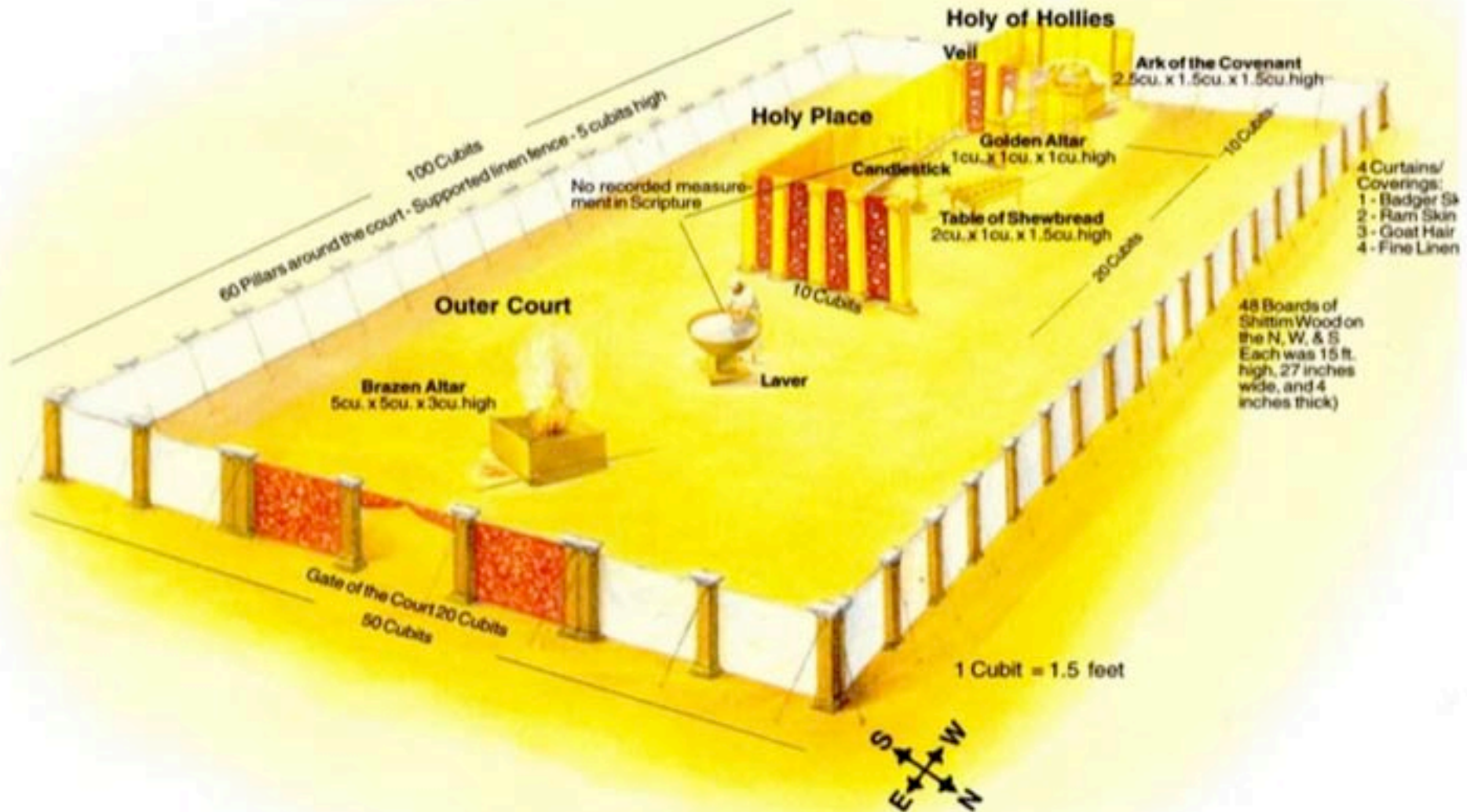


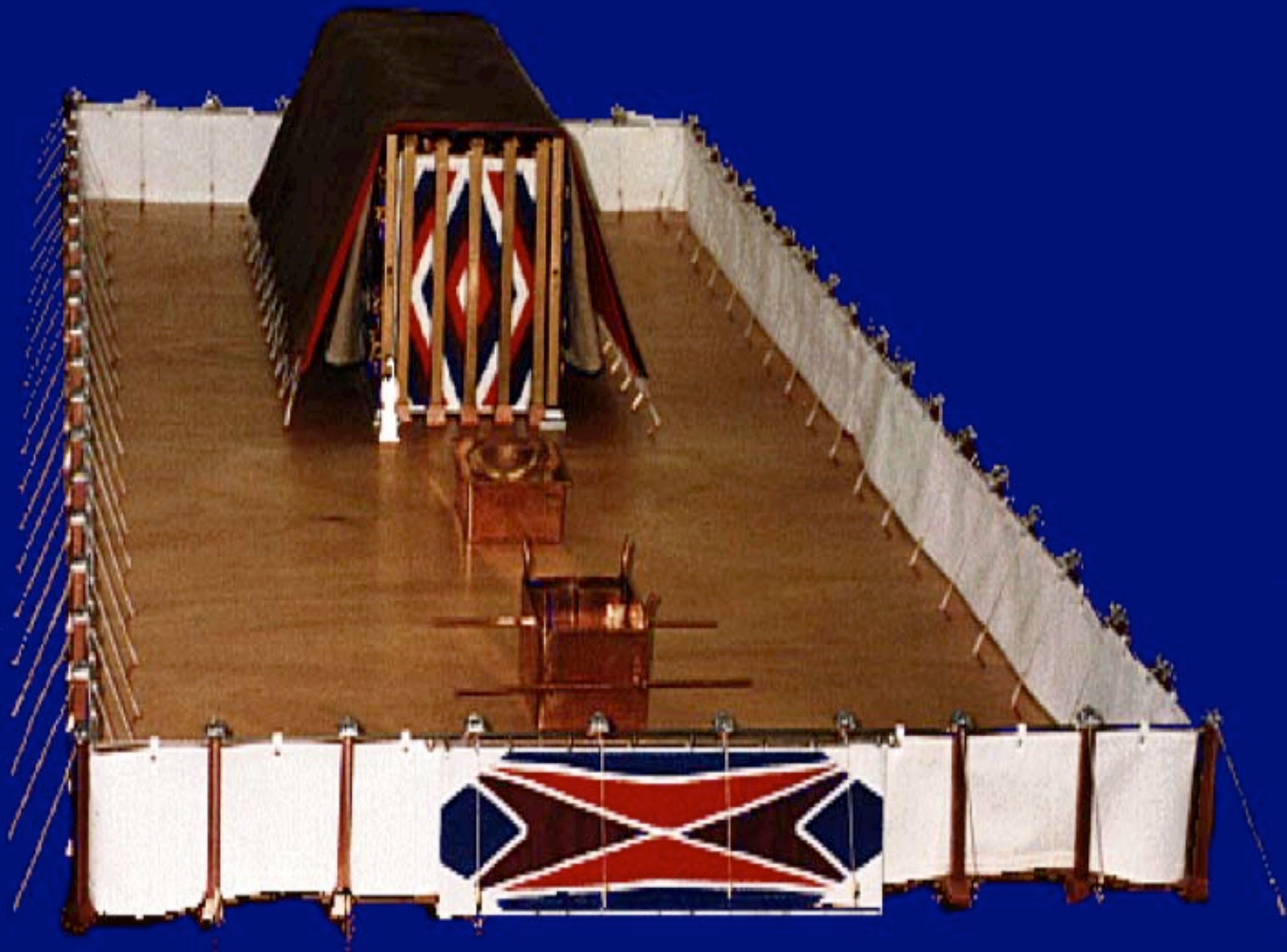
# **Welcome to the study of the Tabernacle**





# The Structure and Dimensions of the Tabernacle







## **Introduction:**

**The Tabernacle was a structure built by the Children of Israel under the supervision of Moses, around 1450 B.C.**

**The layout of the Tabernacle and the materials of its construction were specified in great detail to Moses by God at Mount Sinai, a few weeks after the children of Israel had left hundreds of years of slavery in Egypt (the Exodus).**



The Tabernacle was a portable construction, made by wise, skillful workmen and transported by one tribe (the Levites) through the 40 years in the desert wilderness and on into the land of Canaan.

