

## “I AM THE GATE”

Is Jesus "all-together lovely" to you? Isaiah writes "He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in appearance that we should desire him" (Isaiah 53:2)

What is "all-together lovely" to people? They flock by thousands to hear great singers, to watch gifted athletes, to enjoy comedians. Some of the celebrities and stars today have millions of followers who hang on their every word, or tweet.

John says "the Word became flesh and 'tabernacled' among us" (John 1:14). Does the tabernacle in the desert help us understand the beauty of Jesus?



The tabernacle in the desert had little to attract attention to it. First, it was in a desert. Second, from a distance all one could see was a tent covered in skins, not greatly distinguished from other desert tents, set inside a rectangular enclosure draped with linen cloth on the outside.

If you drew near, the only entrance to the otherwise plain tabernacle was covered by a richly embroidered and colorful tapestry. The Bible says it was "of blue, purple, and scarlet, and fine twisted linen, wrought with needlework." (Ex. 27:16)

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<sup>1</sup> Source: <http://ferrelljenkins.wordpress.com/2008/08/27/the-tabernacle-in-the-wilderness/>

The difference between Jesus and celebrities is what you experience when you draw near. The star athlete off the playing field is a drunk and a wife abuser. The talented singer is depressed and has a drug addiction. The gifted writer is withdrawn, sullen, and sarcastic.

When people drew near to Jesus they discover a faithful friend, a wise counselor, a warm personality, a person with the highest position and power in the universe who is totally consumed with their needs and ready to leap into action should they ask.

All that man offers blurs into sameness. Once you've heard one country song you have heard them all. Each time a soccer ball or a puck goes into the net it is less special than all the other soccer balls or pucks you've already watch go into the net.

Not Jesus. Each time one comes into his presence, the tenderness grows deeper, the joy sweeter, the truth more inspiring, the admiration stronger, the sense of belonging more secure. Such a beauty is pictured for us by the rich tapestry that hung over the gate to the tabernacle.

Jesus said "I am the gate. Whosoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out and find pasture." (John 10:9)



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<sup>2</sup> Source of image: <http://spiritlessons.com/Tabernacle/>

The gate to the tabernacle was wide: **20** cubits wide. There were four (**4**) pillars in the midst of the gate and one pillar on each side of the gate. Therefore there were five (**5**) spaces between pillars of the gate through which men could pass into the tabernacle.

The spiritual number **20** means "**redemption**"

The spiritual number **4** means "**message**"

The spiritual number **5** means "**grace**"

So, the spiritual numbers tell us the meaning of the gate:

**"Message of Redemption by Grace"**.

Around the tabernacle the distance between the pillars of the dividing wall were: (see Addendum)

- 5.55 cubits (West side)
- 5 cubits (North side)
- 5 cubits (South side)
- 5 cubits (East side to the left of the Gate) and (East side to the right of the Gate)
- 4 cubits (East side between the pillars of the Gate)

The distance between the pillars of the gate was only 4 cubits. So, the space between the pillars was narrowest of all spaces between pillars around the court. Jesus could say:

"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow is the road that leads to life, and only few find it." (Matt. 7:14)

Thank you Lord!

### Footnotes

Can you name the four pillars?

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John

**ADDENDUM**Pillars of the Court of the Tabernacle (Exodus 27:9-19)

<sup>9</sup> And thou shalt make the court of the tabernacle: for **the south side** southward there shall be hangings for the court of fine twined linen of a *hundred cubits long* for one side:

<sup>10</sup> And the **twenty pillars** thereof and their twenty sockets shall be of brass; the hooks of the pillars and their fillets shall be of silver.

<sup>11</sup> And likewise for the **north side** in length there shall be hangings of a *hundred cubits long*, and his **twenty pillars** and their twenty sockets of brass; the hooks of the pillars and their fillets of silver.

<sup>12</sup> And for the breadth of the court on the **west side** shall be hangings of *fifty cubits*: their **pillars ten**, and their sockets ten.

<sup>13</sup> And the breadth of the court on the **east side** eastward shall be *fifty cubits*.

<sup>14</sup> The hangings of **one side of the gate** shall be *fifteen cubits*: their **pillars three**, and their sockets three.

<sup>15</sup> And on the **other side** shall be hangings *fifteen cubits*: their **pillars three**, and their sockets three.

<sup>16</sup> And for the gate of the court shall be a hanging of *twenty cubits*, of **blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, wrought with needlework**: and their **pillars shall be four**, and their sockets four.

<sup>17</sup> All the pillars round about the court shall be filleted with silver; their hooks shall be of silver, and their sockets of brass.

<sup>18</sup> The *length* of the court shall be *a hundred cubits*, and the *breadth fifty* everywhere, and the *height five cubits* of fine twined linen, and their sockets of brass.

Pillars and Gaps on Tabernacle Sides

West Side: 50 cubits, 10 Pillars = 9 Gaps, **5.55 cubits per Gap** [50/9]

North Side: 100 cubits, 20 Pillars + Corner from West Side = 20 Gaps **5 cubits Per Gap** [100/20]

South Side: 100 cubits, 20 Pillars + Corner from West Side = 20 Gaps **5 cubits Per Gap** [100/20]

East Side: 15 cubits On the Left, 3 Pillars + Corner from North Side, 3 Gaps, **5 cubits / Gap** [15/3]

15 cubits On the Right, 3 Pillars + Corner from South Side, 3 Gaps, **5 cubits / Gap** [15/3]

20 cubits Gate, 4 Pillars + 1 End Post Left + 1 End Post Right, 5 Gaps, **4 cubits / Gap** [20/5]