

## SWORD MINISTRIES (Ephesians 6:17)

### THE BRAZEN LAVER

#### EXODUS 30:17-21

- Located between the Tabernacle and the Brazen Altar in the outer courtyard
- Used by the priests to ceremonially cleanse before entering the Holy Place to minister; simply a brass washbowl on a base

**EXODUS 38** brass speaks of judgment against sin (vv1-3) this is speaking of Bezaleel, a man that God filled with the Holy Spirit to build the Tabernacle and all its pieces (v8) *'He made the laver of bronze and its base of bronze, from the bronze mirrors of the serving women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.'* The laver was made of highly polished brass which the women used as mirrors, but gave them to the Lord as an offering. The laver was then filled with water. Both things, the mirror and the water, speak to us of the Word of God in our daily lives.

**EPHESIANS 5** (vv25-27) *'That He [Jesus] might sanctify and cleanse it [the church] with the washing of water by the word...'* there are two key words in this verse: *'sanctify'* - *hagiazō* - to separate from profane things and dedicate to God. *'Cleanse'* - *katharizō* - to make clean, cleanse; to purify from wickedness. Jesus uses the Word of God to purify us and make us holy unto God.

**JAMES 1** the Brazen Laver that the Old Testament priests used foreshadows the ministry of the Bible in the believer's life today. The Laver was made of mirrored brass and is an incredible type for the Bible (vv17, 18) *'Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.'* God uses His Word as an instrument of the new birth (vv19-21) *'...and receive with meekness the engrafted [implanted] word, which is able to save your souls.'* When one gets saved, God uses His Word mightily in that new life; God has deposited His Word in your life which will cleanse and purify you. (vv22-25) *'But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.'* The mirrored brass laver! The Bible gives us clear vision, as we allow it to radically change our thought process through the teaching of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

**1 PETER 1** (vv22-25) God exalts His Word relentlessly in the Bible itself: *'Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.'* The Word of God is living. This is not a metaphor, it is a reality: **HEBREWS 4:12; MATTHEW 4:4; ISAIAH 55:10,11** God's Word changes lives; inspired and empowered by God the Holy Spirit. *'The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.'* We all have seen plenty of 'fads' come and go, some have endured for quite a while, others seem to end shortly after starting; scientific 'facts' are

## THE TABERNACLE (Study #28)

constantly changing as man learns (and denies) the Creator of the Universe. In stark contrast, the Bible never changes, God's Word *'lives and abides forever.'*

**JOHN 17** (vv1,2) Jesus prays to His Father shortly before the cross (vv12-23) Jesus prays for us to be sanctified through the Word of God: *'Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.'* The word *'sanctify'* is the same word used in **EPHESIANS 5** meaning to set apart unto God. This is all a striking picture of the priests using the Laver in the Tabernacle.

**EXODUS 30:19-21** *'For Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet thereat: When they go into the tabernacle of the congregation, they shall wash with water, that they die not...'* before the priests could enter the Tabernacle to serve the Lord (burning incense, filling the Lampstand with oil and trimming the wicks, changing the showbread, etc.), they had to ceremonially wash their hands and feet. It is important to note that before they went to the Brazen Laver, they would first go to the Brazen Altar to experience the cleansing of blood by the substitutionary death of an innocent victim.

In man's approach to God, to be cleansed we must experience:

- **1st** – Bloodshed at the Brazen Altar, the cross of Jesus Christ. This is where we are justified (cleared of all guilt) from our sins, this is a one-time event.
- **2nd** – Water at the Brazen Laver, the Word of God. This is where we are sanctified, set apart unto God, this is a process in our lives.

**JOHN 17:4** *'I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.'* **JOHN 3:14-17** *'For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.'* **JOHN 19:31-35** *'But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.'* This is a breathtaking fulfillment of how the O.T. priests were cleansed before entering and serving in the tabernacle.

Today's Fulfillment in the Believer's Life:

If you have come to the cross of Jesus Christ, which the Brazen Altar typifies, the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin forever, one-time thing **EPHESIANS 1:3-8** *'In Whom [Jesus] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins...'* **HEBREWS 9:11-26; 10:10-18** *'...having obtained eternal redemption for us... but now once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself... By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all... after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever... For by one offering He hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.'* Jesus has done it all!

After we have come to His cross, as we minister daily for the Lord, we must also cleanse our hands and feet with His Word **PSALM 24:1-6; EPHESIANS 4:1-3; GALATIANS 5:16-18; JOHN 15:3; PSALM 119:9-16** Walk with Jesus, stay in His Word, be blessed!