

Exodus 26:1-14 –The Covering and the Frame of the Tabernacle

TSK, Lexicon, Sailhamer, Edersheim, Poythress, Schultz, Pink, Gaebelein, Gray, Geneva, JFB, Clarke, Delitzsch, Gray, Trapp, Poole, Henry, Calvin, IN
Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

We've gone from the **Holiest Place**— that perfect cube **where God dwelt** and where the Ark of the Covenant and mercy seat were, to the **Holy Place**, with the **Table of Showbread**, the **Table of the Lampstand**, and the **Altar of Incense**. Each of these tables pointed to the help man was given to find his way back to God.

We then examined **the veil between the Holiest Place and the Holy Place, showing the separation** between the perfect and the imperfect.

Today we come to the **frame and covering of the tabernacle**.

Our headings are:

The Covering

The Frame

Our goals are: **That you will be thankful that through the blood of the God-man, Jesus Christ, you are now close to God, you are able to remain there forever, and are able to build-up the temple of God.**

The Covering

1 "Moreover you shall make the tabernacle with ten curtains of **fine woven linen and blue, purple, and scarlet** thread; with artistic designs of **cherubim** you shall weave them.

1. The inner part of the tabernacle was made with 10 curtains of finely woven linen, decorated with blue, purple, and scarlet.

These curtains served as inner walls.

To be finely woven meant the curtains were well-made and strong. The fiber was literally twisted and hooked.

Angels were embroidered on the curtains.

Those colors reminded the Jews their goal was to go to heaven through the blue skies to get to the King in purple, and the only way was through the red blood of Jesus.

Angels on the curtains were a reminder of Paradise Lost, when the cherubim blocked the way to the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden. This embroidery made it clear Paradise was **being restored**. (Genesis 3:24) (All of this was on the veil also.)

2 "The length of each curtain shall be twenty-eight cubits, and the width of each curtain four cubits. And every one of the curtains shall have the same measurements. 3 "**Five curtains** shall be coupled to one another, and the **other five curtains** shall be coupled to one another.

2. The linen curtains were about 42 feet long and 6 feet wide, and each curtain was the same size.

These 5 curtains each were well-joined together to form one side of the tabernacle and 5 for the other side.

4 "And you shall make **loops of blue yarn** on the edge of the curtain on the **selvedge** of one set, and likewise you shall do on the outer edge of the other curtain of the second set. 5 "**Fifty loops** you shall make in the one curtain, and **fifty loops** you shall make on the edge of the curtain that is on the end of the second set, that the **loops may be clasped** to one another. 6 "And you shall make fifty clasps of gold, and couple the curtains together with the clasps, so that it may be one tabernacle.

3. The linen curtains had to be sewn well and made to last!

The edges had to be sewn (selvedge) so they would not fall apart.

The loops were made out of blue yarn.

Fifty loops were on each curtain so they were well-supported.

Fifty clasps of gold were made for the edge of each curtain, which made certain the tabernacle was properly held together.

God knew he was going to be staying with his people forever and wanted these strong symbols to show it. It was speaking without saying!

7 "You shall also make **curtains of goats' hair, to be a tent over the tabernacle.** You shall make **eleven curtains.** 8 "The length of each curtain shall be **thirty cubits, and the width of each curtain four cubits;** and the **eleven curtains** shall all have the same measurements.

4. Then the outer part of the tabernacle, which was over the linen curtains, was made up of 11 curtains of goats' hair.

Each was 45ft in length and 6ft in width, wide enough to cover the white linens curtains with blue, purple, and scarlet.

The point here was, the only way to the inner meeting with God was through the shedding of blood. Goats were a reminder how man was able to get to God. **Goats were the most common animal sacrificed for sins.**

9 "And you shall couple five curtains by themselves and six curtains by themselves, and you shall double over the sixth curtain at the forefront of the tent.

5. They had to join 5 of these curtains with 6 curtains together so that the 6th one of the 2nd set overlapped the 1st set.

Five is the number of grace. There were five sacrifices. There were 5 animals sacrificed. Jesus had 5 wounds to save man.

Six is the number of man. He was made on the 6th day. He works for 6 days. Man's time is measured in 6's. There are 60 minutes in one hour and 60 seconds in 1 minute. Jesus the man was crucified at the 6th hour.

In Christ there are humanity and grace.

10 "You shall make fifty loops on the edge of the curtain that is outermost in one set, and fifty loops on the edge of the curtain of the second set. 11 "And you shall make fifty bronze clasps, put the clasps into the loops, and couple the tent together, that it may be one. 12 "The remnant that remains of the curtains of the tent, the half curtain that remains, shall hang over the back of the tabernacle. 13 "And a cubit on one side and a cubit on the other side, of what remains of the length of the curtains of the tent, shall hang over the sides of the tabernacle, on this side and on that side, to cover it.

6. The curtains of goats' hair were properly secured and covered the whole inner tabernacle.

14 "You shall also make a covering of ram skins dyed red for the tent, and a covering of badger skins above that.

7. After the goat hair curtains there was a covering of ram skins that were dyed red.

The only way to the inner meeting with God was through the shedding of blood.

