

TABERNACLE IN THE WILDERNESS/TEMPLE (PT 1 of 3)

THE TABERNACLE COMPARED TO MAN

Moses was shown a vision of the heavenly tabernacle when he was on the mountain and Yah said to

build it like that. The way the Tabernacle was build was symbolic of the nature of mankind.

The outer court represents our body.

Our body is used for outer worship. The actions manifested by our physical body are clearly seen as obedience or disobedience to Adonai's instructions. Our body conceals our soul and spirit which are the next part of the Tabernacle.

The Holy Place represents our soul.

As with the human body, the outer court could be seen by all. All external worship was offered there. As we go further in we enter the Holy Place representative of man's soul which constitutes the inner life of man and which embraces man's emotions, volition and mind. Such is the Holy Place of a regenerated person, for his love, will and thought are fully enlightened that he may serve Yah as the priest of old did.



The soul resembles the Holy Place for it is amply enlightened with many rational thoughts and precepts, much knowledge and understanding concerning the things, ideas, and the material world.

The Holy of Holies represents our spirit.

The Holy of Holies represents our spirit. Then behind the veil, the innermost Holy of Holies into which no human light has ever penetrated and no naked eye has ever pierced. The dwelling place of Yah cannot be reached unless Yah is willing to rent the veil. **This is man's spirit.** This spirit lies beyond man's self-consciousness and above his sensibility. Here is the place man communes and unites with the Almighty. Those who are truly baptized in the holy spirit and walk with Yahveh know that He reveals things to them from their innermost part, their gut. When this happens they may do or say things without even thinking or knowing exactly what they are doing. This is being led by the Ruach Ha Kodesh in a way that only those spirit filled are gifted enough to comprehend. Yah's spirit and man's spirit meet and the resulting manifestation is carried on by faith. All activities in the Holy Place and the outer court are regulated by the presence of Yah in the Holy of Holies. In this way man is likened to the Temple of old. We are now the Temple and within us is our Holy Place, our soul, and the innermost place where our spirit communes with Yahveh in His Holy of Holies.

Our spirit is supposed to have domination over our soul, which includes basically all five senses of our flesh. The latent power of our soul must always be subject to our spirit. The Temple veil represents the division of our flesh (soul) and spirit so that our flesh will be led by our spirit, which is in turn led by the Spirit of the Most High, direct from His Holy Place. As the ark of the covenant was the most precious item in the Temple, so to our spirit is the most precious part of our being. The ark contained the stone tablets which represent the laws of the spirit. Aaron's rod represents our conscience (communication with Yah..direction), and the manna represents our intuition the bread of life (Yeshua, born in Bet lehem..the bread basket). Our spirit is made up of the law, our conscience, and our intuition. The Holy of Holies represents our spirit, the Holy Place represents our soul, and the Temple itself represents our body.

Put another way, first, within the ark lies the law of Yah which gives us our instructions for a good spiritual life. Second, upon the ark and sprinkled with the blood is the mercy seat whereon Yah manifests His glory and receives man's worship. Third, the ark is called the ark of testimony because therein are kept the Ten Commandments as Yah's testimony to all those who claim to be His bride. **Rom. 9:1** *I am telling the truth in Messiah, I am not lying, my conscience bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit,*"

THE SYMBOLISM OF THE TABERNACLE

Along with giving the Ten Commandments, Yah gave some additional instructions for the building of a Tabernacle. He gave detailed instructions for establishing an elaborate system of sacrifices, and for ordaining a priesthood. The Tabernacle was symbolic of the way a Believer was supposed to live in respect to the Almighty. Yah had a tabernacle put in among His people so He was seen as symbolically being among His people. The tabernacle represented Yah's fellowship, presence with His people.

