

The Exclusive Gate

“And the hanging for the gate of the court was needlework, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen: and twenty cubits was the length, and the height in the breadth was five cubits, answerable to the hangings of the court” (Exodus 38:18).

Similar to our modern maze, the Labyrinth in Greek mythology was an elaborate one-door structure designed and built by Daedalus for King Minos of Crete. Its purpose was to hold the Minotaur, an invented creature that was half man and half bull. It is said that Daedalus so shrewdly made the Labyrinth that he had difficulty escaping it after building it. The Athenian hero, Theseus, who eventually killed the Minotaur, found his way in and out by a provided clue.

The Tabernacle in the Wilderness was not a maze created to confuse the children of Israel. Its purpose was to lead the people in their approach to and worship of the true and living God. Yet, like the Labyrinth in one respect, there was only one point of entrance. The white curtain-wall was too wide to run around, too high to jump over, and too low to crawl under. The people must come through the exclusive gate.

Using the Tabernacle and its many particulars as typical representations of Christ, the gate of the Old Testament Sanctuary directs our hearts to Christ, the only way to God. Jesus Himself proclaimed, “I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved” (John 10:9). Again, He declared His exclusiveness, saying, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me” (John 14:6). Three interesting thoughts must suffice for now.

The exclusiveness of Christ is presented in the mandate of the gate! The gate was not Moses’ idea; it was God’s revelation to him and to the people. This divine instruction issued from the heart of God. In like manner, the Lord Jesus is graciously revealed as the one and only gate of salvation. By human reasoning, man devises hundreds of ways to God. But in His infinite wisdom, God says of Christ, “Neither is there salvation in any other” (Acts 4:12).

The exclusiveness of Christ is projected in the measurements of the gate! The height of the gate was “five cubits,” or seven and one half feet. Its width was “twenty cubits,” or thirty feet. These measurements indicate that the one way to God through Christ is tall and wide enough for all who will come. Jesus explained, “All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me; and him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out” (John 6:37).

The exclusiveness of Christ is proclaimed in the message of the gate! To know the privileges of the outer court—the accepted offering on the brazen altar; the cleansing water in the brazen altar—one must come through the gate. Oh, dear friend, when we come through Christ, our Gate to God, it is then that we can see our acceptance and sanctification in Him—realities that are “freely given to us of God” (1 Corinthians 2:12). Have you entered this exclusive Gate?