

Elder Vernon Johnson  
Colors

Gold - The King's Golden Reed

In the scriptures there is a strong correlation between the color or metal, gold, and the subject of kings and kingdoms. In Revelations chapter 21 we read of the King's golden measuring reed: Rev. 21:15 "And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof."

Rev. Chapter 11 begins with the apostle John being told to measure some things (temple of God, the altar, and them that worship therein). He was given a measuring reed in which to perform his task. In the book of Ezekiel chapters 40-48 there are quite a number of things measured in the house of Ezekiel's vision. They were measured by a measuring reed. The size of this measuring reed is given to us in Eze. 40:5 "And behold a wall on the outside of the house round about, and in the man's hand a measuring reed of six cubits long by the cubit and an hand breadth: so he measured the breadth of the building, one reed; and the height, one reed."

The length of this measuring reed was 6 cubits and a hand breadth. This might seem to be an odd size for a measuring instrument until you notice that a hand breadth is approximately 6 inches long. This makes the measuring reed 6 cubits and 6 inches. This makes for a 6x6 measuring instrument. We see also an example of something 6x6 in the setting of the 12 loaves of shew bread on the table in the tabernacle. These 12 loaves were arranged in 2 rows with 6 loaves in a row. Thus they were so configured to be 6x6. The loaves represented spiritual food for God's people. They were symbolic of the scriptures which are given to us in 66 books. Likewise, as we will see, the scriptures are our perfect measuring instrument. We read in 2 Cor. 10:12 "For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. 13 But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you. 14 For we stretch not ourselves beyond our measure, as though we reached not unto you: for we are come as far as to you also in preaching the gospel of Christ: 15 Not boasting of things without our measure, that is, of other men's labours; but having hope, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly."

To measure ourselves among ourselves we are told is not wise. However, we have a perfect measure as the above scriptures teach us by which we are to measure all things. This measure is the word of God. By this measure we are to "prove all things,"

and “hold fast that which is good.” (Other references to thing measured in the New Testament, see Matt. 7:2; 23:32; Mk. 6:51; Lk. 6:38; Rom. 12:3; 2 Cor. 10:12-15; Eph. 4:7, 13, 16; Rev. 6:6)

Next, we notice that this measuring reed was “like unto a rod.” The rod is often used in the scriptures to represent the authority of God. (See Ex. 4:17; 7:9, 10, 12, 15, 17, 19, 20; 8:5, 16, 17; 9:23; 10:13; 14:16; 17:59; Num. 17:2-10; 20:8-11; 2 Sam. 7:14; Job 9:34; 21:9; Ps. 2:9; 23:4; 89:32; 110:2; Prov. 22:15; Rev. 2:27; 12:5; 19:15). Thus we see that the things that are to be measured are there by the authority of God and have their measurements according to God’s authority. Thus they aren’t to be changed by man!

The first of the three things to be measured was the “temple of God.” The temple is where God is worshipped. During the Old Testament days the temple of God was located at Jerusalem and was built by Solomon and the children of Israel. The dimensions of this temple and the furnishings of this temple are given to us in I Kings.

Jesus spoke of the temple of his body as he said, “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up again. This spoke he of the temple of his body.” Jesus body is different from our body in that he was born of a virgin who was overshadowed by the Holy Ghost and his body was holy, harmless, undefiled and separate from sinners. He worshipped and served God in that body. Thus it was a temple. In the New Testament, the church is referred to as the temple of God. Eph. 2:20 “And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.” (See also 1 Cor. 3:16, 17; 6:19; 2 Cor. 6:16)

The second thing to be measured was the altar. In the Old Testament the dimension of the brazen altar was given to us in the book of Exodus. Upon this altar the animal sacrifices were made. The scriptures speak of another altar in this New Testament church age in Heb. 13:10 “We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle.” The altar is the place where something is sacrificed. In the Old Testament animals were sacrificed on the brazen altar. Similarly we read of spiritual sacrifices in the New Testament. 1 Pet. 2:5 reads, “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.” The following verses tell us of some of those spiritual sacrifices:

1. Rom. 12:1 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

2. Phil. 2:17 "Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all."

3. Phil 4:18 "But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God."

4. Heb. 13:15 "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. 16But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

It is to be noted that when something is sacrificed then something is given up. To present our bodies a living sacrifice is to give up living after the flesh, but to live after the inner man and the word of God. The sacrifice of faith means that we are to give up walking after the sight of the flesh, to walk after the leadership of God and his word. Likewise the other sacrifices listed involve giving up the natural desires of the flesh to do spiritual things. Thus, it appears that the altar on which fleshly things are sacrificed for spiritual things is the altar of our bodies.

The third thing to be measured was the worshippers in the temple. Certainly within this measurement would be the fact that these are born-again, repentant, baptized believers in the gospel of the grace of Christ.

King Jesus' measuring reed is the word of God. It is by his word that all things are to be measured.