

PRAYING THE TABERNACLE

Lengthening and Deeping
Our Prayers

Parashas Korach

Numbers 15-17/Bemidvar “In the wilderness”

“We can always find
ourselves somewhere in the
wilderness”

“Korah’s Rebellion”

Referenced in Jude 1:11

Linked with those who, though being involved with the *kadosh* things, reject God’s authority (and their appointed position) in favor of their own ungodly desires.

The Censers

“As for the censers of these men who sinned at the cost of their lives, let them be taken and hammered into sheets as a covering for the altar. For they were presented before ADONAI, so they are holy. They are to be a sign to Bnei-Yisrael.” (Numb 16:38)

DO NOT BE LIKE KORAH!

Korah failed to recognize or value his honored position as a Levite who was charged with **the maintenance of 'the holy things'**.

Imagine if you'd had such proximity to the Kadosh....to the very things which ADONAI's glory had touched! What would it be like to be THAT close to G_d!? How foolish was Korah?

We rejoice in knowing it can't happen to us! *(wink)*

Our Charge to Maintain Prayer

In the tabernacle service, the burning of incense and prayer are synonymous. (Psalm 141:2. Rev. 5:8; 8:3-4)

Twice daily the incense was burned by the priests in the Holy Place.

Once annually, incense was burned by the High Priest in the Most Holy Place.

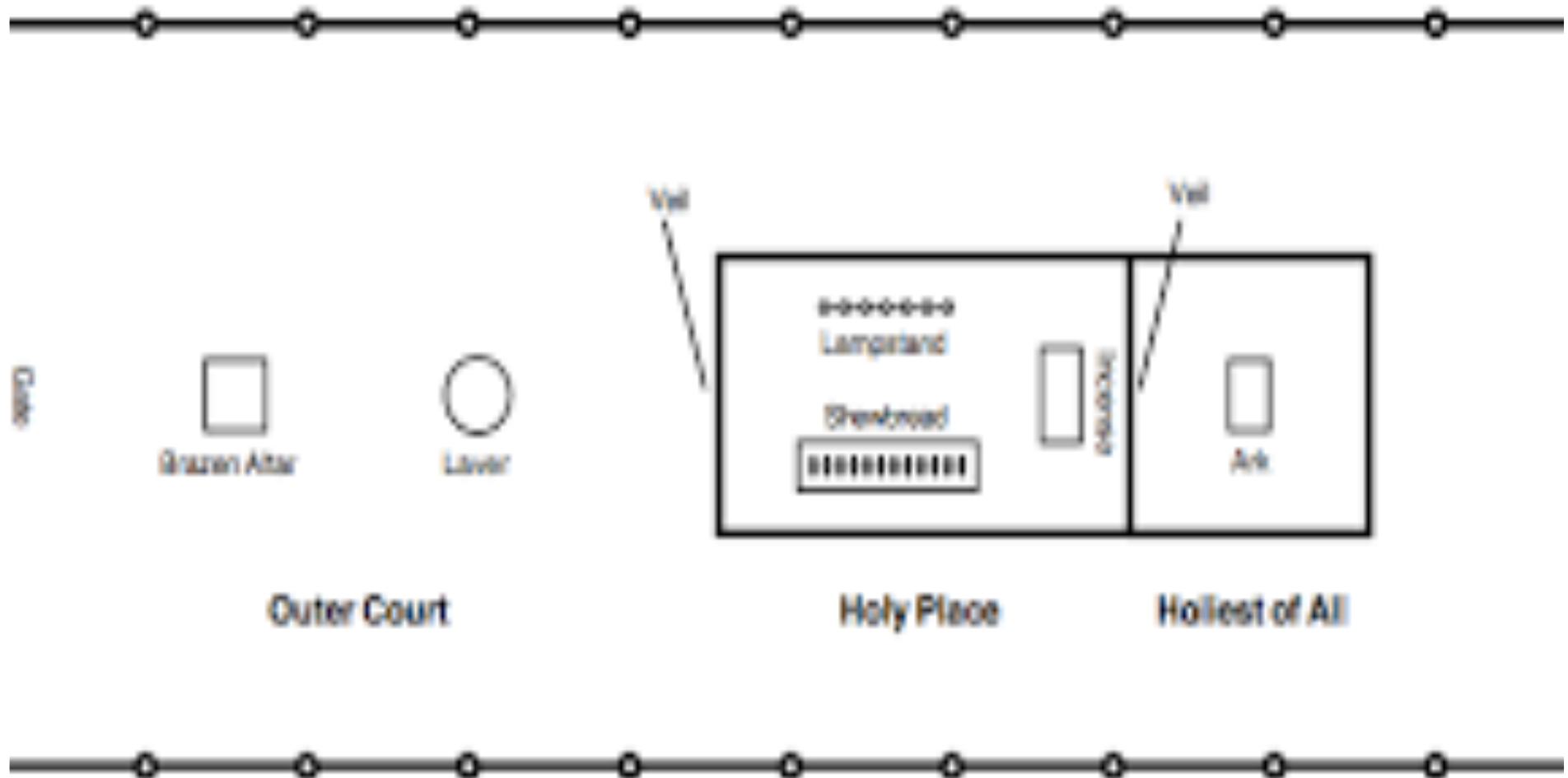
“The Rabbis say this was the apex of the morning and evening services and the most beloved part of the Temple service.”
(Zohar 130:A)

