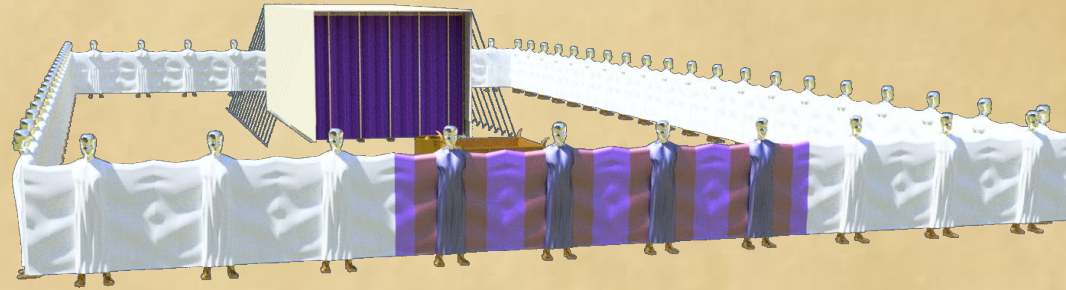


The Tabernacle's Courtyard



Part 1: A Lesson in Discrimination

Important Principles

1. *"The honour of God is to hide a thing, And the honour of kings to search out a matter."* (Pro 25:2 YLT)

2. *"For the priest's lips should be sure knowledge, that men may seek the law at his mouth, for he is a messenger of the LORD of Hosts."* (Mal 2:7 MSTC)

3. *"...and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first-born out of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth; to him who did love us, and did bathe us from our sins in his blood, and did make us kings and priests to his God and Father, to him is the glory and the power to the ages of the ages! Amen."* (Rev 1:5-6 YLT)

4. *"...it seemed good also to me, having followed from the first after all things exactly, to write to thee in order, most noble Theophilus, that thou mayest know the certainty of the things wherein thou wast instructed."* (Luk 1:3-4 YLT)

Attention to the details given in the scriptures often reveal treasures in unexpected places.

God wants us to exercise our ability to discriminate, comparing and contrasting.

Creating a mental, physical, or software model of the Tabernacle provides an opportunity for such discrimination.

It requires humility in recognizing when we have got something wrong, to go back and correct it.

Doing so is good training...it helps one distinguish truth from error.

There are many images of the Tabernacle available in various sources, such as on the internet.

Having worked with the scriptures extensively, I can say with confidence that most, if not all, are contrary to the scriptures.

Men have copied men rather than allowing the Truth to overcome preconceptions.

These incorrect images then become detrimental to God's intent in specifying the design in the first place.

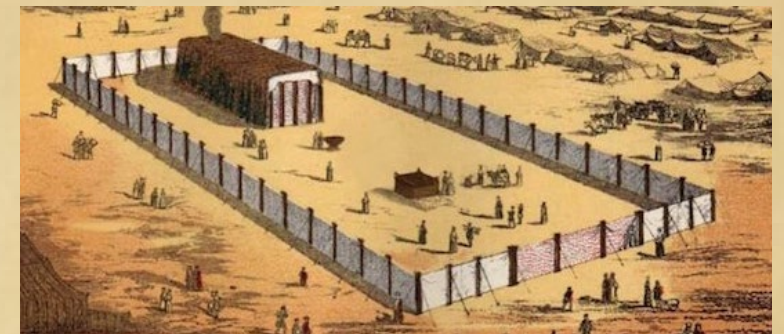
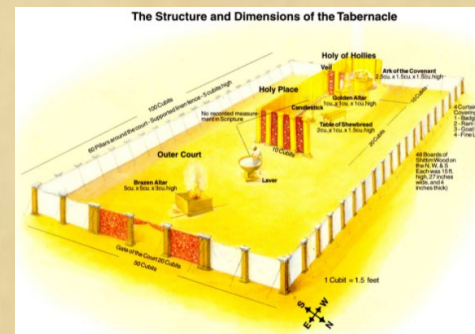
They obscure and hide the truth, rather than reveal it.

This is the typical consequence of going to men instead of God.

