered in brass to protect from decay. The wood represents our human nature—our thoughts and reactions. Brass represents the judgments of God's Word. God does not want our flesh (human ideas) on display. Paul said it is important to keep our body under (1 Corinthians 9:27). Human thoughts that are contrary to God's Word need to be covered by the brass (put under the judgments of God's Word). When you struggle with human ideas, responses, and desires (perhaps thinking, "I am going to give them a piece of my mind"), stop and ask, "What does the Bible say?" Submitting your thoughts to what God says protects from spiritual decay and death.

The Fillets and the Hooks of Silver

The tops (caps or "chapters") of the pillars had silver connecting rods called "fillets." Silver often represents salvation in the Bible. Joseph (who saved people from starvation) was sold for 20 pieces of silver (Genesis 37:28), and Jesus (who saves us from sin) was betrayed for 30 pieces of silver (Matthew 26:15).

Fillet means "joiners" and "to love." Just as the fillets joined the pillars together, the plan of salvation (which includes His great love) holds God's people together. Having ALL the same beliefs does not join us. We do not all have the same level of understanding. Jesus said our "love one to another" shows the world that we "are [His] disciples" (John 13:35).

The pillars ("posts") also had silver hooks for the ropes ("cords") that connected to the tent pegs (brass "pins"). Clasps ("taches") kept the curtains fastened together, and bases ("sockets") held the pillars steady. When everything was joined (by "fillets") and anchored (with hooks, ropes, pins), nothing moved. Likewise, when we are connected and anchored in Christ, He becomes "an anchor of the soul" (Hebrews 6:19).

Only One Gate

No matter where someone came from, there was only one entrance into the Tabernacle—the Gate. Today, some people say there are many ways to God, but Jesus said, "I am the door" (John 10:7). Anyone who tries to come another way is a "thief and a robber" (John 10:1). Peter, speaking of Jesus, said, "Neither is there salvation in any other" (Acts 4:12). The one entrance into the Tabernacle teaches that the only way into God's presence is through His Son, Jesus.

Each detail of the Gate curtain teaches spiritual lessons about Jesus.

Blue (the color of the heavens): Jesus came from Heaven (John 8:23).

Purple (the color of royalty): Jesus is King (Revelation 19:13-16).

Scarlet (the color of blood): Jesus is our Savior (1 John 1:7).

To be saved, we must accept all the truths these colors represent.

Exodus 27:16

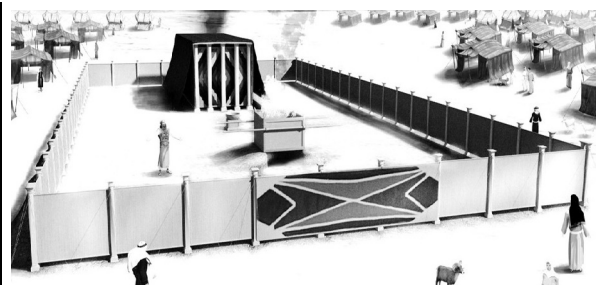
"BLUE" — Jesus is Divine

"PURPLE" — Jesus is the King (Lord of your life)

"SCARLET" — Jesus is our Savior

"FINE, TWINED LINEN" — Righteousness & unity

"WROUGHT WITH NEEDLEWORK" — All the truths are woven together



Bible Quiz



1. When people looked toward the Tabernacle, what was the first thing they saw? _____
2. What is a cubit? _____

3. What are the curtains of "twined linen" a picture of? _____

4. What do the pillars represent? _____
5. Why were the pillars covered with brass? _____

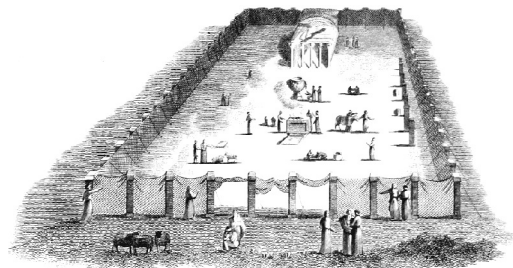
6. What does *silver* represent? _____
7. What does the word *fillet* mean? _____
8. As "pillars," we must be connected and anchored in _____
9. Some say, "There are many ways to God." What are some of the verses in the Bible that disprove this?