PRAY AT ALL TIMES.
PRAY CONTINUALLY.

Several years ago, my desire to pray longer and deeper led me to the tabernacle as a pattern/replica of the unseen realities and a path from the Common to the Divine.



The Divisions & Furnishings



Schematic of the Tabernacle of Moses
(Not drawn to scale)

The Outer Court

Altar –

- *Altar Covering - Hammered Censors are “A sign to Bnei-Yisrael” (Numbers 16:38) A reminder to attend to the holy/the inner.*
- *Horns on Altar... “Horn” connected with Kingship. The idea of protection and provision.*
- *Sacrifices....*
 - *Burnt Offerings- Entire dedication to God*
 - *Purification Offerings – To cleanse from sin and repair the damaged relationship between one and G_d.*
 - *Fellowship Offerings- Celebration of restoration*

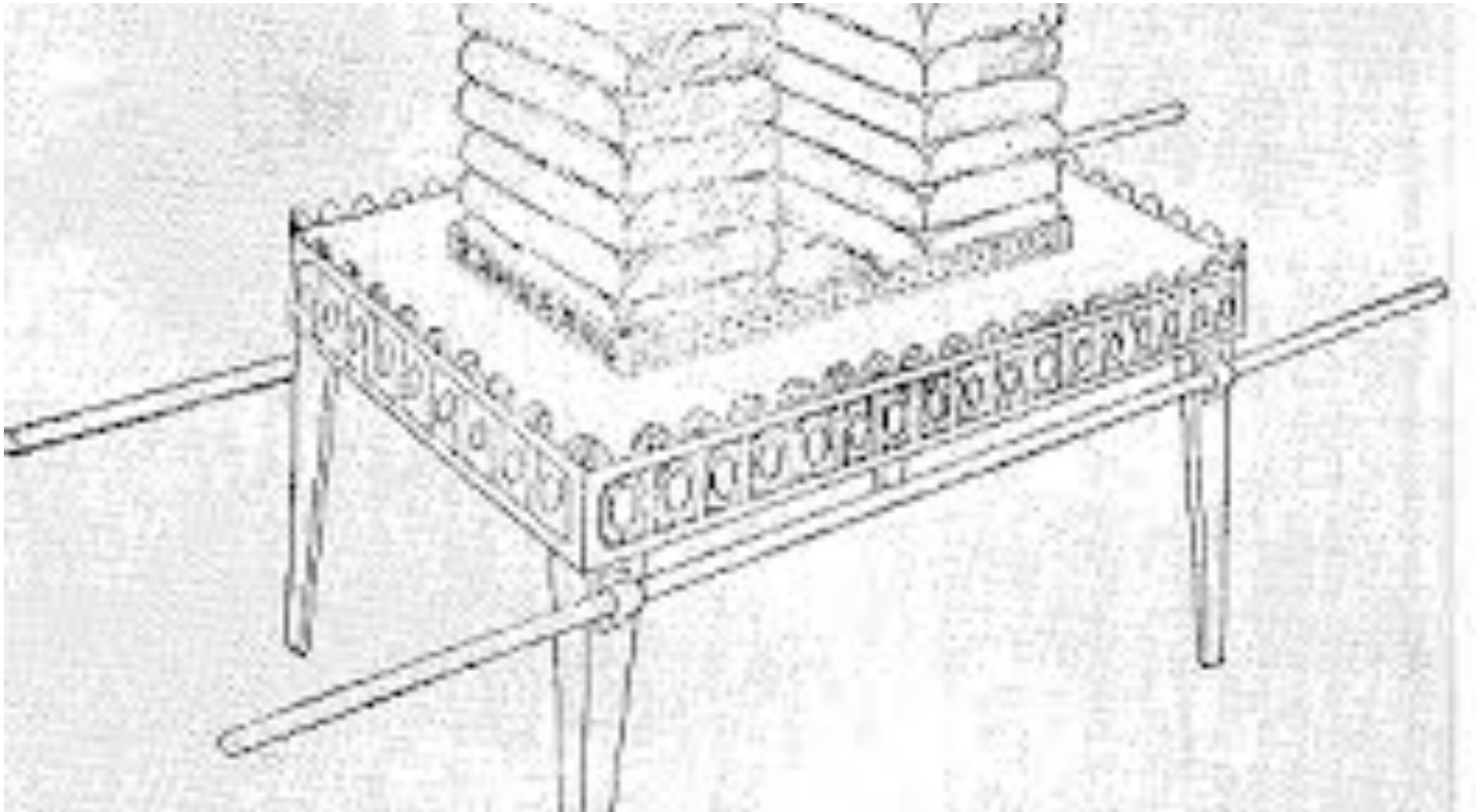
The Outer Court

- Bronze Laver
 - Hammered from the mirrors of the women (Ex. 38:8)
 - The hammering of the bronze allow you to catch your reflection so that you can see in yourself what you cannot naturally see. Comes through ‘hammering.’
 - Leaning over the laver, your reflection in the water contrasts you to the greatness and beauty of G_d.
 - Cleansing/purification is available and abundant. Preparing you for holy service and closer communion. (Ex 30:20)

The Door

- Pomegranates
 - 613 seeds in each fruit.
 - 613 *mitzvot* in TORAH (Tradition/?) but certainly a symbol of prosperity and fruitfulness – pray on *these* things!