The Israelite was not to approach Yah but through the sacrifices the priests administered at the Tabernacle. **Ps. 50:5** was later written as a reminder that Yah entered into covenant with His people through sacrifice. *"Gather My godly ones to Me, Those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice."*

Hebr. 10:1 and Col. 2:17 established the way we are to approach Yah as shadows of the real Tabernacle in the New Jerusalem, the real sacrifice, and the real High Priest who would come later. **Hebr. 10:1 For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near."** **Col. 2:17 things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Messiah** After Yeshua gave His life as the final lamb sacrifice there was be no more need for animal sacrifices offered up by priests in a building. Yeshua came as our final sacrifice and allowed each and every Believer to enter into his own holy place in the presence of Yah. Instead of the Temple being a building somewhere, the new Temple would be us, with the laws (instructions) of the Torah written on our hearts. **Acts 17:24 "Yah who made the world and all things in it, since He is Yah of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands;"** The old system of sacrifices was only a temporary system pointing the people to the coming of the Messiah and His final sacrifice to take away the sins of all the world in the form of the Passover lamb.

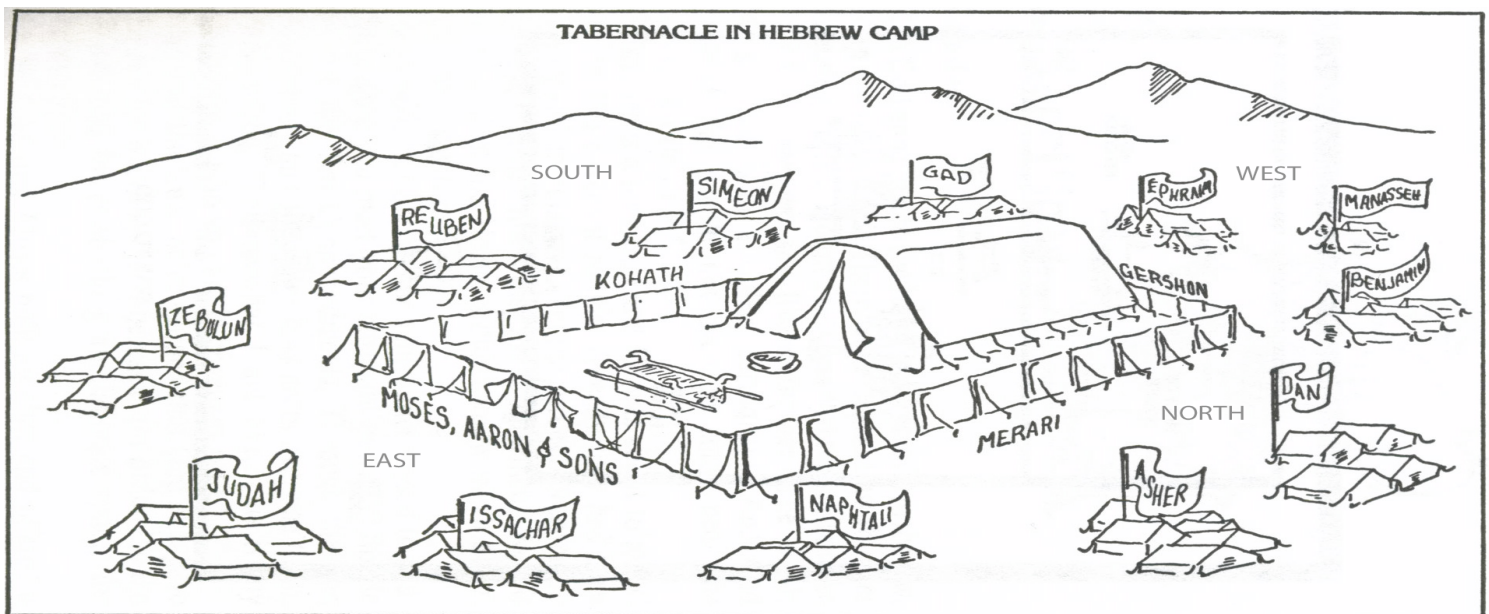
The Tabernacle in the wilderness was the place where all the people had to bring their sacrifices for sin. It was their only place to approach the Almighty. The Tabernacle was portable so that they could carry it with them in the wilderness. Later, when the people went into their promised land, a more permanent structure was made by King Solomon. Yah used Solomon to build a massive Temple (1Kgs. 5-8) for the people. This Temple was later destroyed in 587 B.C. when Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians because of their failure to obey the Holy One Of Israel (2Kgs. 25:8-9). After their Babylonian captivity ended, they reconstructed the Temple, but it failed in comparison to the original because of their available resources. In fact the bible says (Haggai 2:3) that the old men wept for sorrow when they saw the rebuilt Temple because it was so insignificant compared to the original.