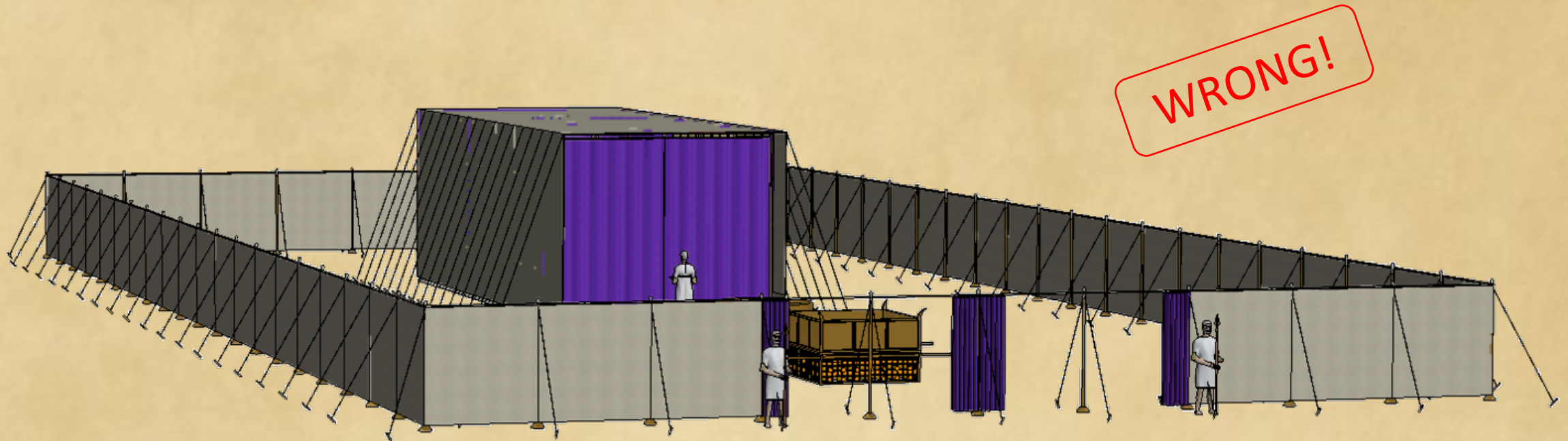
Below are some images of the Tabernacle found on the internet. They are all demonstrably **wrong**.



WRONG!



Below is one of my earlier models; it is logical, and fairly similar to those from the internet. And it is also WRONG.



When I first modelled it, I puzzled over the scriptures describing the courtyard, which read as follows:

“And thou hast made the court of the tabernacle: for the south side southward, hangings for the court of twined linen, **a hundred by the cubit is the length for the one side**, and its **twenty pillars and their twenty sockets are of brass**, the pegs of the pillars and their fillets are of silver; and **so for the north side in length**, hangings of **a hundred cubits in length**, and its **twenty pillars and their twenty sockets are of brass**, the pegs of the pillars and their fillets are of silver. 'And for the breadth of the court at the **west side are hangings of fifty cubits, their pillars ten, and their sockets ten**. And for the breadth of the court at the **east side, eastward, are fifty cubits**. And the hangings at the side are **fifteen cubits, their pillars three, and their sockets three**. And at the second side are **hangings fifteen cubits, their pillars three, and their sockets three**. 'And for the gate of the court **a covering of twenty cubits, blue, and purple, and scarlet, and twined linen, work of an embroiderer; their pillars four, their sockets four**. All the pillars of the court round about are filleted with silver, their pegs are silver, and their sockets brass. 'The **length of the court is a hundred by the cubit, and the breadth fifty by fifty, and the height five cubits**, of twined linen, and their sockets are brass, even all the vessels of the tabernacle, in all its service, and all its pins, and all the pins of the court, are brass.”

