

## **Exodus 26:31-37– The Veil of the Tabernacle**

TSK, HebLexicon, Edersheim, Poythress, PasN, Sailhamer, Schultz, Gaebelein, Barnes, Bush, Geneva, Gray, Delitzsch, Henry, Poole, Trapp, Gill, Pink Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: You've seen **the Holiest Place** where the Ark of the Covenant was. It was the place where the High Priest could go once per year to directly speak with God for the people. He was allowed there because blood of a clean animal was offered for him outside on the bronze altar, the blood of a clean animal being the only means of access to God.

In **the Holy Place** there were 3 tables that remind you of the work of Christ.

The Table of **Showbread** spoke of Jesus' provision for the souls of his people.

The Table of the **Lampstand** reminded his people that the Father shone light on the Table of Showbread so man could see it.

And then the small, square, **Altar of Incense**, pictured the prayer of God's people with the help of the Holy Spirit.

The last thing left in the Holy Place was **the curtain** that separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. This is what you will hear about today. There is much to learn.

Our headings are:

**Division from the Veil**

**Description of the Veil**

**Displaying of the Veil**

Our goals are: **That you would appreciate the fact Jesus tore the veil of the temple so man now has direct access to God.**

### **Division from the Veil**

31 "You shall make a **veil woven** of **blue**, **purple**, and **scarlet** thread, and fine woven **linen**. It shall be woven with an artistic design of **cherubim**.

#### **1. There was a marked division between the Holy Place and the Holiest Place.**

**The Holy Place, a picture of earth, was where the priests approached God on behalf of the people of God.** The priests took turns to replace the showbread, to tend the lamps, and to offer incense.

**The Holiest Place was a picture of heaven, where God was.**

**Separating the two places was this thick-about a palm thick- non-transparent veil.**

#### **2. This veil (curtain) was from the ground to the ceiling.**

No one could even peek into the Holiest Place from the top or the side of the veil.

#### **3. Lessons:**

**a. There is a vast impenetrable separation – a great distance - between God and man.**

This thick veil symbolized that. No wonder the word "veil" can be translated "interrupter."

**b. The veil kept the people from God because God was holy and man was sinful.** To improperly go beyond that veil was death.

**c. No man could therefore get to God without the veil being opened by God.** The Jews were constantly reminded of this separation each time they entered the tabernacle.

### **Description of the Veil**

**1. The veil between the Holy Place and the Holiest Place was made of fine, woven, linen cloth.**

**Fine woven cloth is stronger** as there are more threads interwoven.

**2. The veil had to be made of blue, purple, and scarlet threads.**

**Blue is the celestial color, picturing the heavens.** So visitors go the sense of the separation and the distance between God above and man below.

**Purple is the color of the kings.** So the purple pictured God who rules in heaven. Jesus himself was mockingly given a purple robe when he was crucified. But it testified to the truth. He is the King of kings.

Mark 15:20 And when they had mocked Him, they took the purple off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him out to crucify Him.

**Scarlet -red – is the color of blood.** It is the blood of Christ, that when shed, produced access to God who is in heaven.

**3. The veil had cherubim (angels) woven into it.**

Angels were at the entrance of the Garden of Eden to block the entrance and prevent Adam and Even from returning after God put them out.

**But with the sacrifice made outside of the tabernacle on the bronze altar, the angels were then joining and rejoicing that man was returning to God.**

Genesis 3:24 So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, **and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.**

Yes, angels had to make sure no one got to God without sacrifice...But then the sacrifice was made!

### **4. Lessons:**

**a. Man doesn't long for God, but even if he did, he would have to have the blood of Christ to get there.** Muslims celebrated Ramadan this past week. Some fasted and gave money to the poor with the hope that that would help them out with God. No good work, no matter how much it is loved, will save.

**b. God rules as King in heaven.** He protects his whole dominion...all those who have access to him through Christ's blood.

**c. While man has access to God now because of the blood of Jesus, one day he will come and take all his people to be with him forever.** And it will be just as he was taken up into the skies at his ascension.