**The purpose of the following instruction is:**

**1. To describe the layout, structure and furnishings of the Tabernacle.**

**2. To relate these pictures (**symbols**) from the book of Exodus (the second book of the Bible) to the Lord Jesus Christ in the New Testament.**



## **Historicity -**

**The first five books of the Bible were written down by Moses; they are called the Torah, the Hebrew word for 'law'.**

**Jesus said He had come not to abolish the law, but to fulfill it (Matthew 5:17).**

**John, one of Jesus' disciples, tells us that "the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ" (John 1:17).**

**The word 'truth' here is *alethia* in Greek, meaning 'reality'.**



**The 'truth' John speaks of is Jesus Christ as the Word, who was God and who became flesh and (DWELT) tabernacled among us (John 1:1,14).**

**(The Greek word sometimes translated as 'dwelt' here is more literally translated 'tabernacled').**

**Therefore, the Tabernacle is a picture, a foreshadow of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**In the book of Exodus, when God dictates to Moses the detailed design of the Tabernacle (some 1450 years before the birth of Jesus), He speaks forth a description of just who and what the coming Messiah (the Christ) would be.**



**In the four gospels, particularly in John's account, Jesus shows Himself to be the reality of every item in the Tabernacle.**

**The real Tabernacle of God with men is therefore the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Lets look first at the CURTAINS  
OF THE OUTER COURT that  
surround the Tabernacle.

Exodus 27:9-11 ""You shall also  
make the court of the tabernacle.  
For the south side there shall be  
hangings for the court made of fine  
woven linen, one hundred cubits long  
for one side. 10 "And its twenty



and their twenty sockets shall be bronze. The hooks of the pillars and their bands shall be silver. 11 "Likewise along the length of the north side there shall be hangings one hundred cubits long, with its twenty pillars and their twenty sockets of bronze, and the hooks of the pillars and their bands of silver."

**Exodus 27:12-14** ""And along the width of the court on the west side shall be hangings of fifty cubits, with their ten pillars and their ten sockets. 13 "The width of the court on the east side shall be fifty cubits. 14 "The hangings on one side of the gate shall be fifteen cubits, with their three pillars and their three sockets."



**Exodus 27:15-18** ""And on the other side shall be hangings of fifteen cubits, with their three pillars and their three sockets. 16 "For the gate of the court there shall be a screen twenty cubits long, woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, made by a weaver. It shall have four pillars and four sockets. 17 "All the pillars around

**the court shall have bands of silver; their hooks shall be of silver and their sockets of bronze.**

**18 "The length of the court shall be one hundred cubits, the width fifty throughout, and the height five cubits, made of fine woven linen, and its sockets of bronze."**