Many believe the Orthodox Jews will attempt to rebuild the Temple in the end times before the return of Yeshua (Rev. 11:1, Dan. 9:27). I don't believe they will ever rebuild Yah's Temple on earth, but they may be able to set the cornerstone of the Temple in place, making it possible for them to again make sacrifices.

Yah gave Moses detailed instructions as to the Tabernacle in the wilderness in Exod. 25-27, & 35-38. The instructions were in detail because it was a scale model of the Temple of Yah in the New Jerusalem (Hebr. 8:5).

THE CAMP ITSELF

As per the accompanying picture, the Tabernacle in the wilderness was surrounded by the tents of the Levites first and foremost (Num. 2:2-3). In the wilderness the camp worked out to be about 28 square miles in size.



The Levites were the spiritual warriors that did everything required in the Tabernacle area. The twelve tribes camped around the Levites tents in an exact order. Each tribe had its own banner..standard (flagpole) and the central focal point of the area was the Tabernacle itself. Although there were twelve tribes, Yah had all twelve under just four main banners (flags) when they were in the wilderness with Moshe. On the eastern side of the Tabernacle was the tribe of Judah with its banner of a lion of gold on a field of scarlet (Gen. 49:9). The western tribe of Ephraim had a flag with a black ox (heifer) on a field of gold (Hosea 10:11, Jer. 31:18, Deut. 33:17). The southern tribe was that of Rueben, with its banner showing a man on a field of gold (Gen. 30:14). [Reuben's tribe was in later years also depicted as mandrakes on a red background.] Then the north side tribe of Dan had on its flag a golden eagle on a field of blue (Gen. 49:16-17, Exod. 19:4). [The tribe of Dan was also depicted years later as a serpent on a sapphire colored background.] You can see the four main standards (banners) referenced in **Ezek. 1:10** *as for the appearance of their faces, they had human faces [in front], each of the four had a lion's face on the right, each of the four had a bull's face on the left, and each of the four had an eagle's face [toward the rear]* On the right and on the left are referring to Ezekiel's right and left. **Rev. 4:7** *The first living being was like a lion, the second living being was like an ox, the third living being had a face that looked human, and the fourth living being was like a flying eagle.*” The lion of course represents the King with supreme power and authority. The ox represents the lowly servant. The man represents the highest earthly being, and the eagle represents the greatest heavenly being. The flag of Ephraim represented Ephraim, Manasseh and Benjamin on the west side of the Tabernacle. The flag of Judah represented Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun on the east side of the Tabernacle which was the entrance. The flag of Dan represented Dan, Naphtali and Asher on the north side of the Tabernacle. The flag of Rueben represented Rueben, Gad, and Simeon on the south side of the Tabernacle. The other tribal banners were as follows:

- 1) Simeon's flag was green with a picture of the city of Sechem between the mountains on it (Gen. 29:33).
- 2) Benjamin's was a wolf preying on its spoil with a background of a combination of all twelve colors (Gen. 49:27).
- 3) Gad's was a a formation of soldiers and an army camp with a blended black and white background (Gen. 49:19).
- 4) Levi's was red, white, and black showing the garments of the priests and Levites, (Deut. 33:8). It was sometimes depicted with the Urim and the Thummim.
- 5) Issachar's was a donkey, symbolizing the tribes ability to carry the Torah (Gen. 49:14). It was sometimes depicted with a sun and a moon.
- 6) Zebulun's was a pearly ocean wave (Gen. 49:13). It was sometimes depicted as a ship on a white background.
- 7) Naffili's was an antlered deer running free as per Jacob's blessing (Gen. 49:21). It was periodically depicted as a hind (thigh) on a medium red (wine colored) background.
- 8) Asher's was an olive tree (Deut. 33:24).
- 9) Joseph's was either a myriad of small faces emerging from the shadows (Deut. 33:22), or a unicorn looking animal with a horn coming out of its head (Deut. 33:16).

