EXODUS

Chapter 38

*The Altar of Burnt Offering*

**They built the altar of burnt offering of acacia wood, three cubits high; it was square, five cubits long and five cubits wide. 2 They made a horn at each of the four corners, so that the horns and the altar were of one piece, and they overlaid the altar with bronze. 3 They made all its utensils of bronze—its pots, shovels, sprinkling bowls, meat forks and firepans. 4 They made a grating for the altar, a bronze network, to be under its ledge, halfway up the altar. 5 They cast bronze rings to hold the poles for the four corners of the bronze grating. 6 They made the poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with bronze. 7 They inserted the poles into the rings so they would be on the sides of the altar for carrying it. They made it hollow, out of boards.**

**38:1–31** See note on 35:4–39:43. (CSB)

**38:1–7** The altar of burnt offering is assembled. We cannot approach the Father on our own merit. Only through the altar of the cross do we have access to Him. • Lord Jesus, thank You for offering Your life for the forgiveness of sin. Through Your work of mercy, we have access to the heavenly Father. Amen. (TLSB)

*Basin for Washing*

**8 They made the bronze basin and its bronze stand from the mirrors of the women who served at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.**

**38:8** *bronze … mirrors.* Mirrored glass was unknown in ancient times, but highly polished bronze gave adequate reflection. (CSB)

Formerly used for personal beautification, the mirrors are now used to serve the Lord. (TLSB)

*Tent of Meeting.* See note on 27:21. (CSB)

**38:8** Donating their material goods of mirrors, these women no longer focus on themselves. Moved by the Holy Spirit, they now want to reflect the Lord to others. • Lord, take our eyes off our selfish interests. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we reflect Jesus’ love to others. Amen. (TLSB)

*The Courtyard*

**9 Next they made the courtyard. The south side was a hundred cubits long and had curtains of finely twisted linen, 10 with twenty posts and twenty bronze bases, and with silver hooks and bands on the posts. 11 The north side was also a hundred cubits long and had twenty posts and twenty bronze bases, with silver hooks and bands on the posts. 12 The west end was fifty cubits wide and had curtains, with ten posts and ten bases, with silver hooks and bands on the posts. 13 The east end, toward the sunrise, was also fifty cubits wide. 14 Curtains fifteen cubits long were on one side of the entrance, with three posts and three bases, 15 and curtains fifteen cubits long were on the other side of the entrance to the courtyard, with three posts and three bases. 16 All the curtains around the courtyard were of finely twisted linen. 17 The bases for the posts were bronze. The hooks and bands on the posts were silver, and their tops were overlaid with silver; so all the posts of the courtyard had silver bands. 18 The curtain for the entrance to the courtyard was of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen—the work of an embroiderer. It was twenty cubits long and, like the curtains of the courtyard, five cubits high, 19 with four posts and four bronze bases. Their hooks and bands were silver, and their tops were overlaid with silver. 20 All the tent pegs of the tabernacle and of the surrounding courtyard were bronze.**

**38:9–20** Bezalel erects the court boundary. Entering from the east, one comes first to the place of sacrifice: the bronze altar. Today, we first enter the courts of the Lord when He leads us to trust in Christ’s sacrifice. • Spirit of God, lead us in the way of life (Jn 14:6). Amen. (TLSB)

*The Materials Used*

**21 These are the amounts of the materials used for the tabernacle, the tabernacle of the Testimony, which were recorded at Moses’ command by the Levites under the direction of Ithamar son of Aaron, the priest. 22 (Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, made everything the Lord commanded Moses; 23 with him was Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan—a craftsman and designer, and an embroiderer in blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen.) 24 The total amount of the gold from the wave offering used for all the work on the sanctuary was 29 talents and 730 shekels, according to the sanctuary shekel. 25 The silver obtained from those of the community who were counted in the census was 100 talents and 1,775 shekels, according to the sanctuary shekel— 26 one beka per person, that is, half a shekel, according to the sanctuary shekel, from everyone who had crossed over to those counted, twenty years old or more, a total of 603,550 men. 27 The 100 talents of silver were used to cast the bases for the sanctuary and for the curtain—100 bases from the 100 talents, one talent for each base. 28 They used the 1,775 shekels to make the hooks for the posts, to overlay the tops of the posts, and to make their bands. 29 The bronze from the wave offering was 70 talents and 2,400 shekels. 30 They used it to make the bases for the entrance to the Tent of Meeting, the bronze altar with its bronze grating and all its utensils, 31 the bases for the surrounding courtyard and those for its entrance and all the tent pegs for the tabernacle and those for the surrounding courtyard.**

**38:22** *the Lord* *commanded*. Refrain appears 19 times in describing the work of the sanctuary (38:22; 39:1, 5, 7, 21, 26, 29, 31, 32, 42, 43; 40:16, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 32). (TLSB)

**38:25** *100 talents and 1,775 shekels.* Since there are 3,000 shekels in a talent, 100 talents equals 300,000 shekels, which, when added to the 1,775 shekels, gives a grand total of 301,775—half a shekel for each of the 603,550 men of military age (v. 26). (CSB)

**38:26** *603,550 men.* The number is doubtless to be understood literally, since the figures in the tribal census (see Nu 1:21–43; 2:4–31) total 603,550 (see Nu 1:46 and note). See Introduction to Numbers: Special Problem. (CSB)

**38:27** *one talent for each base.* See note on 26:19. (CSB)

A large quantity of silver was used. Cf v 25.

**38:21–31** In the Gospels, Jesus compares the tabernacle and Herod’s temple with the temple of His body (Mt 27:40; Jn 2:19–22), by which we have full remission of sin. By the temple of Jesus’ body, we approach the Father. • Lord Jesus, we praise You that the prophecies of the OT (Lk 24:27) have been fulfilled in Your life, death, and resurrection. Amen. (TLSB)