

Greetings and Shalom!

On behalf of In The Midst, may we take this opportunity to speak God's favor toward you. May God grant you peace throughout this year. We pray that He would reveal Himself to you in even deeper places as you seek to know Him more this year.

In The Midst Team Member - Ben Sams



Ben knew early on that music was going to play a major role in his life. Having grown up just outside Atlanta, Georgia, Ben began playing piano and guitar around age 10. As he grew older his passions began to materialize as he became involved in various church bands and traveling ministries. Forming his own band in the mid 90's, Ben traveled throughout Georgia and the southeast ministering to youth groups, children's home, conferences, and other various venues.

In 1996, Ben attended Truett-McConnell College in North Georgia and received his Associates Degree in Music with an emphasis in classical guitar. More importantly, it was where he would meet his wife Melanie. While at Truett-McConnell Ben excelled in various singing ensembles, and directed the Weekly worship meeting throughout the year. In 1999, Ben transferred to Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee, and earned a Bachelors Degree in Music Business.

Ben currently works for Chelsea Music Group in Brentwood, Tennessee, as a recording engineer, producer, and graphic designer. Spending day after day in the studio has even further solidified Ben's passion for creativity, musicianship, and praising God through song. After 11 years, he still travels and records with Firewall5, the band he formed in his teens. Ben also plays on the worship team at his home church and with several local artists on occasion.

Ben and his wife Melanie currently live in Spring Hill, Tennessee with their dog Tyson.

ITM Song of the Month - A Dwelling Place For You

Lord, You've overwhelmed us with Your presence here,
We've tasted of Your goodness and a holy fear
We know our hearts will never be the same,
For now we see more clearly why You came

Wherever we go, Whatever we do, Lord we are a dwelling place for You
We pour out Your love, Your light and Your truth, You abide in us, we live in You
We're a holy habitation, For the God of our salvation
Now we are a dwelling, a dwelling place for You

Through eyes of faith we see You and Your voice we hear,
Help us to remember You are ever near
In You we have become one family, A city on a hill for all to see

More than just a one time thing, More than just a visitation
By Your Spirit and Your grace
We've become a living demonstration to every generation

*Words and Music by Tom Long and David Baroni
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The Original Blueprint - The Tabernacle of Moses (The Furniture)

In our last edition, we began our study of the Tabernacle. For the next few months, we will look more in depth at the Courts of the Tabernacle, it's furniture and it's services. This month, let's take a closer look at the Outer Court.



Exodus 27:9-19; Exodus 38:9-20

**The Hebrew word for court is chatser (khaw-tsare') meaning court; enclosed; surrounded; to be present (a dwelling place).

This was what most like to refer to as the Court of Praise. David spoke of the courts numerous times throughout the Psalms. In Psalm 100:4 David laments, "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise..." This was their place to embrace the reality of God's goodness and grace. A place of sacrifice. A place of giving. And furthermore a place of preparation to enter into sweet communion. At the same time, the beauty of the Tabernacle was one of wonder. In a place of dry desert, barren land, there stood a place God would call His "dwelling place". No doubt you would hear the sound of stories being told over and over of how God had sent Moses to Pharaoh to bring them out of slavery. How He split the Red Sea in half so that they could walk across on dry ground. How He swallowed up the insubstantial army of Pharaoh in the Red Sea. How He provided them food to eat (manna) and water to drink (from a rock). No doubt you would hear statements like, "What a mighty God we serve!" "How good it is to give thanks to such a wonderful God." "Our God is an awesome God." Sound familiar?

As believers, this is our time to praise God for who He is and what He has done. It is also the place where we lift up one another in song, prayer, encouragement, reminding ourselves that we do serve a righteous God. A God that no matter the "disarray" around us, He is still in control. His plan has not changed. His heart is not closed off to us. He knows our thoughts yet is He waiting for us to bring our petitions before Him.