Those who are camped around His presence will receive the promise of the Son. The Son who was promised in this prophetic message, through the dedication of the alter. When you consider all the offerings given at the dedication of the Tabernacle, which consisted of hundreds of bulls, lambs, goats, grain and incense offering, over 60 pounds of silver and three pounds of gold, it was a very substantial amount. All of those offerings at Calvary were replaced by the sacrifice of one lamb, Yeshua. It is incredible to comprehend.

The camp of the meeting pace was the tent that Moses had established before the Tabernacle was made. It is where they met for discussions, council and fellowship prior to the Tabernacle being built.

NOTE

When the Israelites were camped in the wilderness each tent was positioned so that when they looked out the front they did not see inside their neighbors tent. This was for privacy. The men and women were not tempted to watch other married couples when they looked out.

Who was the head of the tribe of Judah when they went into the promised land?

Caleb was their leader, yet Caleb was not even from the tribe of Judah. Caleb was a Kenizzite. He was the man in charge of the tribe of Judah, yet he was not from that tribe (Josh 14:14, Num. 32:12,).

THE COURTYARD OF THE TABERNACLE/TEMPLE

Exod. 27:18 *The length of the courtyard is to be 150 feet and the width seventy-five feet everywhere; with the height seven-and-a-half feet.*” The Tabernacle was enclosed by a courtyard. This outer courtyard was about 150 feet long and 75 feet wide. It was possible for anyone to go into this outer courtyard.

THE DIVIDING WALL..MIDDLE WALL OF PARTITION

At the time of the second Temple there was a dividing wall about three feet high that separated the Jewish believers from the Goyim (Gentiles). This dividing wall with gates in it, was built around the outer court

area of the Temple by the Pharisees. On it they put a notice saying gentiles could not go any further. It was not part of Adonai's instructions for the Temple. The gentiles were forbidden to go near the Temple itself because of this dividing wall. Gentiles who crossed this wall were put to death. The Pharisees were being parochial when they built this extra wall. They were naive in their thinking that they were so special and different from the rest of the world as a race, rather than as Believers. They were being religious and taking control over something Yah gave them no control over. Yeshua said He came to get rid of the dividing wall. **Eph. 2:14** *For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and **broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,*** Messiah came for the purpose of making it possible for all to come and worship Yah. He didn't come for the purpose of segregation as the Pharisees claimed by putting up the extra dividing wall. He came so we could all be in echad (unity) with Him as our Messiah and Savior. Paul said we are all one new man in Messiah if we are His Believers. **Eph. 2:15** *by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might **make the two into one new man,** thus establishing peace,"*

THE COVERINGS OF THE TABERNACLE

Exod. 26:14 *"You are to make a covering for the tent of **tanned ram skins** and an outer covering of fine leather"(CJB). The Tabernacle itself had two coverings, the outer covering visible to all those around and the inner covering only visible to the priests. The outside cover was a dull grey colored shield of leather. Directly underneath this was a covering made of rams skins dyed red, signifying blood. There were also curtains made of goats hair and linen.*

As the dull grey color of sun bleached leather veiled Yah's glory in the earthly Tabernacle to the passer-by, Yeshua also was just a carpenter from Nazareth who looked like everyone else. A casual observer standing on the outside of the Tabernacle wouldn't know Yah's glory is within unless he took a closer look. The dyed red rams skins beneath the outer shell of the Tabernacle are as the red blood flowing through the veins of Yeshua and all His followers. It seems that sometimes there is nothing to be excited about when one is a true Believer. Sometimes we may seem unattractive and dull, but beneath the outer shell of all real Believers you will find the red blood (life of Yeshua) flowing. The only way anyone can ever experience the blessed life of a Believer is by looking closely at the inside where life abounds. In order to find this life, one must first come through the East gate into the presence of Yah.

