

## The Tabernacle Curtains Exodus 26

Ex 26:1 ¶ **"Moreover thou shalt make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet: with cherubims of cunning work shalt thou make them. 2 The length of one curtain shall be eight and twenty cubits, and the breadth of one curtain four cubits: and every one of the curtains shall have one measure. 3 The five curtains shall be coupled together one to another; and other five curtains shall be coupled one to another. 4 And thou shalt make loops of blue upon the edge of the one curtain from the selvedge in the coupling; and likewise, shalt thou make in the uttermost edge of another curtain, in the coupling of the second. 5 Fifty loops shalt thou make in the one curtain, and fifty loops shalt thou make in the edge of the curtain that is in the coupling of the second; that the loops may take hold one of another. 6 And thou shalt make fifty taches of gold and couple the curtains together with the taches: and it shall be one tabernacle. 7 ¶ And thou shalt make curtains of goats' hair to be a covering upon the tabernacle: eleven curtains shalt thou make. 8 The length of one curtain shall be thirty cubits, and the breadth of one curtain four cubits: and the eleven curtains shall be all of one measure. 9 And thou shalt couple five curtains by themselves, and six curtains by themselves, and shalt double the sixth curtain in the forefront of the tabernacle. 10 And thou shalt make fifty loops on the edge of the one curtain that is outmost in the coupling, and fifty loops in the edge of the curtain which coupleth the second. 11 And thou shalt make fifty taches of brass, and put the taches into the loops, and couple the tent together, that it may be one. 12 And the remnant that remaineth of the curtains of the tent, the half curtain that remaineth, shall hang over the backside of the tabernacle. 13 And a cubit on the one side, and a cubit on the other side of that which remaineth in the length of the curtains of the tent, it shall hang over the sides of the tabernacle on this side and on that side, to cover it. 14 And thou shalt make a covering for the tent of rams' skins dyed red, and a covering above of badgers' skins."**

The tabernacle has 4 layers of coverings which went from the ground, up the wall, across the top and back down the other side.

The innermost layer was of fine twined linen, seen in: ***Ex 26:1 "Moreover thou shalt make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet: with cherubims of cunning work shalt thou make them."*** These curtains were shorter than the rest so that the linen did not touch the ground, which speaks to us that God's kingdom is not an earthly kingdom but a spiritual kingdom. It also tells us that our eternal salvation and destination is in the eternal heaven. The colors of this fabric were blue, purple, and scarlet. Blue is the color of the heavens and speaks to us of heaven from which Jesus came in a prepared body. Scarlet is a red color and speaks to us of the blood of Jesus Christ which he shed on the cross for our sins. Purple, which is between the blue and the scarlet, speaks to us of royalty of our Saviour. Why is purple between? If you mix the colors of blue and red, scarlet, you get purple. Jesus came to earth the first time in a prepared body to shed his blood for the remission of our sins. It took both the body from heaven and the shedding of the blood to manifest the royalty of Christ. Though he came as king the first time, his true recognition as King of kings will be at his second coming.

There is the prophetic picture of the security of the eternal life given to each child of God who is indwelt with the Holy Spirit. This innermost curtain was woven with cunning work and had cherubims woven into it, demonstrates that the eternal salvation of the child of God is as protected, from finally falling away from God, as the tree of life was in the Garden of Eden, which was protected by the cherubims and the flaming sword. Jesus is surrounded by the cherubims on his eternal throne.

The next layer was of goat's hair, seen in: ***Ex 26:7 "And thou shalt make curtains of goats' hair to be a covering upon the tabernacle: eleven curtains shalt thou make."*** This curtain was to be the protection of the inner curtain. This curtain did reach to the ground, which manifests to us that our eternal salvation is manifested here on earth. It was a layer of protection to preserve the beauty of the inner curtain. We see the prophetic picture of the child of God who is walking in faithful obedience to Jesus Christ. What do you mean? Do you realize that both your secular and your spiritual walks are to agree? In the new birth you have been given the inward beauty of Christ, which is seen only from within the tabernacle. In living the life of a Christian, your secular walks should reflect that inward beauty, and they protect the image of the inward spiritual life, as seen

in: **Col 3:23 "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."**

The third layer was of ram's skin dyed red, seen in: **Ex 26:14 "And thou shalt make a covering for the tent of rams' skins dyed red,"** The ram is emblematic of the prepared body of Jesus Christ which was covered in his own blood for the purging of our sins forever. This tells us that all we have in Christ is through the power of the shed blood of Jesus Christ. It demonstrates that our secular walks projecting the inward beauty of Christ in us, and that our inward beauty both came through the finished work of Jesus.

The forth layer was of badger's skins seen in: **Ex 26:14 "and a covering above of badgers' skins."** This outermost layer was of badgers' skins. Badger means a clean animal with fur. This also gives us the picture of Jesus Christ. How? The mortal man Jesus was the only human body that was completely clean, free from sin. Remember the scripture in: **Isa 53:2 "For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him."** Remember that this outer covering is what is looked upon from the outside. Christ Jesus came to the world in a prepared body and his outward appearance had no appeal to those who did not believe in him, even those of his own nation of people. This outward curtain would also be there to protect everything under it from the natural elements and outside things. This reminds us that everything we have and cherish in Christ Jesus is protected by his power and strength, it is not of our selves. Think upon the true church today. It has no beauty or appeal to the unsaved and lost sinners of the world, whose eyes are blinded by Satan, and they cannot see nor understand who and what Jesus is to his people. Yet to those who are a part of the true church, the drawing power is not the outward appearance, but the beauty of the inward appearance, which reveals Jesus the Christ, and manifest God's salvation in our lives.