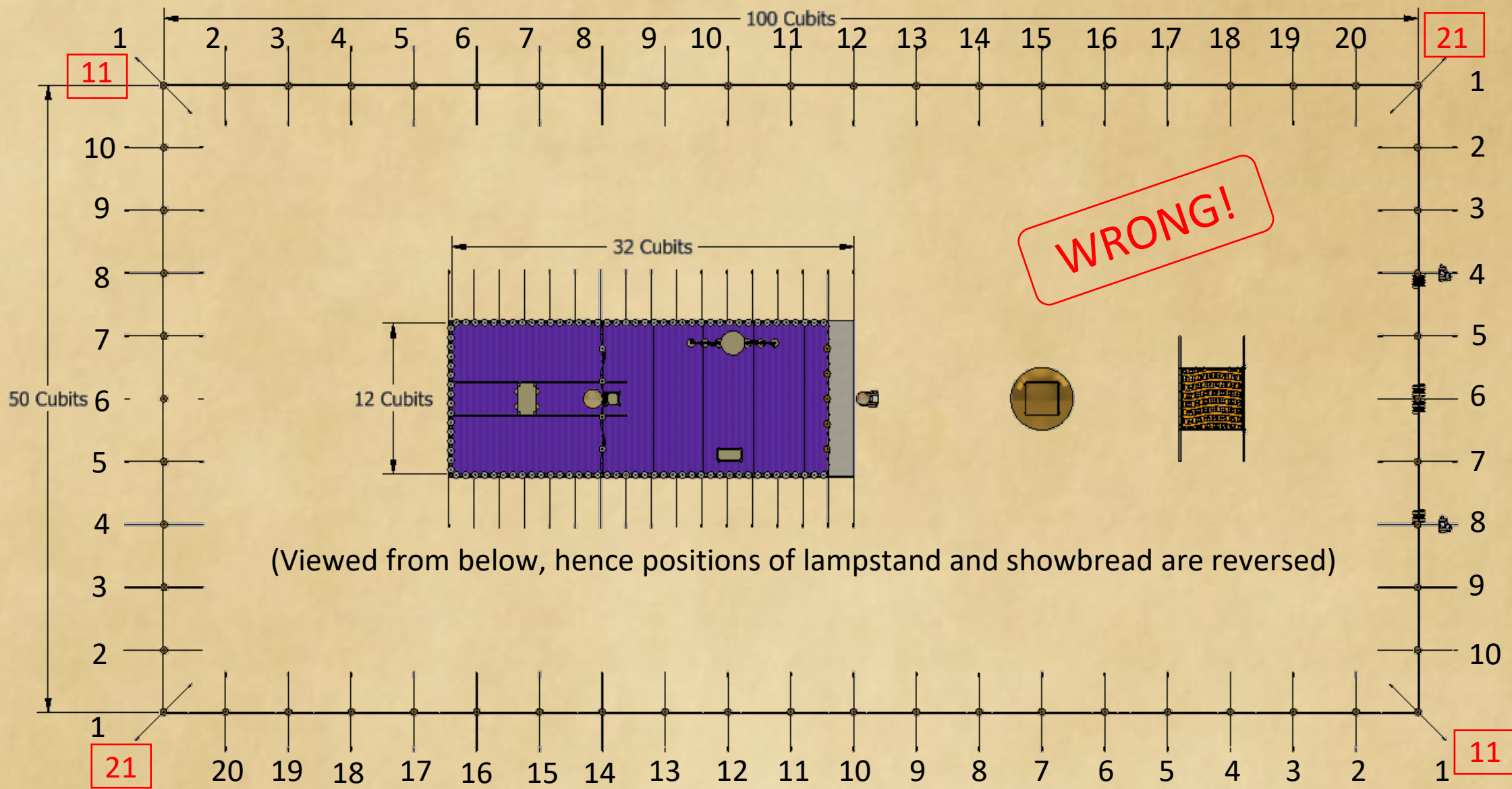
Exo 27:9-19

Summarizing:

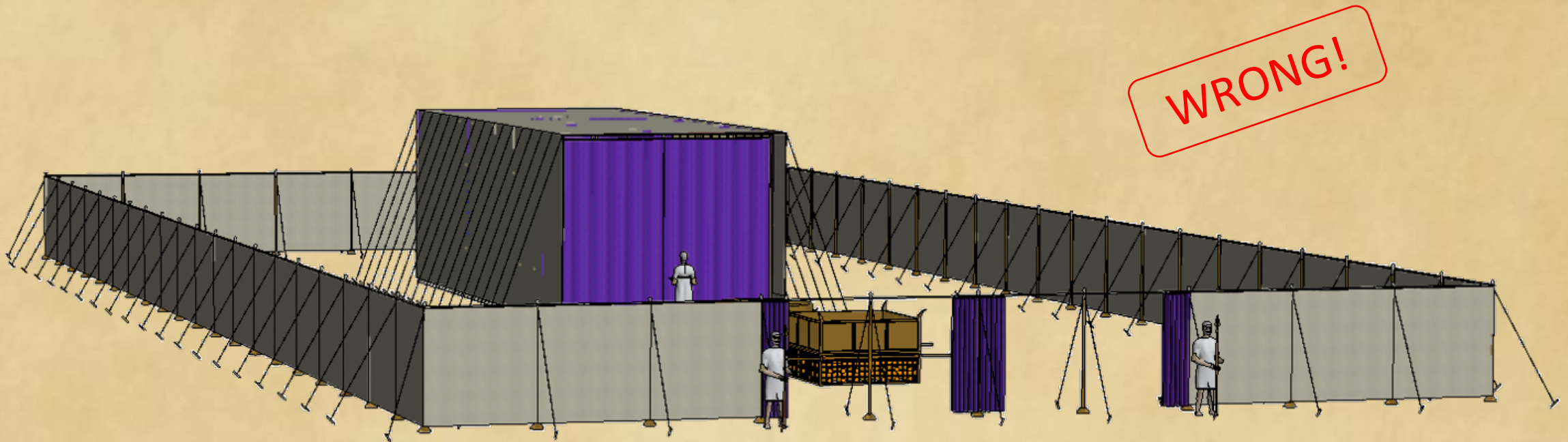
- The tabernacle is 100 cubits long by 50 cubits wide
- The north and south sides have 20 pillars each
- The east and west sides have 10 pillars each
- The east side contains a gate having 4 pillars, flanked on each side by 3 pillars.

To rationalize the scriptures to my preconception, I assumed that the 'counting' must start at a corner with its pillar 'assigned' to a face.

Another way of looking at it is to ask "which side does a corner pillar belong to, since it is at the intersection of two sides?"