THE FENCE AROUND THE TABERNACLE

The letter chet represents a fence that separates two sides. It is used to separate and protect something.

Yeshua is the spirit, "fence of life", the fence of the torah. The tabernacle of Moses was surrounded by a chet (fence). When you visualize a section of the tabernacle fence you will see, two posts connected by a sheet, the torah scroll. When you visualize the entire tabernacle you see fences (Chet) around the outer area and the inner sanctuary. When we look at the fence around the Tabernacle we see it protected everything inside the fence, from the menorah, utensils, holy of holies, to the ark of the covenant and everything in it.



So what is the fence (chet) protecting?

It is protecting the spirit in us. Just as the girdle of truth protected the Roman soldier's heart. The torah is the truth the fence around our heart.

Life comes by the protection of a fence, our torah, Yeshua in and around us. The Tabernacle was surrounded by a fence (His torah), with only one way in. You must go through the gate to come into His presence. Again we see the obvious connection here. Yeshua is the gate into the presence of the Almighty. You cannot enter in without first having Yeshua as your gate. Yeshua is that narrow gate for all who are born again. There is no other way to enter into the presence of the Holy One of Israel. In summary, all this is encompassed in the meaning of the letter chet.

THE ENTRANCE GATE (EAST SIDE ONLY.. EXOD. 27:16)

Exod. 27:16 *"For the gateway of the courtyard there is to be a screen thirty feet **made of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely woven linen.** It should be in colors, the work of a weaver. It is to be on four posts in four sockets.*

There was only one way to meet with the Almighty. This way was through the Eastern gate, simply called "The Gate". After one entered the gate of the Temple the first requirement was a mikvah. In the same manner, when we become born again we are told to get baptized immediately and prepare to follow the path through the narrow gate of truth. You had to be completely immersed in water before you could ever enter into the Temple area. In the Book of Mark it talks about after we become Believers we are to be baptized. **Mark 16:16** *"He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned."* If we want to have that personal relationship with Yah and meet Him in His Holy of Holies, we would not even be permitted to enter the temple gates without being baptized. That shows just how important baptism is to Yah. The only real requirement when you entered was that you mikvahed and that you had a

sacrifice of some kind. No one was ever permitted in without first sacrificing something. We must always keep in mind that the Tabernacle and Temple had police, or security guards. Not just anyone could go in and do as they please. There was certain etiquette that was required when entering. This is probably a good place to explain that because the main gate for Solomon's Temple faced east, all the gates to the occult temples faced west. The contrast of the Almighty verses the counterfeit.

Facing, praying towards the Temple gate custom

When king Solomon dedicated the temple during tabernacles, he set precedence for people to turn towards the temple no-matter where they lived, and raise their hands when doing so. It was like saying if your not at the temple, face towards it, praise Yah and your prayers will be heard just like if you were there.

1Kgs. 8:29-30 *“that Your eyes may be open toward this house night and day, toward the place of which You have said, ‘My name shall be there,’ to listen to the prayer which Your servant shall pray toward this place. 30 “Listen to the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place; hear in heaven Your dwelling place; hear and forgive.”* This custom has been counterfeited by many occult and pagan religions in their practices. That is where the Muslims (a religion established by the Roman Catholics), got this idea of bowing down three times a day, facing east on a carpet, comes from. The devil loves to counterfeit holy things so that people can't distinguish who's worshipping who.

THE BRAZEN ALTAR (Exod. 38:1-7)

The two daily offerings (oblations) were 9:00 am and 3:00 pm (twilight).