10. What does the one entrance into the Tabernacle teach us? _____

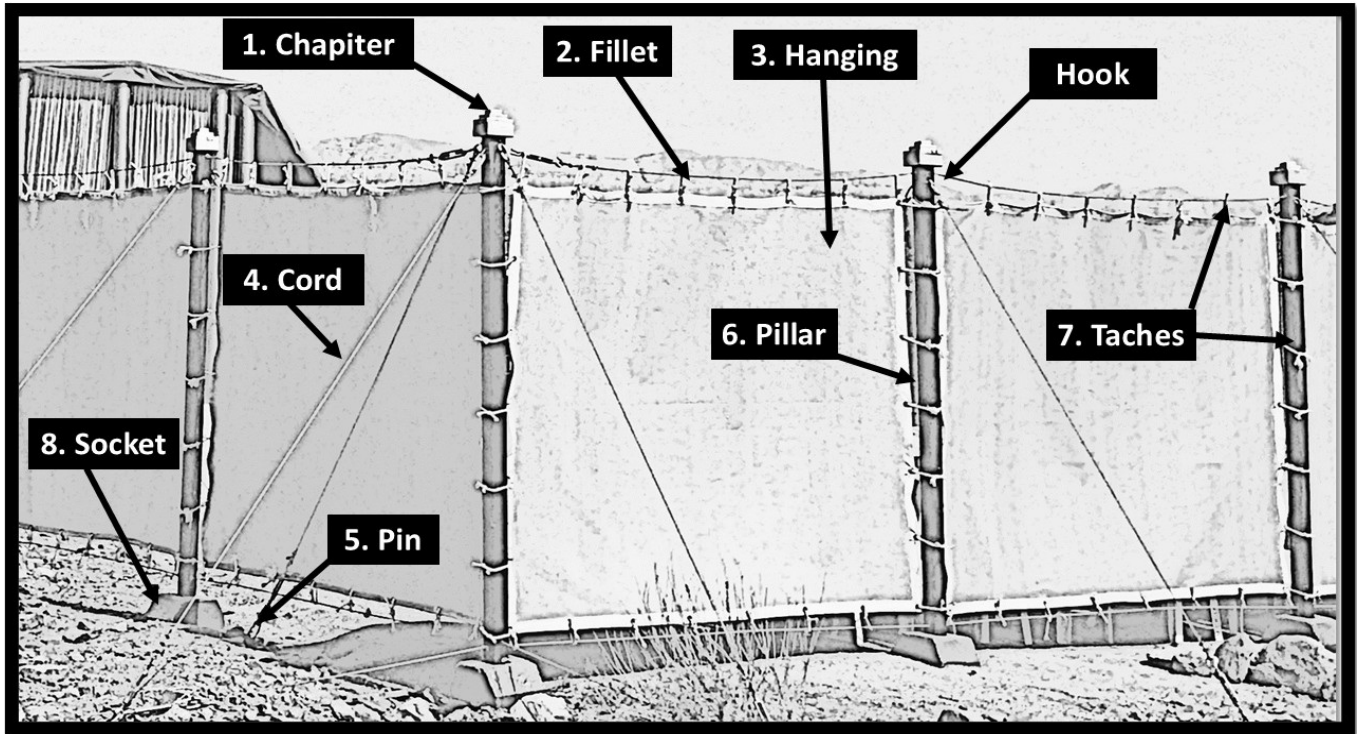
11. To be _____ (represented by journeying from the wilderness into the Tabernacle) we must accept the _____ these three colors represent.

DID YOU KNOW?

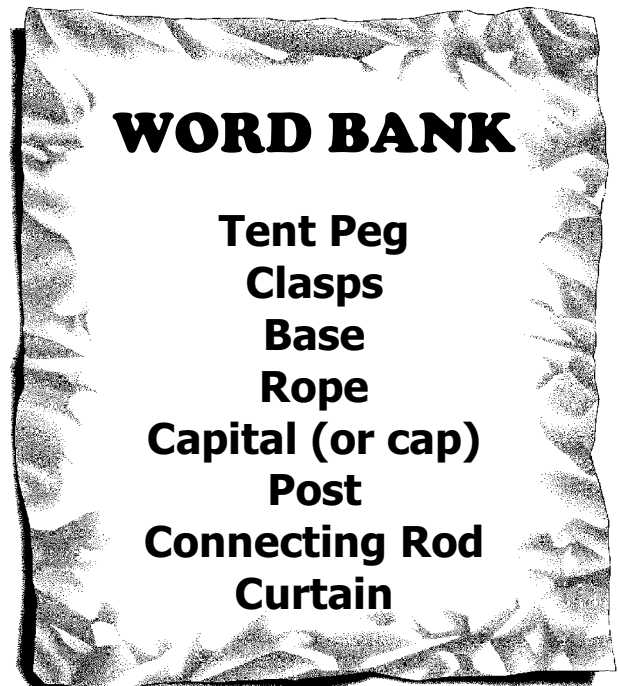
The four pillars of the gate represent the four Gospel writers (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) who wrote about the work of Christ so others could "enter."



Fill in the Defining Features Below



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____



"In the Old Testament, the New is hidden; in the New Testament, the Old lies open."