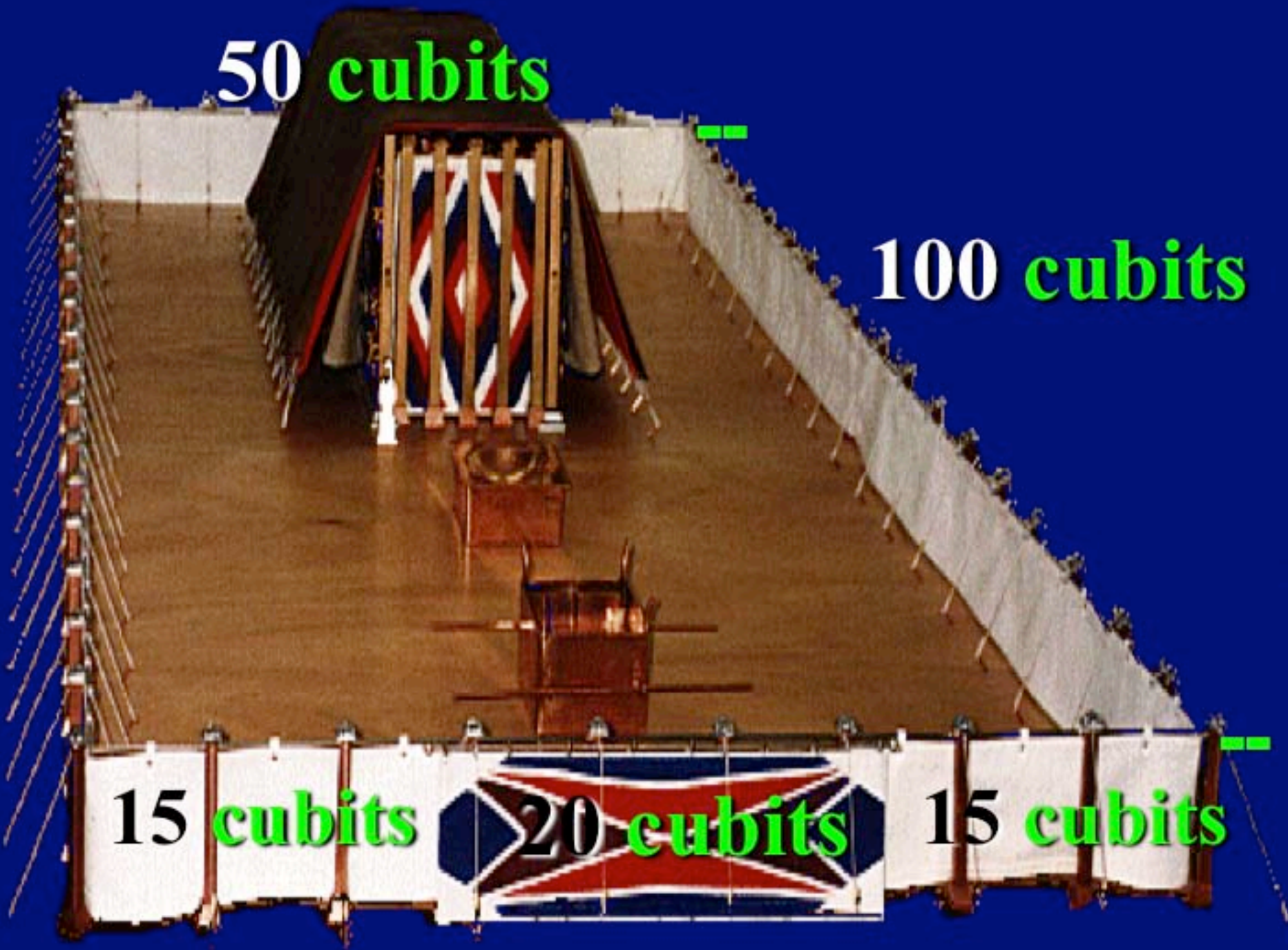
50 cubits

100 cubits

15 cubits

20 cubits

15 cubits



50 cubits wide

100 cubits long

5 cubits tall

Approximately 5 cubits apart

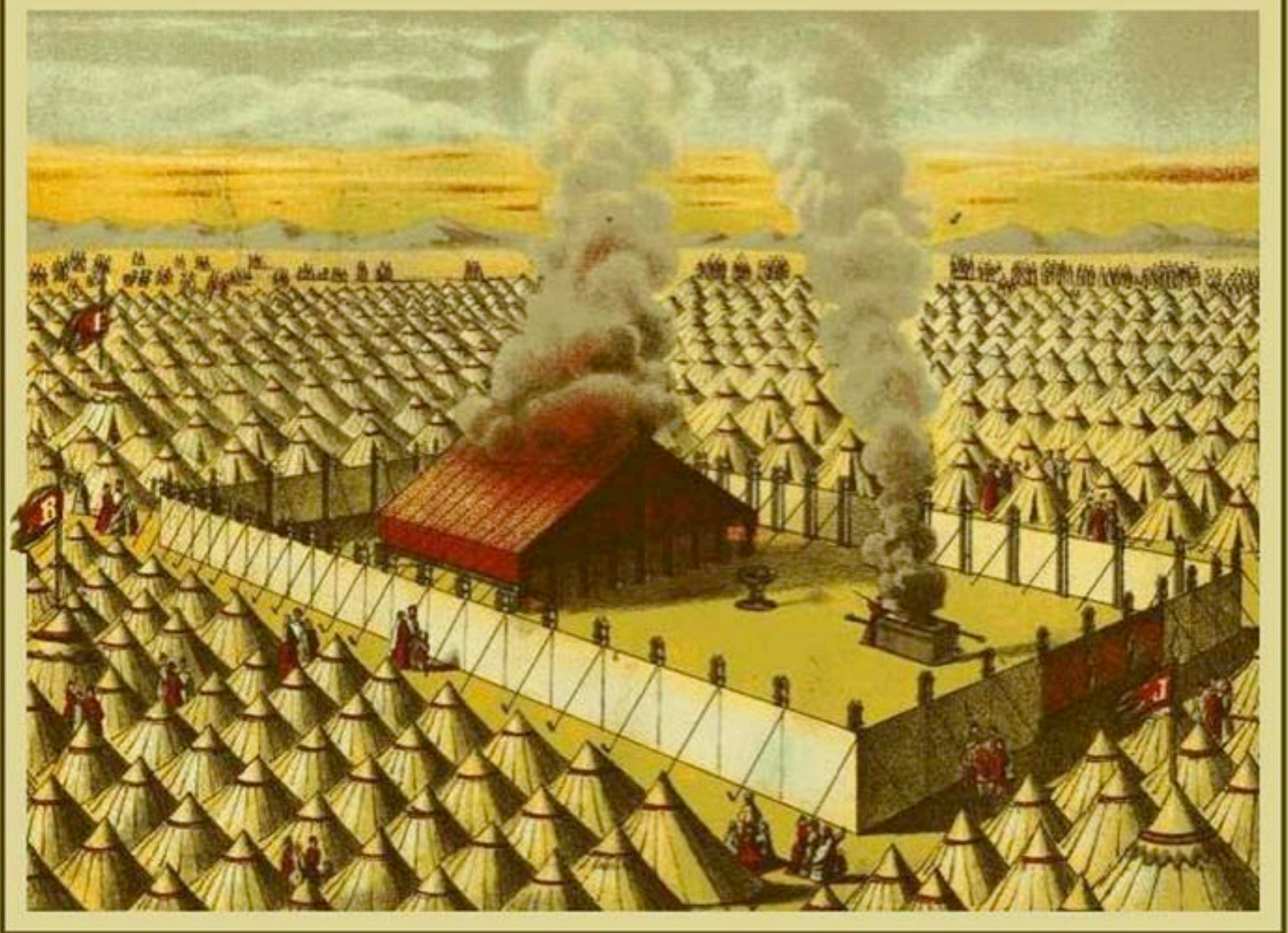




**If you had suddenly come across the children of Israel in the desert wilderness, you would have seen a sprawling camp of over two million people, probably not unlike the refugee camps in Rwanda, though perhaps more orderly.**

**The tents were probably black and brown, set in contrast with the sandy and rocky colors of the desert.**





THE TABERNACLE IN THE MIDST OF THE ENCAMPMENT



**In the center of their camp, you would see the white linen curtains of the Tabernacle's Outer Court, approximately 46 meters long (c. 150 feet), 23 meters wide (c. 75 feet) and 2.3 meters' tall (c. 7.5 feet).**



**It was quite noticeable against the surrounding rather drab colors of the camp and wilderness.**

**It was impossible to see inside the Tabernacle from the camp outside:**

**The tall, white, fine twined  
linen curtains made a  
separation between the  
outside world and the beauty  
that was contained in the  
Tabernacle.**