Exod. 38:1-7 *He made the altar for burnt offerings of acacia-wood, seven-and-a-half feet long and seven-and-a-half feet wide — it was square — and four-and-a-half feet high. He made horns for it on its four corners, the horns were of one piece with it, and he overlaid it with bronze. (3) He made all the utensils for the altar — its pots, shovels, basins, meat-hooks and fire pans; all its utensils he made of bronze. He made for the altar a grate of bronze netting, under its rim, reaching halfway up the altar. He cast four rings for the four ends of the bronze grate to hold the poles. (6) He made the poles of acacia-wood and overlaid them with bronze. He put the carrying-poles into the rings on the sides of the altar; he made it of planks and hollow inside.*

The moment one entered through the east gate you noticed the brazen (brass) altar. This brass altar was about 4 1/2 feet high and 7 1/2 feet square. This was the place to make ones offering (Exod. 30:28).

It was said that the burnt offering made here was a pleasant aroma to Yah. In order to be pardoned from sin and blessed by the priest you had to present yourself and your sacrifice before the altar. Apart from offering Yah an acceptable sacrifice, there was no way to get any closer to Elohim. **Lev. 17:11** *‘For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.’* In order for the animal sacrifice to qualify as an offering it had to be clean. The person laid their hands on the head of the animal claiming its death as a sacrifice on your behalf, and then with one stroke of a very sharp long knife, the life of the sacrifice was taken from it. It is easy to see how the person offering the sacrifice would humble himself with his face to the ground. The innocent animal who's life was taken to cover our sin was a type of Yeshua, the lamb of Yah. In many cases the person would become so overwhelmed by the thought of an innocent lamb dying for their sin, they would simply be unable to cut the throat of the animal. In that case, the priest standing there beside you would slit the throat of the animal for you. Then he would take the blood of the animal and pour it at the foot of the altar. It took about twenty priests to prepare one bull sacrifice and about seven to sacrifice a lamb. The only sacrifice that we can make now is our sacrifice as a living soul. **Rom. 12:1** *“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of Yah, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to Yah, which is your spiritual service of worship.”*

We as Believers accept by faith that Yeshua was our substitutionary sacrifice for our sin. His righteousness is imputed for our sin. Whereas the blood of bulls and goats in the old Tabernacle only covered sins, the blood of Yeshua has taken it away to be remembered no more.

Yeshua gave up all of His blood for us. We in a sense, became His purchased possession, paid for by His own blood. His life was in His blood. Let's have a close look at what Yeshua said to a couple of His disciples after His resurrection. **Luke 24:38-39** *And He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? “See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”* Yeshua's entire body was without blood. It was drained totally for us. That's why He states: *“flesh and bones”* in this verse. Most of us would have said: *“flesh and blood”*. I find this very fascinating.

It is said by the sages of old that any pregnant woman who smelled a burnt offering sacrifice was sure to not have a miscarriage. Another story said that when the sacrifices were being made no matter how hard the wind blew, the smoke from the fire always went straight up.

THE TEMPLE ALTAR

In contrast with the Tabernacle, the Temple altar was huge. The main altar was a minimum of 15 ft square with a huge ramp leading up to it. It was built of uncut stones and mortar. It was placed directly in front

of the temple but slightly lower than the main level of the temple floor.

The altar is the table of Yah, a table of fellowship with Yah, if a person messed up they would bring a gift to the table and they would reconcile with Yah. If a person wilfully sinned there was no gift to offer, so one had to rely on Yah's grace for forgiveness. In this case Yah brought a gift to the table, we were invited to the table and receive His gift so we can be reconciled. His gift was/is Yeshua, the lamb of Yah.

The altar was a place where Yah and His people had fellowship. It was a place where things got reconciled. By coming to the altar and repenting we do not receive the penalty of death required by law, but are reconciled. All offerings on the altar were called "elevation offerings". They had to be lifted up as an offering. As Yah symbolically sits on the mercy seat He looked through the veil, through the holy place, out above the altar to where a sacrifice was being lifted up.