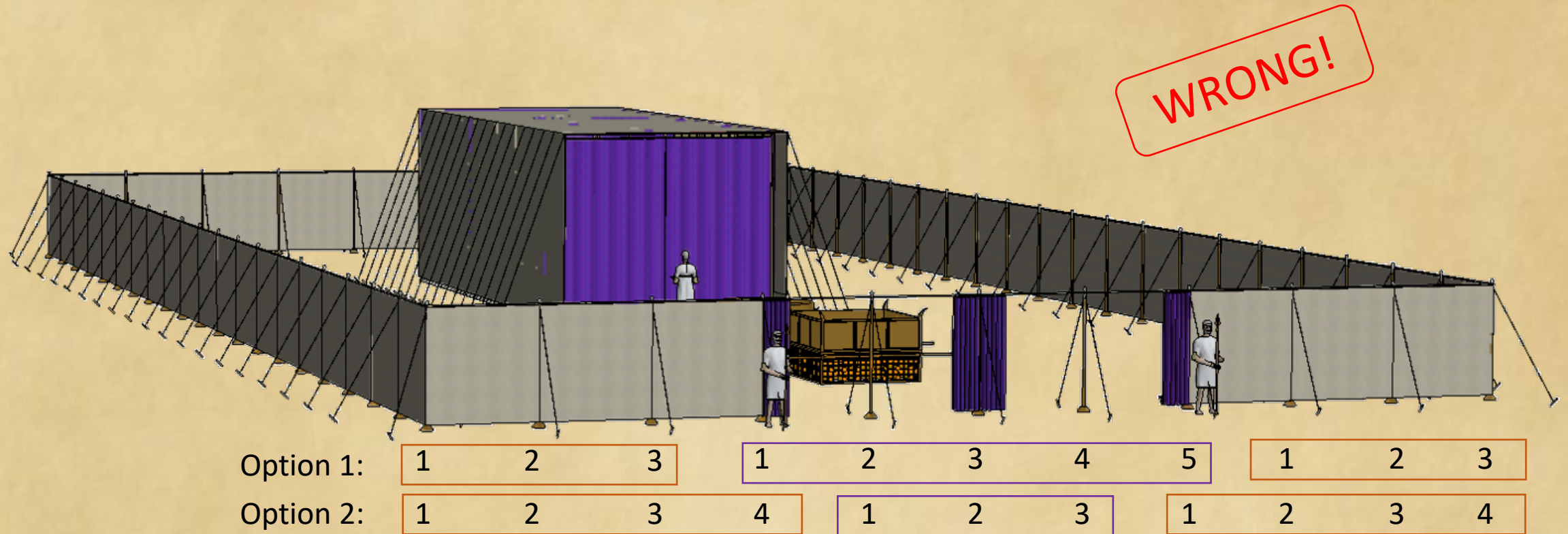


With corner pillars this does not match the bible: either it has *11* pillars 'reckoned to' the east and west faces and *19* pillars 'reckoned to' the north and south faces, or it has *9* 'reckoned to' the east and west ends, with *21* 'reckoned to' the north and south. Neither option is correct.