**In the Bible, white linen signifies righteousness (Revelation 19:8).**

**Revelation 19:8 "And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints."**

**God's nature is right and just.**

**He therefore expects us, His created people, to act rightly and justly: this is what righteousness means.**

**Psalms 92:15 "To declare that the LORD is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him."**



**Psalm 45:7 predicts that the Anointed One (the Messiah, the Christ) will love righteousness and hate wickedness.**

**Psalms 45:7 "You love righteousness and hate wickedness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions."**

**Because God is righteous, we find that the Levites, who God called to be priests to serve Him in the Tabernacle, were instructed to wear fine white linen garments (Exodus 28:39-43).**



**Exodus 28:39-43** "" You shall skillfully weave the tunic of fine linen thread, you shall make the turban of fine linen, and you shall make the sash of woven work. 40 "For Aaron's sons you shall make tunics, and you shall make sashes for them. And you shall make hats for them, for glory and beauty. 41 "So you shall put them on Aaron your brother and on



his sons with him. You shall anoint them, consecrate them, and sanctify them, that they may minister to Me as priests. 42 "And you shall make for them linen trousers to cover their nakedness; they shall reach from the waist to the thighs. 43 "They shall be on Aaron and on his sons when they come into the tabernacle of meeting, or when they come near the altar to



