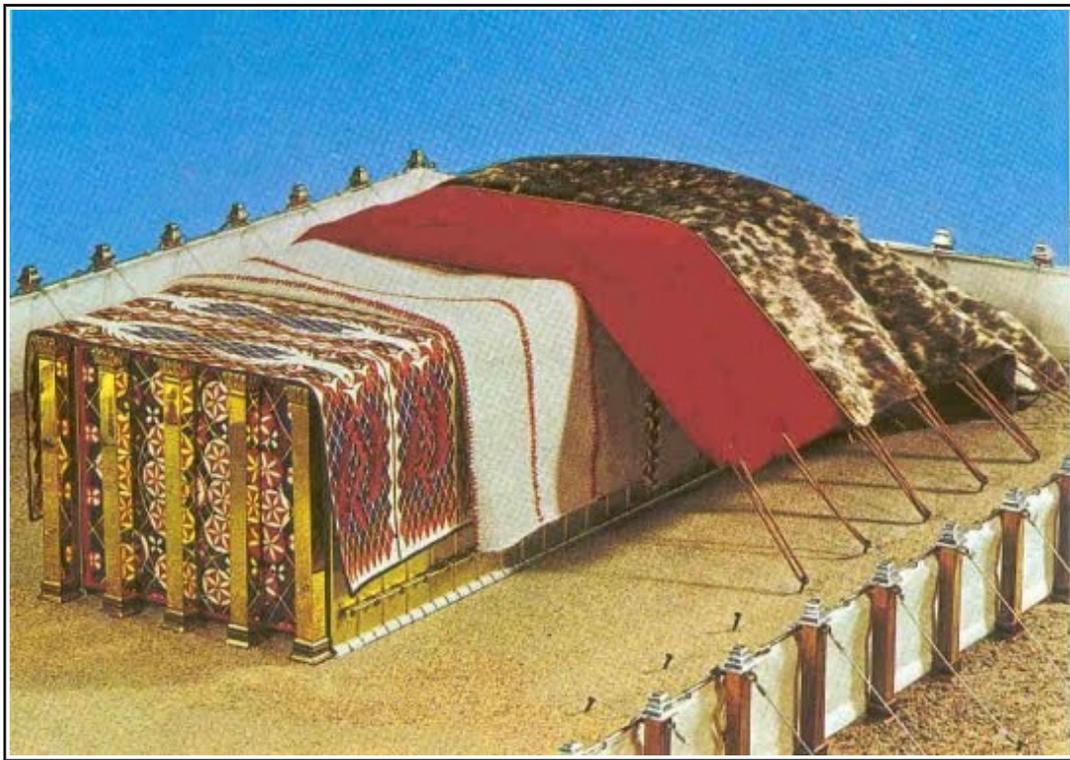


THE CURTAINS OF THE TABERNACLE

A picture and type of God "tabernacling" among men – Exodus 26.1-6



I. (v1) The Material of the Curtains

A. (v1-6 cc. v7-15) The different pieces of the tabernacle.

1. (Exod 26.1-6) First: linen; called "*the* tabernacle" and "one tabernacle."
2. (Exod 26.7-13) Second: goats' hair; "a covering *upon* the tabernacle"; called "the tent" (vv 11-13).
3. (Exod 26.14a) Third: rams' skins; called "a covering for the tent."
4. (Exod 26.14b) Fourth: badgers' skins; a "covering above" (the outer layer).
5. (Exod 26.15-25) Lastly: the boards; referred to as "the boards *for* the tabernacle."

B. (v1) The ten curtains were made of linen, a white fabric woven from flax (a fibrous plant).

1. Linen in the Bible (fine, white linen) is a picture of righteousness—of justice and holiness.
2. It speaks of the *purity* and *holiness* of Jesus Christ that manifested in his *righteousness*.

