

The Redemptive Historical Teachings of the Entrances! (Ex 40:17, 36-38)

Tabernacle and Pillar. Just as we use metaphors such as a "great tree" or a "great star" to call great men of this world, the Bible uses the metaphor "pillar" for the ones who overcome. Thus Gal 2:9 says "James, Cephas, and John, those esteemed as pillars," and we can look into its meaning through the special characteristic of a pillar. Even if there are strong winds blowing from all directions and very strong pressures against it, a pillar does not lean to the left or right.

This is because if a pillar tilts at all, the building will crumble. The special characteristic of a pillar is that from anywhere, at all times, it is standing straight. Hence, we can see that in Hebrew, pillar is amud which comes from amad meaning to stand, remain, endure. In any place, at all times, that standard position of a pillar is standing firmly straight. A pillar cannot just say, "Oh, this is just so irritating!" and just give up and leave its place.

A pillar cannot just say that it's tired of explaining and that it does not even want to talk anymore and just leave its place. Because if a pillar is shaken, it's over. The end result of a shaking pillar is collapse. Therefore, a pillar must fully fulfill its mission in its place. Beloved brothers and sisters, guarding and keeping your place is the image of one who is emanating the light. Arise and shine for our Father (Is 60:1)! To arise we must remain, and to remain we must endure. The pillar is the image of the victor.

The tabernacle has 60 pillars. 10 on the east side, 10 on the west side, 20 on the south side, 20 on the north side. This is showing us the 60 generations from Adam to Jesus Christ (Mt 1:1-16, Ge 5:3-32, 11:10-27). The tabernacle is the blueprint of the history of redemption; it reveals to us exactly how the Word became flesh and came among us as Jesus Christ showing us the meanings behind the outside, inside, and the details of Christ and His redemption.

The Court Gate. The tabernacle has three entrances and the first entrance is the court gate which is made up of blue, purple, scarlet and finely twisted linen. Blue shows us the divinity of Christ as 'the one and only', purple shows that Christ is king of kings, scarlet shows the sacrifice of Christ for the forgiveness of many, and the finely twisted linen shows us the holiness of Christ.

The court gate is 20 cubits wide and 5 cubits high. One cubit is 18 inches (45.6 cm) so this entrance is a very wide entrance at 30 feet wide. This is showing us that salvation is for everyone and any sinner who would like to be forgiven of their sins can receive God's salvation. As soon as you enter the court gate there is a bronze altar and here is where you sacrifice an animal in place of yourself. By killing the animal and breaking it into parts, one can learn just how frightening sin is.

There are 4 pillars that hold up the court gate. These 4 pillars represent the 4 gospels and it is bringing to light that God's salvation is upon those who receive the Gospel. Does not Jn 1:12-14 say, "Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God"?

The court gate is the gate of repentance. Salvation is for all people, and the way to salvation is the Gospel, and in order to receive that Gospel, there must be thorough repentance. Therefore, one cannot bring just any animal but the animal must be from the tribe of Levi (Nu 3:45). There are many doors that provide worldly knowledge, but the door that leads from death to life is repentance. That is why the first words that Jesus spoke in His public life were, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." (Mt 4:17)

The Door of the Tent of Meeting. Through the door of the Tent of Meeting, you enter into the Holy Place and only the priest may enter. In other words, the door of the Tent of Meeting is the entrance to worship. Of all the nations of the world, the firstborn nation is Israel (Ex 4:22). Within Israel, the firstborn tribe is the tribe of Levi (Nu 3:12). The duty of the priest is sacrifice and worship, as well as teaching the law and thus leading all of Israel to rely only on God and living before God.

It is through the gate of repentance that you then go through the entrance of worship. This process itself is self-sacrifice and devotion. Before becoming the firstborn tribe, the tribe of Levi gave their self-sacrifice and devotion. When Moses went to receive the ten commandments, the people of Israel made a golden calf and were running wild with idol worship. When Moses asked those who were for the Lord to come forth, the tribe of Levi rallied to him. Moses made them take up the sword and kill all those who had worshipped the idol, be it their brother, friend, or neighbor and thus the Levites killed about 3,000 people.

On this day, because of the sacrifice of the Levites, God gave them the blessing of the firstborn tribe, and the blessing of becoming priests, and moreover, the blessing of working in the tabernacle (Ex 32:25-29, Nu 3:1-51). Here, the word for self-sacrifice is mala meaning to fill, be full. To those who live without thought, everyday is the same. But a day of God's redemptive history is filled with God's will and a day filled with God's joy is a day that becomes a day of His redemptive administration.

There are 5 pillars in the door of the Tent of Meeting and this reveals to us the name of Christ. Just as Is 9:6 tells us the 5 names, "And he will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace," these 5 names can come to be known only through worship. The work of God surpasses just mystery; it is wonderful. The Word is our best advisor, our decision maker is God, He is our Father and our Prince of Peace!

The Veil. The court gate can be entered by anyone on any day. The door of the Tent of Meeting can only be entered by the priests on each day. And as for the veil, it can only be entered by the high priest on one day of the year. This is on the Day of Atonement, or on the 7th month 10th day, where all the sins you've committed for the year are forgiven. The greatest distinguishing characteristic of the veil is that cherubim are woven into it separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place (Ex 26:31-33). These are the same cherubim that guard the Eastern entrance into the Garden of Eden.

Now in Eze 1:10 and also 10:14, the image of the cherubim is an ox and an ox symbolizes loyalty. It is the ox which gives its devoted work when alive, and then even all of its body and even its leather when it dies! Is 1:3 says that an ox knows its master, and here, the term for "know" is yada which means to know by experience, and the term for "master" is qanah which means possessor, owner, master.

So therefore, through repentance you are brought to worship, and through worship, you come to know the Lord. That being the case, how do we know the history of redemption? The Lord knew it with His body. What does it mean to know with your body? The veil symbolizes Jesus' body. "Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body." (Heb 10:19-20)

The veil has 4 pillars and the length and width of the Most Holy Place is an equal 10 cubits all around. This is representing perfection as well as knowing the Word completely with your body, and this itself is the pinnacle of worship as it is true spiritual worship. "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship" (Ro 12:1)!

Discipline and Tests. Finally, the pillars that hold up the entrances of the tabernacle have 3 parts which are the cap of the pillar, the pillar, and the pillar socket. The court gate pillars' cap is silver, and the pillar as well as socket is bronze. The pillars of the door of the Tent of Meeting have a gold cap and pillar, and bronze sockets. The pillars of the veil have no cap, gold pillars, and silver sockets.

So what then is the spiritual meaning of bronze, silver, and gold? Bronze is redemption (Nu 21:9), silver is discipline, and gold is testing (Zec 13:9). The more discipline, the more refined, the more testing, the more complete one becomes. In other words, through refinement, one becomes more and more complete. In this way the tabernacle entrances show us the steps of salvation or the key points of the history of redemption. Accordingly, with the Lord who is our way, the truth, and the life of salvation, together with Him, we must fulfill our role like pillars.

The pillars of the veil do not have caps. The reason being is that Re 3:12 testifies to us that for all those who are victorious, he will make the pillars in God's temple putting upon them His name, the name of the new Jerusalem, and the Lord's new name. Beloved brothers and sisters, yes, living gets busy and tough. But, even in the midst of all that, we must be victors in the name of our Lord. Because worship helps us overcome! Have faith that giving worship is the way, the truth, and the life!