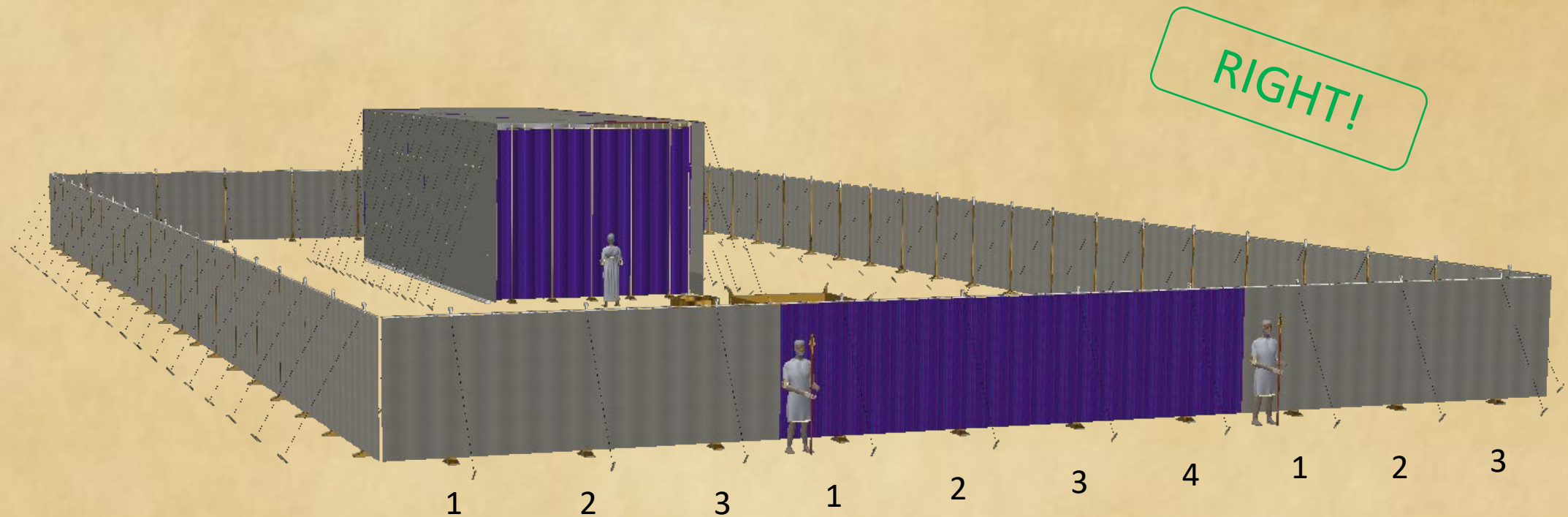


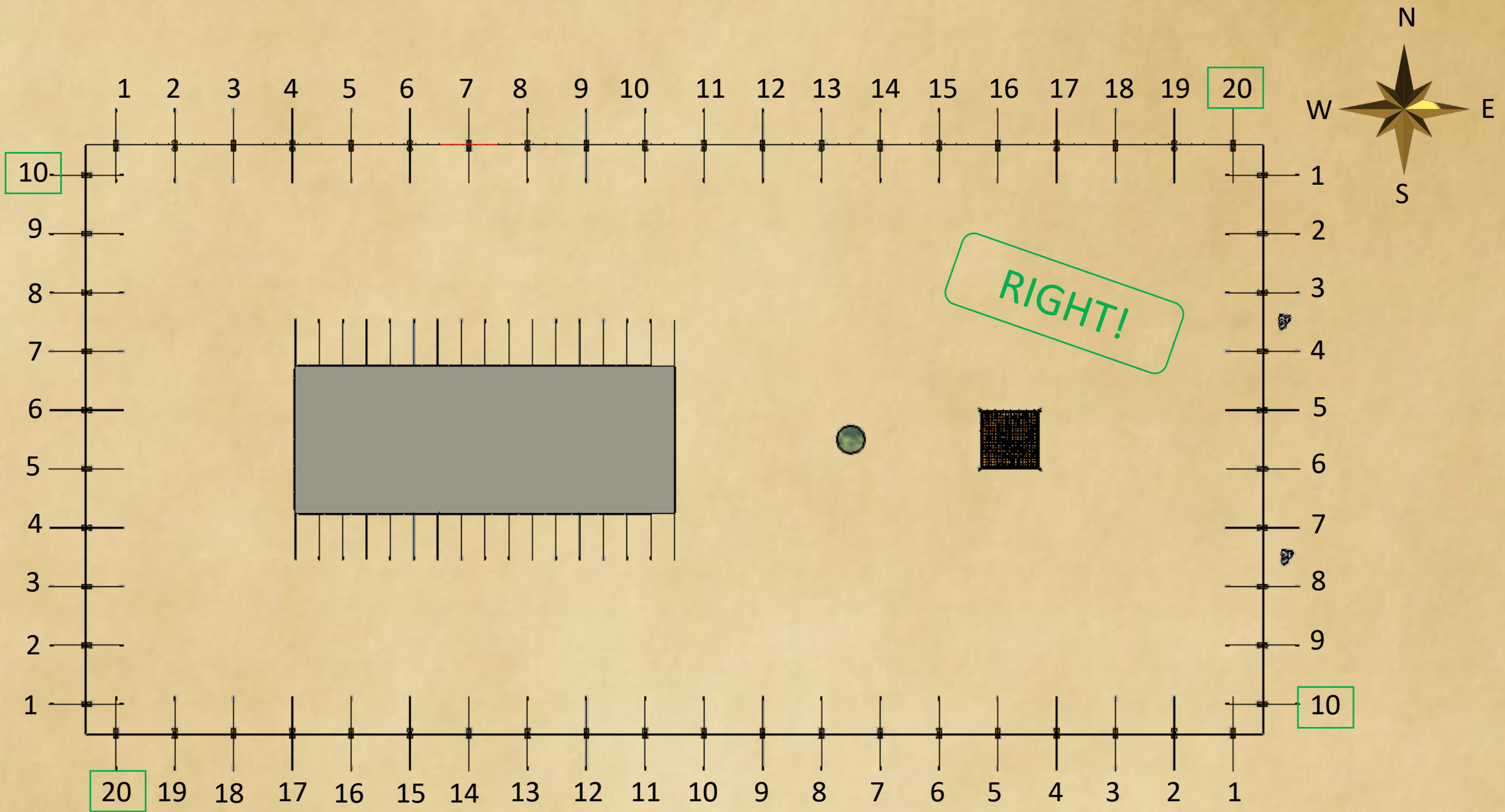
Not only that, but one cannot reconcile the gate pillars and the flanking pillars. Either the gate has 5 pillars with 3 flanking each side, or the gate has 3 pillars with 4 flanking each side.