II. (v1) The Three Colors of the Curtains

- A. **Blue:** the color of the heavens; a picture of Christ and his "heavenly" origins (he is from heaven).
- B. **Purple:** the color of royalty, of Jesus Christ the King of kings.
- C. **Scarlet:** the shed blood of Jesus Christ and also of his suffering.

scarlet
 Ge 38:28 bound upon his hand a s' thread, 8144
 30 had the s' thread upon his hand:
 Ex 25: 4 purple, and s', and fine linen, 8144, 8438
 26: 1 and blue, and purple, and s':
 31 veil of blue, and purple, and s':
 36 of blue, and purple, and s', and

8144. שָׁנִי shānīy, shaw-nee'; of uncert. der.;
 crimson, prop. the insect or its color, also
 stuff dyed with it:—crimson, scarlet (thread).

8438. תוֹלַע'ת tōwlā't, to-law'; and (fem.)
 תוֹלַע'ת tōwlē'āh, to-lay-aw'; or
 תוֹלַע'ת tōwla'ath, to-lah'-ath; or
 תוֹלַע'ת tōla'ath, to-lah'-ath; from 3216; a
 maggot (as voracious); spec. (often
 with ellips. of 8141) the crimson-grub, but used only
 (in this connection) of the color from it, and cloths
 dyed therewith:—crimson, scarlet, worm.

III. (v1) The Embroidered Cherubims on the Curtains

- A. The cherubims speak of the presence of God:** Ezek 1.1-28 with 10.8-15; Rev 4.1-11.
- B. The cherubims also symbolize the "judicial authority" of God:** his authority as Judge.

IV. (v2) The Measurements of the Curtains

- A. The width of curtain was 4 cubits (it's easy to see the number four in the width).
- B. The length of the curtain, being of 28 cubits, can be seen as the combination of 7 and 4 (7x4).

V. (v1-2) The Significance of the Elements of the Curtains Taken as a Whole

A. The Hypostatic Union of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- 1. The curtains show us a picture of Christ's deity (but not *only* of his deity).
- 2. The curtains show us a picture of Christ's humanity (but not *only* of his humanity).

B. These curtains formed a kind of "ceiling" in the tabernacle.

- 1. The only ones who saw the the linen curtain with the three-colored cherubims were the priests.
 - Everyone else was outside, separated from the beauty of God's presence. All they saw was the drab outer covering of badgers' skins.
- 2. It's the same today: Heb 4.14-16; 10.19-22 (Scripture and prayer: our fellowship with God).

C. The white curtains with their embroidered cherubim of blue, purple, and scarlet formed a "ceiling" when they were draped over the boards that formed the "walls."

- 1. That means that in order to see and contemplate and appreciate the beauty, you had to look up.
- 2. If we desire to see and contemplate and appreciate the beauty of Christ... we have to look up!

VI. (v3-5) The Loops of Blue

A. Think first about the union (the "coupling") of the curtains first.

- 1. The ten curtains were coupled together in two groups of five: a picture of the Ten Commandments.
- 2. This is a picture of Christ during His first coming: Mat 5.17

B. (v4-5) The 50 blue loops typify the "heavenly devotion" of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- 1. These blue loops were what coupled everything together—the ten curtains, in two groups of five.
- 2. No one has ever had and no one will ever have a "heavenly devotion" to the Father like Christ.

VII. (v6) The Taches of Gold

A. These gold taches were used in conjunction with the blue loops to couple the curtains together.

B. The gold taches speak of Christ's divinity. He was and is God, our Lord and Creator.

- 1. Because of his divinity he could fulfill all the moral Law (everything God required of his creation).
- 2. Man in and of himself (even the perfect man, Adam) could not do that: John 15.5

C. In the Lord Jesus Christ we see both the gold taches and the blue loops.

- 1. The taches of gold: Jesus is God... high and lifted up... holy, just, and good; separate from sinners.
- 2. The loops of blue: That gold was "wrapped" in soft, blue cloth and together they both held the fabric of the tabernacle together.
- 3. Christ is the perfect and complete combination of divinity and humanity; gold wrapped in blue.

Conclusion:

I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for **thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.** [Ps 138.2]

Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law. [Ps 119.18]