In the case of Yeshua's death at Calvary, Yah looked out through all this and then across the Kidron valley, directly east, where Yeshua was lifted up on the stake. The altar is essential to our salvation. If it wasn't for the altar Yeshua, our salvation, could not have been elevated up as our lamb of Yah sacrifice.

The altar is also Yah's symbol of the ownership of the world. It rests on the earth, claiming the entire planet as Yah's creation. The earth is Yah's and the fulness there of.

That is why the antichrist wants the altar shut down in the end. He does not want Yah's ownership symbol operating in the world.

The first words spoken every first day of the week at the Temple were: **Ps. 24:1 *The earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.***

On the main altar in the Temple was actually three fires. There was what was called the "great fire", that was used for the whole burnt offerings. This thanksgiving offering was made by the person not because he had sinned, but simply because he wanted to thank Yahveh for everything he was doing in his life. This offering was burnt up completely, with nothing left.

It should be noted that the pagans had very similar altars they used for their practices, however, Hebrew altars always had ramps, as compared to the Canaanite altars who always used stairs.

The fact that the offering was totally burnt up made it different from the other offerings in which the priests and the person making the offering could take and eat of the meat from the offering. The priests depended on these offerings to eat, survive. This whole burnt (olah/heave) offering was always done late in the day so it would burn all night and nothing would be left in the morning except the ashes of the offering and the coals. There was a special silver scoop that the priest would use to dig down into the ashes of the offering and scoop out ashes, setting them in a special place on the side of the main altar. The sages say that every time this was done a miracle of Yah happened. They say that when the ashes were poured out of the silver scoop they simply vanished. When you consider what happened to Yeshua's body offered up as the final offering at Calvary, it shows us a beautiful picture. Yeshua too vanished from the tomb He was put in after His death.

The coals from this thanksgiving...freewill offering were then taken every morning and used to start the other altars for the daily sacrifices. The coals were used every morning so the priest could offer up incense to thank Yah for accepting the previous night's offering. Then it was used for various other offerings during the day.

There was another fire on the great altar called the "tomed fire", this is where you got the fire to start the fire to burn the whole burnt offering fire every night. This is the fire that the priest was to never let go out, no-matter what happened (Lev. 6:8-13).

Passover sacrifices

When the sacrifices were made during the Feasts there was a specific order to everything done. The logistics of the slaughtering of the lambs that took place at the temple at Passover is a marvel. On the 13th of Nissan at 3:00pm twilight they would prepare the regular evening oblation. The temple would be immediately shut down after that. At 3:00pm the priests were ready to begin the slaughtering of the passover lambs. For Passover all 24 divisions of the priests would help with the sacrifices. It was not normal for the individual divisions of priests to be at the temple more than two weeks at two different times. Because of the size of the endeavour, on High sabbaths during the Feasts, all priests would work together dealing with the sacrifices. It is estimated that there could have been upwards of over 200,000 people in the Temple area when these sacrifices were being made.

The people would bring their lambs and form a line starting at the Beautiful gate, of the temple. Once inside the people would proceed to a specific point through the Nicanor Gate into the altar area, where they would then form lines horizontally. Nothing was spoken during this process, it was a very solemn service. The priests would use the ringing of bells only to direct the people in line. The entire front line of people with their lambs would have priests with them and at the ringing of the bell, the priests would simultaneously slit the throat of the lambs and drain the blood. After the blood was drained out a bell would ring and the person would back out of that temple area with his lamb and as they retreated, another line would be formed by them on their way out of the temple. The priests would be going back and forth steady with the blood of the lambs and pour it out at the base of the altar. Then the next row would line up across the front and the process would begin

again, until all the lambs were done. There was a very good drainage system set up so that all this blood would drain away and ultimately end up in the Kidron Valley.

These sacrifices are a reminder of what it means for us to offer ourselves as living sacrifices to Yah as mentioned in Romans 12:1.

An interesting note is that the first animal to be offered up on a new altar is a bull. This was done as a reminder of when the Israelites made a golden calf idol in the wilderness.

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