

Exodus Chapter 26

We continue our journey through the book of Exodus, and as we arrive at chapter twenty-six, we find ourselves looking at the blueprint for the Tabernacle itself. Now, remember, as we looked at chapter twenty-five, the Lord began by describing the "furniture"—the Ark of the Covenant, the Table of Showbread, and the Golden Lampstand. But here in chapter twenty-six, God gives Moses the instructions for the structure that will house these sacred items.

It's important to visualize this. The Tabernacle was essentially a tent. But it wasn't just any tent; it was a tent designed by the Creator of the universe to be a "place of meeting."

The Layers of Covering

The Lord begins with the inner curtains. He instructs them to make ten curtains of fine woven linen—blue, purple, and scarlet. Woven into these curtains were to be designs of cherubim, created with "artistic designs."

Think about the atmosphere this created. As a priest would walk into the Holy Place and look up, he wouldn't see a dark ceiling; he would see beautiful linen embroidered with heavenly messengers. It was a constant reminder that this building was a model of the heavenly reality. Heaven is filled with the angelic host, and so the Tabernacle reflected that glory.

God gives very specific dimensions for these curtains:

- Size: Each curtain was twenty-eight cubits long (about forty-two feet) and four cubits wide (six feet).
- Portability: They were to be coupled together in two sets of five.

This is a key point: The Tabernacle was a portable building. The Lord designed it to move whenever the Pillar of Cloud or Fire moved. To make it manageable, they used fifty loops of blue yarn and fifty gold clasps (or "taches") to join the two large sets. They could be coupled together to form one giant covering, yet easily uncoupled when it was time to pack up and follow the Lord's leading.

Layers of Protection

Over that beautiful linen, God ordered a second layer made of goat hair. This was slightly larger—thirty cubits long—to ensure it completely draped over and protected the inner linen. For this layer, the clasps weren't gold; they were bronze.

In the typology of Scripture, bronze often speaks of judgment. The goat hair reminds us of the sacrifice necessary to approach a Holy God. Then, over the goat hair, there was a third and fourth covering: ram skins dyed red, and finally, an outer covering of tough badger (or perhaps porpoise) skins for waterproofing. From the outside, it looked rugged and plain, but inside, it was filled with gold and the glory of God.

The Framework and the Veil

The walls were made of acacia wood boards, fifteen feet high, overlaid with gold. These boards didn't just sit in the dirt; they rested in sockets of silver. Silver in the Bible is often the metal of redemption. The entire structure of God's meeting place stood on the foundation of redemption.

Finally, we see the description of the Veil. This was the heavy curtain that separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place (the Holy of Holies). It hung on four pillars of gold-overlaid acacia wood. This veil was a barrier. It told man, "Thus far you may come, but no further."

In the Old Covenant, the people didn't meet God directly. They came to the priest, and the priest went before God on their behalf. Access was restricted because God is holy and man is sinful.

Practical Application

The Tabernacle reminds us that God desires to dwell among His people. He went to great lengths to design a way for them to draw near. But notice what the text says: it was a "place of meeting."

Sometimes we fall into the trap of thinking a church building is "God's house." God does not dwell in temples made with hands! Solomon knew this when he built the Temple, noting that even the highest heavens cannot contain Him. You are the temple of the Holy Spirit. This building is simply a tool—a place where we, the Church (Ekklesia), gather to meet with Him corporately. Whether we meet in a sanctuary, a living room, or under a tree, the point is the presence of God, not the architecture of man.

A Challenge for the Believer

Are you making use of the access you have? We see in this chapter a heavy veil that separated man from the presence of God. But we know from the Gospels that when Jesus Christ died on that cross, when His blood was shed for our sins, that veil was torn in two from top to bottom!

The way is open! You don't need a human priest to go into the Holy of Holies for you. Because of the finished work of Jesus, you can "come boldly to the throne of grace." My challenge to you is this: Don't live like the veil is still there. Don't live at a distance from God. Enter into His presence daily.

An Invitation to the Unbeliever

Perhaps you feel like there is a wall between you and God. You feel your sin, your guilt, and you know you aren't right with Him. The Tabernacle shows us that God provided a way through sacrifice, but those sacrifices were only a shadow.

The reality is Jesus Christ. He is our "place of meeting." When He shed His blood on the cross, He paid the price for every wrong thing you have ever done. His resurrection from the dead is the absolute proof that He is exactly who He claimed to be: God, Savior, and Lord.

You don't have to stay on the outside. You can give your life to Him right now. He is waiting to receive you, to wash you clean, and to make His home in your heart. Simply turn from your sin and trust in Him today.