This is contrary to the scriptures, resulting ambiguous numbering and confusion. God is not the author of confusion: therefore this is wrong.



This is a corrected version of the courtyard. The change is in the location of the pillars...there are *none* in the corners. Now the counts *match the scriptures exactly and literally*. Perfection.





Now how did I come to understand that my first model was wrong?

First, it bothered me that I had to apply a 'rationalization' to make things work.

But then, I began to understand other scriptures in a more literal sense, like this one:

An *OVERCOMER* is a *PILLAR* in God's sanctuary:

“Lo, I come quickly, be holding fast that which thou hast, that no one may receive thy crown. He who is overcoming—I will make him a pillar in the sanctuary of my God, and without he may not go any more, and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, that doth come down out of the heaven from my God—also my new name. He who is having an ear—let him hear what the Spirit saith to the assemblies.”

Rev 3:11-13

Also, in pondering the Tabernacle it became obvious that the sockets located on the ground for the courtyard and the entrance were made of *brass*.

And it just so happens that again and again, the scriptures describe the feet of angelic beings and the Son of Man as being like brass:

Son of Man: feet like brass

“and in the midst of the seven lamp-stands, one like to a son of man, clothed to the foot, and girt round at the breast with a golden girdle, and his head and hairs white, as if white wool—as snow, and his eyes as a flame of fire; and his feet like to fine brass, as in a furnace having been fired, and his voice as a sound of many waters, and having in his right hand seven stars, and out of his mouth a sharp two-edged sword is proceeding, and his countenance is as the sun shining in its might.”

Rev 1:13-16

Son of God: feet like brass

"And to the messenger of the assembly of Thyatira write: These things saith the Son of God, who is having his eyes as a flame of fire, and his feet like to fine brass;"

Rev 2:18

Son of Man: feet like brass

“and I lift up mine eyes, and look, and lo, a certain one clothed in linen, and his loins girt with pure gold of Uphaz, and his body as a beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and **his arms and his feet as the aspect of bright brass**, and the voice of his words as the voice of a multitude. 'And I have seen—I, Daniel, by myself—the appearance: and the men who have been with me have not seen the appearance, but a great trembling hath fallen on them, and they flee to be hidden;”

Dan 10:5-7

Four living creatures: feet like brass

“And out of its midst is a likeness of four living creatures, and this is their appearance; a likeness of man is to them, and four faces are to each, and four wings are to each of them, and **their feet are straight feet, and the sole of their feet** is as a sole of a calf's foot, and they are sparkling as **the colour of bright brass**; and hands of man under their wings—on their four sides, and their faces and their wings— are to them four;”

Eze 1:5-8

Since the heavenly creatures are consistently represented as having feet like *brass*, then it must be intended by God that the *pattern* is recognized likewise in the Tabernacle:

“all the hangings of the court round about are of twined linen, and the sockets for the pillars of brass, the pegs of the pillars and their fillets of silver, and the overlaying of their tops (H7218) of silver, and all the pillars of the court are filleted with silver.”

