

The Tabernacle

Part 2 – The Wall & Gate

- The tabernacle was enclosed by the finest pure white linen with the exception of a single gate.

- The walls were 150 feet on the North & South and 75 feet on the East & West.

The Enclosure Walls



Approaching God

- The “imagery” includes:
 - The person outside represents sinful man.
 - The person approaching would have no idea of the beautiful interior of the tabernacle proper.
 - Nor would they be able to see the articles contained within the “outer courtyard”.
 - Those inside represent believers.

The Walls

- The walls were a picture of the separation of sinful man from a Holy God.
 - The linen was to be “fine twined” or tightly woven.
 - The walls were 7 ½ feet tall preventing those outside from observing the things inside.
- **Isaiah 59:2** “But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you.”
- **Hebrews 7:26** “Such a high priest (Jesus) meets our need — one who is holy, blameless, pure, **set apart from sinners**, exalted above the heavens.”

- The white linen walls symbolically excluded those beyond the walls from seeing God's love.

- But, from the inside the white linen walls clothe the believer.

Revelation 19:8

- “For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.”

The Walls



The Walls

- The white linen represented God's righteousness and His holiness.
 - **Psalms 145:17** "The Lord is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made."
 - **Isaiah 1:18** "Come now, let us reason together," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow."
- Within the walls were the altar, the laver and the tabernacle. These items wonderfully foreshadow Jesus.
 - **1 John 5:6** "This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood."

The Supporting Structures of the Wall and Gate

- The only wood used in the construction of the tabernacle, its walls and the furnishings was to be from the acacia tree.
- **Exodus 26:15** “Make upright frames of acacia wood for the tabernacle.”

Acacia Wood



- The acacia tree grows in desert climates producing strong, resilient wood.
- It can survive the harsh environment because its roots grow very deep.
- The acacia tree is not affected by disease nor by animal or insect infestations.

Acacia Tree



Acacia Wood as a Shadow of Christ

- Acacia wood signifies the Lord's perfect humanity.
 - **2 Corinthians 5:21** “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”
- He withstood all the evil - nothing could successfully attack Him.
 - **John 10:18** “No one takes it (his life) from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.”

Exodus 38:17

“The bases for the posts were bronze.

The hooks and bands on the posts were silver.

Their tops were overlaid with silver.

All of the posts of the courtyard had silver bands.”

Bases, Hooks & Bands of the Wall



- Bronze symbolized sacrifice and death.
 - **Exodus 27:2** “Make a horn at each of the four corners (of the altar), so that the horns and the altar are of one piece, and overlay the altar with bronze.”
- Silver was identified with redemption.
 - **Exodus 30:12-16** “When you take a census of the Israelites to count them, each one must pay the Lord a ransom for his life at the time he is counted...This half shekel (silver) is an offering to the Lord...Receive the atonement money from the Israelites and use it for the service of the Tent of Meeting.”

The Materials of the Walls

- The materials and construction of the walls and tabernacle were so strong that they withstood the winds, rain, heat and cold of the wilderness.
- The very strength and durability of the tabernacle remind us of God, who is all-powerful and eternal.
 - **Psalm 91:1-2** “He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.’”
- **Note:** The word translated Almighty is El Shaddai. El Shaddai literally means **all-sufficient**. In the tabernacle we have a “shadow” or “type” of God’s all-sufficient plan for our salvation and protection.

- **Exodus 38:18** “The gate to the courtyard was of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twined.”
- The gate was on the east side.
- The four colors of the fine tapestry represented:
 - White: Righteousness
 - Blue: Heaven or Priest
 - Purple: Royal or King
 - Scarlet: Blood and Sacrifice

The Wall's Only Entrance



The Wall's Only Entrance

- **John 14:5-6** Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
- **John 10:9** “I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.”

Jesus as the Gate/Shepherd

- **John 10:9** “I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture.
- **John 10:11** “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”
- **John 10:16-18** “I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.”

- In the wilderness the shepherd would often lay in the opening of the sheep pen serving as the gate. Therefore,
 - The shepherd was the first line of protection for the sheep.
 - The shepherd would defend the sheep against all attacks.
 - To enter the sheep pen, a person must pass by way of the shepherd.
 - The shepherd can admit all whom he wishes.

The Gate



Summary of the Wall and Gate

- The wall was symbolic of the separation our sin causes between God and man.
- From the outside, one can't see or appreciate God's plan of salvation. (sinful man)
- God gives only one way to enter his presence. (gate/Jesus)
- The materials and colors of the wall & gate speak to God's:

† Righteousness	White
† Kingship	Purple
† Blood & Sacrifice	Red
† High Priest & Heaven	Blue
† Acacia wood	Incorruptibility
† Silver	Redemption
† Bronze	Sacrifice