That blood symbolized the blood of Jesus that would be shed for the sins of man so man could get to the inside where God was. Jesus was made sin for his people.

8. Then there was a covering of badger (or dolphin/sea cow) skins, that covered the ram's skins, that covered the goats' hair curtains, that covered the linen curtains.

This was a plain, ordinary looking covering.

Jesus had a human nature and he looked like an ordinary man. Outwardly, he didn't look like much! No one expected anything good to come out of Nazareth.

Philippians 2:7 but **made Himself of no (low) reputation**, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

Isaiah 52:14 Just as many were astonished at you, So **His visage was marred** more than any man, And His **form more than the sons of men**;

Isaiah 53: 2 For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, **There is no beauty that we should desire Him.**

But inside, he was most glorious! That is why the inner “walls” of the tabernacle’s **curtains were white** – showing Christ’s purity. And there **was so much gold** – covering the **strong acacia wood**- on the inside. This showed his Divinity.

John 1:14 And the **Word became flesh** and **dwelt** among us, and we **beheld His glory**, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

It short, **animal skins on the outside, but gold on the inside.**

9. Lessons:

1. This is the Jesus for whom you should be looking and loving! Don’t blow it. There is no one else to save you.

John 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and **the world did not know Him.**

There are many religions and prophets who pretend to be white and pristine on the outside, but inside are filled with dead men’s bones – lies from hell. Yes, the Lord is simple, his Gospel is plain, and his faith is free. Take it.

Song of Solomon 1:5 **I am dark, but lovely**, O daughters of Jerusalem, Like the tents of Kedar, Like the curtains of Solomon.

2. That wonderful glory of Christ and his heavenly home you will enjoy one day in the future.

Colossians 3:4 **When Christ who is our life appears**, then you also **will appear with Him in glory.**

Are you excited about that? I hope you are! Wait for it.

The Frame

1. The tabernacle was framed with upright boards that were 15 feet high 27 inches wide.

(We are not reading the whole passage because of time, but you should read from verses 14-30.) There were 20 such boards on the southside, 20 on the northside, 6 on the westside – with 2 on the corners.

2. The 2 ends of each board were in the shape of a tenon so it could attach firmly into sockets (mortise).

(A tenon is a projecting piece of wood made for insertion into a mortise in another piece.) It formed a very secure fitting and was able to withstand the desert winds. All boards and frames were made of acacia wood, wood that was light, strong, and did not rot.

Again, this was intended to show that God was there to stay among his people.

29 "You shall overlay the boards with gold, make their rings of gold as holders for the bars, and overlay the bars with gold.

3. These boards, the rings that held the bars (which functioned as joists), and the bars were all overlaid with gold.

This showed the preciousness of Christ to his church in his human and Divine nature.

30 "And you shall raise up the tabernacle according to its pattern which you were shown on the mountain.

4. And all these curtains and the framing had to be made exactly as God had said.

Nothing God said was subject to change. God was very severe on and intolerant of anyone who changed or corrupted his worship.

5. Lessons:

a. Be warned against changing anything God says, especially about worship.

God's laws reflect who he is. He does not change his mind. His nature does not allow him to. (Acts 7:44) So don't change anything in worship, or how a family is to be run, or how a nation is run, or how a church is managed. (Think about pastors who are now serving the Lord's Supper on the internet to private families!) It is not up to you to run the church as you want. **You don't know better.** Those who think they know better always find out they were wrong.

b. The tabernacle was a picture of Christ and his redemptive work. So you must see these **boards and beams as pictures his church.** These were all **attached**

strongly together, showing the unity and strength of the church that stands up to all the winds of false doctrines and attacks from the Devil.

Ephesians 2:21 in whom the whole building, **being joined together**, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,

Ephesians 4:16 from whom the **whole body, joined and knit together** by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, **causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.**

Conclusion

Jesus looked ordinary because he took on human flesh, but **inwardly he was golden because he was Divine. He had to be both man and God to redeem man.** And you saw the red blood on Calvary's cross! As a result of his work the **church is built up, and standing strong and firm!**

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Knowing what Jesus did, how he bridged the gap between man on earth and God in heaven, **bless God for the Savior's work.**

2. Then tell others about it. Tell them of the loveliness of the tabernacle and how being with Jesus for one day is better than a thousand days elsewhere. (*Psalm 84: 10 For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. **I would rather be a doorkeeper** in the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.*)

3. Play your part in building the church of Jesus. What gifts do you have? Are you a mortise? Are you a tenon? Are you a clasp? Whatever your gift, use it for the salvation and sanctification of others. Even what appears to be the smallest gifts God will use to build up his church. You could be a door keeper...an elder...a show-er of hospitality...someone who welcomes visitors...or a chair stacker!

Finally, Jesus did come as an ordinary man and lived among mankind and made it possible for man to be restored to God by shedding his blood on the outside altar. If you reject the life and blood of Jesus, you will never be able to go to heaven but will spend eternity with your present father, the Devil, in hell. I pray that is not what you want but instead, will call on God to count Christ's life and death as yours.