**d. Angels are now a wonderful part of man's life, helping him, even visiting him.** And one day, they will come with the Lord Jesus to take all his children through the blue skies.

### **Displaying of the Veil**

32 "You shall hang it upon the four pillars of acacia wood overlaid with gold. Their hooks shall be gold, upon four sockets of silver. 33 "And you shall hang the veil from the clasps...

**1. The priests hanged the veil on 4 pillars of acacia wood, all overlaid with gold.**

**2. The hooks that attached the veil to the frame were made from gold and the clasps were made from silver.**

Silver is stronger than gold, so it could support the curtains.

33...Then you shall bring the ark of the Testimony in there, behind the veil. The veil shall be a divider for you between the holy place and the Most Holy.

34 "You shall put the mercy seat upon the ark of the Testimony in the Most Holy.

**3. After the veil was hung, the Ark of the Covenant (Testimony) was then put in the Holiest Place.**

35 "You shall set the table outside the veil, and the lampstand across from the table on the side of the tabernacle toward the south; and you shall put the table on the north side.

**4. Then the Altar of Incense was put in front of the Holiest Place, and in the Holy Place the Table of Showbread was put on the northside, and the Table of Lampstand was put on the southside.**

The work of the 3 persons of the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, then led the people to the Holiest Place behind the thick, beautiful curtain.

36 "You shall make a screen for the door of the tabernacle, woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, made by a weaver.

**5. Then they hung a screen-door made of blue, purple, and scarlet linen thread at the entrance to the tabernacle on the eastside.**

37 "And you shall make for the screen five pillars of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold; their hooks shall be of gold, and you shall cast five sockets of bronze for them.

**6. This screen door to the tabernacle was held up by 5 pillars of acacia wood that were overlaid with gold.**

The hooks were made from gold and the sockets were made from bronze. As an alloy, it was much stronger than gold. But note, as they moved further from the Holiest Place the material was less and less precious. The symbolism there is clear.

**7. Lessons:**

**a. Jesus is the means of getting to where God is, heaven.**

Jesus entered the Holiest Place first for you – opening up the way.

Hebrews 6:19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which **enters the Presence behind the veil**, <sup>20</sup> where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

**b. More specifically, the veil was a picture of the body of Jesus, through which you now have access to the Father in heaven.**

Hebrews 10:19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, **through the veil, that is, His flesh**, <sup>21</sup> and having a High Priest over the house of God,

**c. Jesus' body was torn on the cross so you could have the forgiveness of sins. So the veil had to be torn to signify that reality.**

Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God **through our Lord Jesus Christ**, <sup>2</sup> through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

So when Jesus died with his torn-up body, the veil in the temple was torn from the top down (showing it was the work of God) and his people then had access to God directly.

Matthew 27:50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. <sup>51</sup> Then, behold, the **veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom**;

**d. This tearing of the veil in the temple might have shocked the Jews, but only the ones who did not know the symbolism of the Old Testament.**

Those who understood that the tabernacle and the temple were only picturing Jesus and his work, they would have immediately understood the message and would have rejoiced!

## **Conclusion:**

There was a veil between the Holy Place and the Holiest place...a thick veil...and a veil no one could see through, and certainly no one could go through except for the High Priest 1 time per year. There were 3 threads on the linen veil: blue, purple, and red, picturing the **heavens**, the **King**, and the means of getting there—the **blood of Jesus**.

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ:

**1. Jesus entered into the Holiest Place and ripped down the wall of separation.** *Hebrews 9:11*  
*But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. 12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, **but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all**, having obtained eternal redemption.*

**2. That is the same blood that makes it possible for you!** His blood was pure. His life was pure. His blood and life were sufficient enough for the whole world.

**3. Now praise him for his blood that gave you your access to God and guaranteed you your blessings in God. And preach the availability of this blood for sinners. And pray God will bring them in.**

Finally: Hear God's Word from the Apostle John. *John 10:7 Jesus said..., "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 "All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. 9 "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.* Do you want to come in and find safety? Jesus is the Door! Enter and live.