We would draw your attention to the innermost curtain of fine twined linen of blue, purple, and scarlet, upon which were to be woven with cherubims of cunning work. In scripture, where do we find cherubims? The first place is the garden of Eden where they were placed to guard the tree of life. They are scattered throughout scripture and when looked upon in the whole of scripture; the four beast that are around the throne of God, which are described by Ezekiel and Isaiah, are believed to be Cherubims. Thus, we see the prophetic picture, as God had the cherubim guarding the tree of life, we see in these innermost curtains with the cherubims, the scene described in the eternal heaven, of the cherubims surrounding the throne of the Lamb, and crying holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty.

We would remind the readers that these curtains are made to cover what we call the tabernacle area, which contained the holy place and the most holy place. In the most holy place we find the ark, of the covenant of God, containing the Ten Commandments which were written by God, and covered with the mercy seat.

We point out that these curtains were to conceal the ark of God and the mercy seat from anyone outside. The beauty of the cunning work of the innermost curtain is only observed from the inside. This reveals that only those who are in the church see the revealed beauty of Jesus Christ.

The tabernacle set up gives us the prophetic picture of the coming of Jesus the first time. The resurrected Christ was not revealed to those under the sacrificial law. The tabernacle set up also gives us the prophetic picture of Jesus in the tomb, which tells us that Jesus was coming to do the work of the Father. With the rending of the vail of the most holy place at the death of Jesus on the cross, we see the end of the sacrificial law and the gathering around the tabernacle to worship, because now the mercy seat is revealed to God's people. It also signifies to us that Jesus, having finished the work of the Father, has resurrected himself from the dead and returned to heaven.

Why were there four layers of curtains? I believe this represents the four thousand years from the beginning of time until the rending of the vail to the most holy place, which revealed to God's people the prophesied Messiah and his finished word of salvation for God's people. All under the sacrificial law service did not see the mercy seat revealed, for the vail of the most holy place was not yet rent.

Why all the different sections of curtains? Why was each layer coupled together to make one curtain? It gives us the prophetic picture of the oneness of all of God's people. It gives us the truth that salvation by the grace of God is the only way that God has of saving people, it has always been, and always will be, through Jesus Christ, who is the centerpiece of this tabernacle. The loops and taches are representative of the love of God manifested in each Child of God and that through Jesus Christ we are bound together in Christian love. It is the

picture of the church of Jesus Christ which is represented by every Child of God in the world, and all over the world, not just one little assembly of believers in one place.

Next, thinking about the loops and taches, consider the word of God, the King James Bible, and all the promises of the coming Messiah, all the promises of eternal life in the eternal heaven, the promises of the joy of God's salvation here in time, and you see all the layers of curtains, and all the individual curtains coupled together. For the Child of God, we can look at the tabernacle and see prophetically our future, in this age of salvation by the grace of God. We understand that today our bodies are the temple of God and from our hearts and souls we worship our God. We also see our eternal future in the place that Jesus has gone to prepare for us.

Remember, God specifically told Moses to make all these things after the pattern that God showed Moses. This tells us that God was having Moses make a likeness of heavenly things to be viewed on earth by God's people.

These four layers covering the tabernacle, each which is representative of Jesus Christ in some special attribute, are prophesying of the four thousand years until the revealing of Christ, by the veil to the most holy place being rent. Remember, the veil to the holy place was not rent, which signifies that the world of the unsaved people still cannot see the mercy seat. This is why people join visible church on earth; where, through the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ, they behold the beauties of our heavenly king revealed.

Additionally, outside the tabernacle there was a fence that created the congregational area in which the altar of sacrifice was set up. This area was not covered, which tells us that all the world, the saved and unsaved, by climbing up can look over the wall and see the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. What do you mean? The sacrifice of Jesus Christ is recorded in secular history and is available to any who desire to search for it. Any person who desires to do so can read the bible, which is the testimony of Jesus Christ, as seen in: ***Joh 5:39*** ***"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."***

I would add to this thought, upon completion of the tabernacle and the fence and all the things related to the worship of God, this was all set up in the middle of the camp of Israel, which gives us the picture that it is God's people who gather unto Jesus Christ. Those outside the camp of Israel would have no interest in the tabernacle and the things it represents. This is true today in this age of salvation by the grace of God, only those of the camp of God's Israel, which includes both Jew and Gentile, are interested in visiting the tabernacle and the altar of sacrifice. It also gives us the picture of all of the children of God, in all the world, gathered around the one centerpiece, Jesus Christ the mercy seat, viewed in the most holy place.

Wherefore, we give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ for the fulfillment of the sacrificial law, and the establishment of the church of salvation by the grace of God. We rejoice that we do not have to make the animal sacrifices of the law service, but rather we trust fully in the one sacrifice that was made by the Lamb of God, which truly removed our sins eternally from the sight of God. We rejoice in the protections that God has revealed to us from his holy word of truth. We rejoice that all of God's people are one nation of saved people, who are focused upon the central theme of the tabernacle, Jesus Christ our mercy seat. Wherefore, let us lift our voices in songs and hymns of praise and glory to God. Let us give thanks to our sovereign King, Jesus Christ, for the revealing himself in the Old and New Testament scriptures. Let us look forward, with great anticipation, to his return, when He will take us all to that place, he has gone to prepare for us to live eternally. Hallelujah! Amen!