Pierced and Striped



Holy Place

Crushing + Fire

- **Menorah**
 - Thy Word a lamp unto my feet....
- **Table Bread of the Presence**
 - Pierced and Striped....new every morning
- **Altar of Incense-** (Altar of Outer Court)
 - 1 cubit round....Noah's window.

Tangible Intangibles

The Curtain

- Divided Holy from Holy of Holies
 - Removed!
- 4" Woven wool curtain ripped in half!

The Most Holy

- The Ark
- Cherubim
- 10 Words
- Aaron's Rod
- Manna
- Atonement
- Shekinah/Presence/Communion

Where Was the Altar of Incense?

Exodus 30:1-10 places the altar “in front of the curtain”

Hebrews 9:3-4 places the altar “behind the second curtain”

ANSWER: BOTH! “*Echousa*” – Close Assoc/**Echo**
Spatially “in front”/ Theologically “behind”

PRAYER: ECHO-LAND

The Censors of Korah's Rebellion were attached to the altar where offerings were turned into smoke and aroma. The altar was positioned at the threshold of the point of transition. Here is where God and men came to unite/commune after trespasses.

The Incense Altar, positioned at a transition between the holy and most holy, was also a place where the tangible was transformed into intangible – smoke and aroma. Here, both penetrated and passed beyond the curtain – a legal 'trespass' and our intimate communion.

WE ARE IN THE WILDERNESS

Ask: Where am I now?

Faithfully maintain the holy things.

Draw near the Tabernacle for communion with
The Holy One.

Next.....Praying “The Wilderness.”