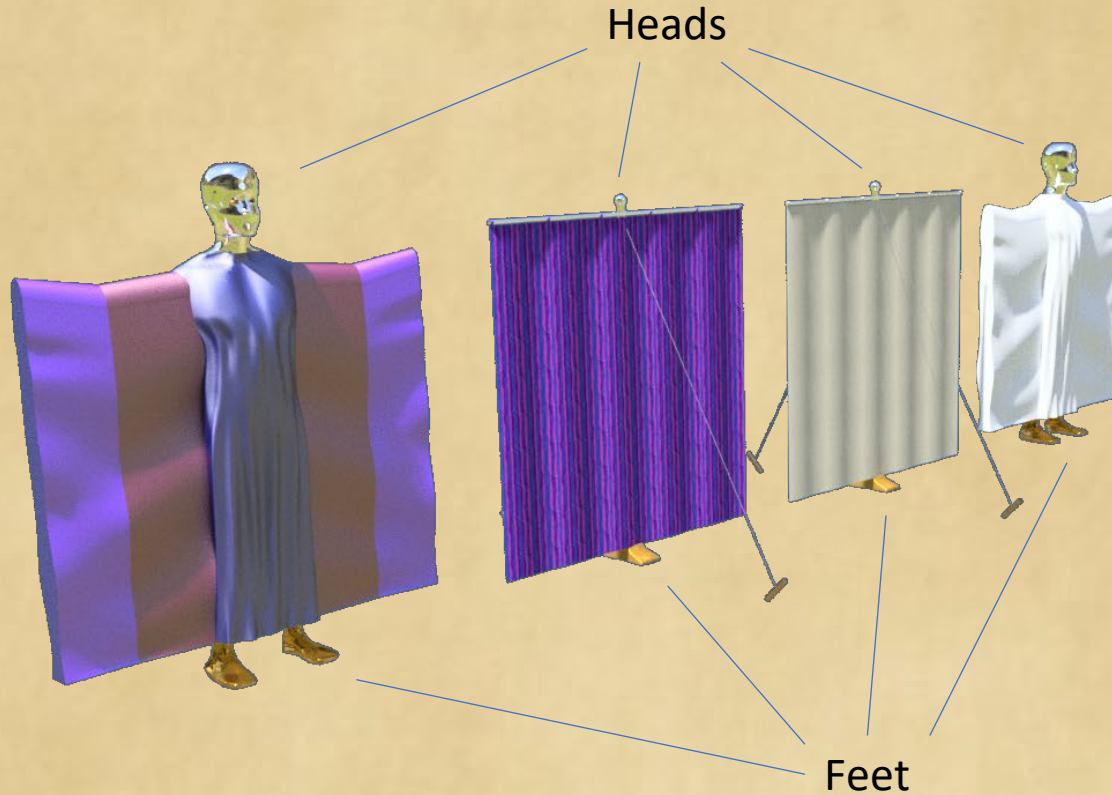
Exo 38:16-17

Clue: Pillars have “heads”

- **H7218**

- ראש
- rô'sh
- *roshe*
- From an unused root apparently meaning to *shake*; *the head* (as most easily *shaken*), whether literally or figuratively (in many applications, of place, time, rank, etc.): - band, beginning, captain, chapter, chief (-est place, man, things), company, end, X every [man], excellent, first, forefront, ([be-]) head, height, (on) high (-est part, [priest]), X lead, X poor, principal, ruler, sum, top.

The spiritual reality pictured by the Tabernacle pillars:



You see, there is a reason God explicitly warned Moses to build the Tabernacle according to the pattern he was shown, and not deviate from it.

It isn't just a stupid tent made by stone-age goatherds out of their own imagination.

God is creating visual aids to understanding the spiritual world.

“And *see* thou and *do by their pattern* which thou art shewn in the mount.”

Exo 25:40

“and Moses seeth all the work, and lo, *they have done it as Jehovah hath commanded*; so they have done. And Moses doth bless them.”

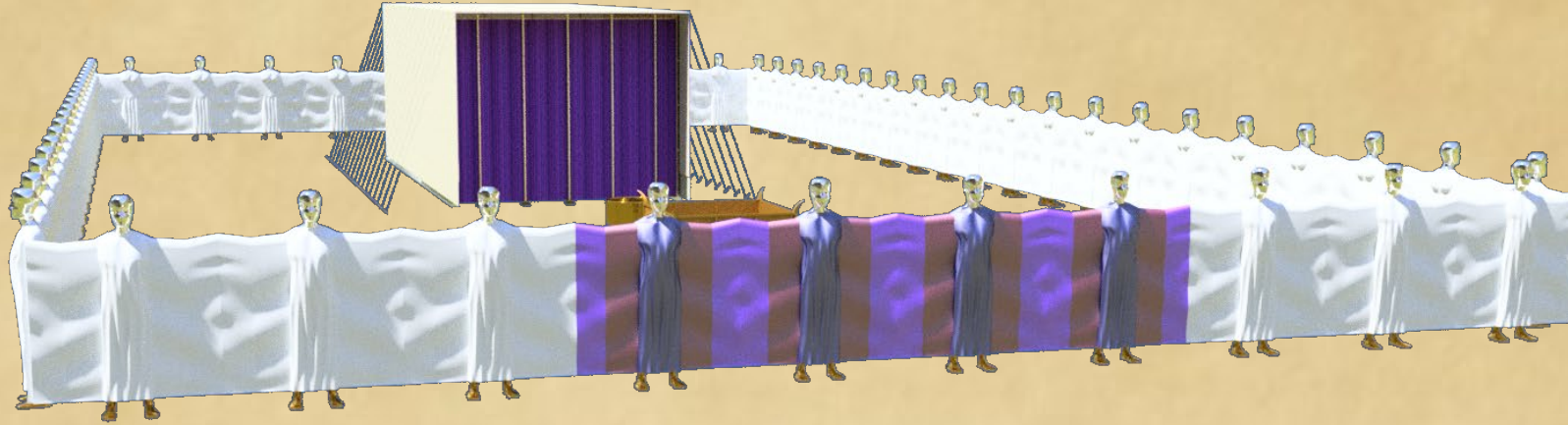
Exo 39:43

Getting things wrong is not without effect.

It is *blinding* to the truth.

Here is one truth about the Tabernacle:

A wall of armed warriors surrounding the Tabernacle:



How many pillars form the courtyard, according to the scriptures?