**minister in the holy place, that they do not incur iniquity and die. It shall be a statute forever to him and his descendants after him."**

**Likewise, in the New Testament, Revelation 19:6-9 speaks of the "wife of the Lamb" (the bride of Christ), who is seen clothed in fine white linen.**

**Revelation 19:6-9** "And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! 7 "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." 8 And to her it was granted



**to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. 9 Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' " And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God.""**

**The "wife of the Lamb" is a corporate bride, composed of all those people who have acknowledged God's salvation and are joined to Him at this marriage feast and have prepared themselves (as seen by their garments):**



**They are all dressed in fine white linen, as were the priests of the Tabernacle; Revelation 19:8 informs us that the fine linen is their righteous acts.**

**Revelation 19:8 "And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints."**

**By way of contrast, in** Isaiah 64:6 we read that all our "righteousnesses" are like filthy rags and that our sins have separated us from God's righteousness.

**Therefore, our sins have separated us from God (Isaiah 59:2).**



**Isaiah 59:2 "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear."**

**Just as Adam's sin caused him to be separated from God and the garden of Eden (Genesis 3:23-24);**

**So we have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).**

**Therefore, the white linen curtains of the Outer Court remind us that we are separated from God, due to our sins, because He is righteous.**



**The fine white linen curtains of the Outer Court were supported by pillars, at least 56 of them.**

**The pillars were set in base sockets of bronze and capped with silver capitals.**





**The bronze base sockets symbolize God's judgment on those who sin against Him, as seen in Numbers 16:29-39 and 21:4-9.**

**In Numbers 21, the children of Israel murmured against God.**

**In judgment on their sin, God sent serpents into the camp to bite the children of Israel and many of them died.**

**As Moses prayed for the people, God told him to make a bronze serpent and to put it on a pole.**



**Anyone who looked on the bronze serpent would not perish.**

**In his Gospel, John shows us that the Lord Jesus Christ is the reality of the bronze serpent lifted up from the earth.**

**As the crucified Son of Man,  
He bore God's righteous  
judgment for us, so that  
whoever believes in Him will  
not perish for ever but be  
saved from God's judgment  
and receive eternal life (John  
3:14-17).**



**The capitals (CAPS) on top of the pillars were made from silver, symbolizing the ransom price God placed on each of the children of Israel (Exodus 30:11-16).**

**God desires to redeem people, not to condemn them, but to satisfy His righteousness a price must be paid.**

**When Jesus was betrayed by Judas Iscariot, the price paid was thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 26:15 & Zechariah 11:12-13).**

**Exodus 12:1 to 13:16 shows the other side of redemption: the way to redeem the life of the first-born son was by the sacrifice of a lamb at Passover.**



**God sacrificed His only Son, Jesus the Lamb of God (John 1:29) at Calvary, as the final Passover Lamb.**

**(1 Corinthians 5:7 "For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:")**

**This occurred during the Feast Of  
Passover in 33 AD, in order to  
redeem sinful man, that is to buy us  
back from sin and all its effects;**

**Romans 5:6,18 "For when we were still without  
strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.  
18 Therefore, as through one man's offense  
judgment came to all men, resulting in  
condemnation, even so through one Man's  
righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting  
in justification of life."**



**When we see the white curtains of the Outer Court, we are reminded that our sins have separated us from God (Isaiah 59:2; Romans 3:23).**

**When we read the gospel accounts of the life of Jesus, we see His compassion and love to people and we also see His condemnation of hypocrisy and sin (John 8:10-11).**

**We see in Jesus Christ a man who loves righteousness and hates lawlessness (Hebrews 1:9);**

**The Son of God in whom God the Father delights (Mat17:5);**

**Hebrews 1:3 "who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person,..."**



**Just like the curtains of the Outer Court, the righteousness of Christ is supported by His judgment of sin and capped by His desire to redeem us, to bring us (the unrighteous ones) back to God.**

**1 Peter 3:18 "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,"**

**The good news (GOSPEL) is that although we start off outside the Tabernacle, separated from God, there is a way into the Outer Court, a DOOR, colorful and welcoming, beckoning us to come inside.**

**Conclusion:**



**John 10:7 "Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep."**

**John 10:9 "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture."**