Details of the Outer Court:

God instructed them to make the parameter of the Outer Court 100 cubits long (approx. 150 ft.) by 50 cubits wide (approx. 75 ft.) by 5 cubits tall (approx. 7.5 ft.). God instructed them that no hammers were to be used in the construction. Rather they were to build using pillars and sockets. Sockets were a plate made of bronze or brass. The center of each socket had one squared hole where the tenon or leg of a pillar could slide into. Each pillar required one socket and were spaced 5 cubits (approx. 7.5 ft) from each other. The north and south sides of the Court had 20 pillars and 20 sockets. The west and east sides had 10 pillars and 10 sockets.

Each pillar was thought to be "overlaid" to some degree with silver. Originally it was thought that the pillars were created entirely of silver. However this theory is not widely accepted because it is known that there would not have been enough silver to go around for the making of all the items that God instructed to be made of silver. Also by example, the Brazen Altar was made of wood and "overlaid" with bronze. For this reason, it has been accepted that the pillars were more than likely created of wood and "overlaid" with silver [to some degree].

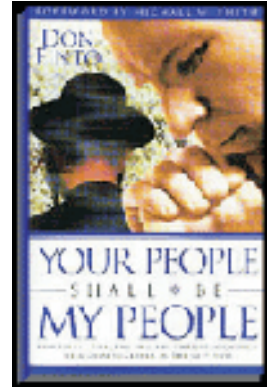
At the top of each pillar were two silver hooks to which the ends of two cords were attached. The other ends of the cords were fastened into the ground using silver pegs. This method was used to steady the outer parameter of the Court.

The top of each pillar had a silver cap known as a capitulum. Each capitulum had a hole in it through which a silver rod passed. Each rod connected end to end to form a railing that held the linen curtains. The curtains that hung on the outside of the pillars around the parameter of the Court were made of white silky linen. All the utensils used in the services of the Tabernacle were of bronze.

The one and only entrance to the Outer Court was through a screen (or stretched linen) twenty cubits (approx. 35 ft.) long. It was to be woven or variegated with blue, purple and scarlet thread (or yarn) and made by a weaver. (Ex. 27:16) It was also to have four pillars with four sockets.

Resource Of The Month - Your People Shall Be My People by Don Finto

"Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God" (Ruth 1:16). Like Ruth in the Old Testament, every Gentile believer has come out of the land of famine and into the spiritual realm of abundance in the name of Jesus. But unlike Ruth, we have turned our backs on the Jewish people, the relatives of the Messiah. We need to confess personally and corporately on behalf of the Church for centuries of persecution of the Jewish people, looking in these days for every opportunity to bless and not curse them. Once again, Israel and her people are center stage at a crucial moment in world history, and this book shows why the Church must effect reconciliation and why our prayers are vital in this hour. If we will make the same covenant pledge to Israel that Ruth made to Naomi, the Church will never be the same!



From the desk of Tom Long



I was at a meeting a while back where the speaker, Billy Sprague, told a thought provoking story about a friend of his. He friend had an older vocal coach out west. This vocal coach gave his friend an assignment. His friend came back in to sing this piece for her. In the middle of his singing, she stopped him. She said, "I see you listening to yourself." She understood how that killed the heart and passion of the song. She told him that she was going to close her eyes and listen for him to let it all go.

Bill went on to tell about his daughter singing a line on Billy's latest CD project. He talked about how she stepped into the vocal booth, put the headphones on and let it rip. She didn't care about who was listening or what they thought about her. She didn't even seem to care that she sang one not slightly off key.

Surely you and I have known glorious times of praise and worship. I've experienced some incredible moments over the past weeks. But I wonder how often God is looking at us with His arms crossed saying, "I see you listening to yourself." "I see you trying to stay on pitch and sing the right note and say the right words." He cares more about what our heart is saying to Him. I think He wants us to care more about what our heart is expressing to Him than how we're doing as we express it. Consider that the next time your heart cries out it's worship to God.

Worshipping God His Way,

Tom Long



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