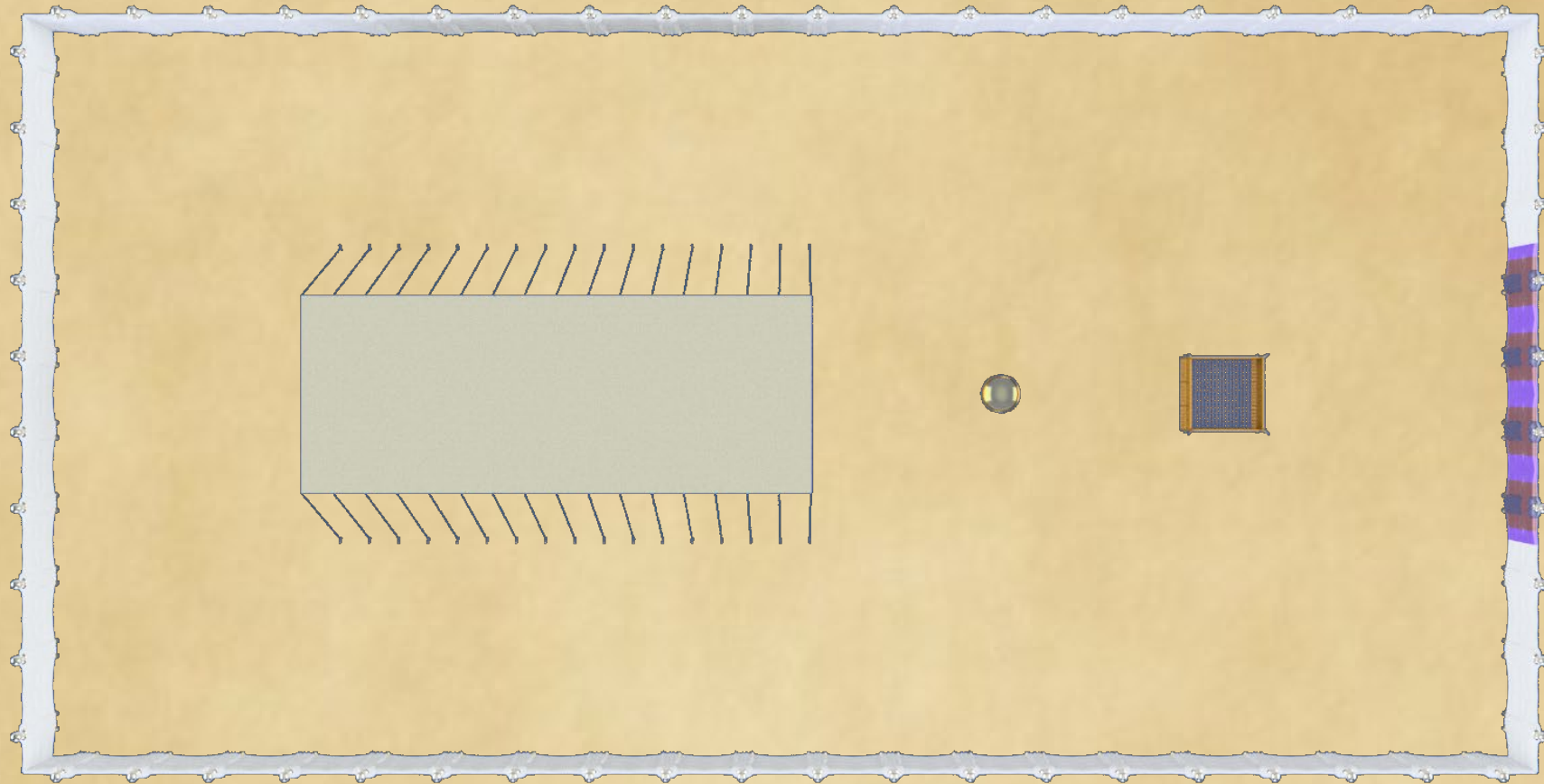
$$20 \text{ (North)} + 10 \text{ (East)} + 20 \text{ (South)} + 10 \text{ (West)} = 60$$

Sixty pillars equals sixty warriors, like this:

“Who is this coming up from the wilderness,
Like pillars of smoke,
Perfumed with myrrh and frankincense,
From every powder of the merchant?
Lo, his couch, that is Solomon’s,
Sixty mighty ones are around it,
Of the mighty of Israel,
All of them holding sword,
taught of battle,
Each his sword by his thigh,
for fear at night.”

Son 3:6-8

To be continued...



“And now, gathered against thee have been many nations, who are saying: 'Let her be defiled, and our eyes look on Zion.' They have not known the thoughts of Jehovah, Nor have they understood His counsel, For He hath gathered them as a sheaf into a threshing-floor. Arise, and thresh, O daughter of Zion, For **thy horn I make iron**, And **thy hoofs I make brass**, And thou hast beaten small many peoples, And I have devoted to Jehovah their gain, And their wealth to the Lord of the whole earth!”

Mic 4:11-13