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**BIBLE STUDY**

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**“THE TABERNACLE”**

**Exodus 26:1-37**

***Exodus 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."***

Chapter 26 describes the “tabernacle” itself in extreme detail. These details were intended to help us understand how we are to approach our holy God in proper worship through the atoning sacrifice of Christ. The intricate design teaches the biblical theology of sacrificial atonement for personal holiness. The Greek word translated "tabernacle" means any habitation made of green boughs, skin, and cloth. A tabernacle, in the realm of godly people, is a place to commune with God. There is a glorious tabernacle in heaven, that we are all trying to reach.

***Revelation 21:3 “And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.”***

As with the ark, visual representations of the angelic beings were included to give the tabernacle the appearance of heavenly glory. Ten curtains were to enclose the structure, each made of finely spun linen and beautifully colored yarn, with a design of cherubim worked in. Their color would be blue, purple and scarlet. These Hebrew women were gifted in weaving, and the design of the cherubim was to be woven into the curtains. "Linen" symbolizes holiness and righteousness. "Blue" means heavenly and shows us God's love. "Red" and "purple" are godly colors, as well. They show us God manifest in the flesh, and red shows us the sacrifice of His blood. Purple shows royalty. These ten curtains were for the main tabernacle, not for the outer court.

***Exodus 26:2 "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."***

***Exodus 26:3 "The five curtains shall be coupled together one to another; and [other] five curtains [shall be] coupled one to another."***

***Exodus 26:4 "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."***

***Exodus 26:5 "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."***

***Exodus 26:6 "And thou shalt make fifty taches of gold, and couple the curtains together with the taches: and it shall be one tabernacle."***

God provided exacting instructions regarding the material and length of the curtains, as well as their loops and clasps. This was just saying that it took five curtains for each side of the tabernacle. God is showing us in these couplings, that the church is one. This oneness cannot be done by man but is rather in the Spirit (done by heavenly hands) God, Himself. The blue symbolizes heavenly, and the gold couplings show us God. The unity of the church is through the workings of God. This tells us that both sides were the same, fifty on each side. Fifty means jubilee and setting the captives free.

***Exodus 26:7 "And thou shalt make curtains [of] goats' [hair] to be a covering upon the tabernacle: eleven curtains shalt thou make."***

***Exodus 26:8 "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."***

This was saying, each curtain was 45 feet by 6 feet. This covering of "goats' hair" could have been made from the skins of the goats sacrificed for sin offerings. At any rate, these skins symbolized the removal of our sins by the Lord Jesus. This was, perhaps, why the goats' hair was used. The second goat of the sin offering was a scapegoat. The sins of the people were put on him, and he was driven from the city, while the first goat was killed as a sin offering. Jesus took our sins upon His body. He became sin for us. We are free from sin because we took on His righteousness in place of our sins. This goat hair covering went over the linen.

***Exodus 26:9 "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."***

***Exodus 26:10 "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."***

***Exodus 26:11 "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."***

This was just saying that each side had five of these curtains, and the sixth of one side went to the front of the tabernacle. "Brass" has to do with judgment. These connectors next to this goats' hair (sacrifice for sin) truly went together. Fifty is a spiritual number which has to do with Jubilee and Pentecost. In all these things combined, here, we can see God is the Judge. We have been judged guilty. The goat was sacrifice for sin. God accepted the substitute, and we have been set free from sin and death.

***Exodus 26:12 "And the remnant that remaineth of the curtains of the tent, the half curtain that remaineth, shall hang over the backside of the tabernacle."***

***Exodus 26:13 "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."***

***Exodus 26:14 "And thou shalt make a covering for the tent [of] rams' skins dyed red, and a covering above [of] badgers' skins."***

We see this covering was like a tent and goes over, as well as around the tabernacle. These "rams' skins dyed red" depicted the blood that Jesus shed for our sins. The "badgers skins" had to do with the outward appearance not being beautiful. All these skins had something to do with Jesus' sacrifice for us. We can easily see that outward appearance was not what made Jesus beautiful to us, but what was within. This was what we should see in the badgers' skin here. It was written of Jesus in Isaiah.

***Isaiah 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."***

***Isaiah 53:3 "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were [our] faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not."***

***Isaiah 53:4 "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted."***

***Exodus 26:15 "And thou shalt make boards for the tabernacle [of] shittim wood standing up."***

***Exodus 26:16 "Ten cubits [shall be] the length of a board, and a cubit and a half [shall be] the breadth of one board."***

***Exodus 26:17 "Two tenons [shall there be] in one board, set in order one against another: thus shalt thou make for all the boards of the tabernacle."***

***Exodus 26:18 "And thou shalt make the boards for the tabernacle, twenty boards on the south side southward."***

***Exodus 26:19 "And thou shalt make forty sockets of silver under the twenty boards; two sockets under one board for his two tenons, and two sockets under another board for his two tenons."***

These boards that support the sides of the tabernacle were 15 ft. high and 27 inches wide. These "tenons" were like dowel pins that fit them together. These boards made of wood were to strengthen the sides of the tabernacle. These "twenty boards", 27 inches each, would cover 45 feet. which was exactly the length of the tabernacle per side. The whole tabernacle was 45 ft by 15 ft. Fifteen by 30 was the Holy place and 15 by 15 the Most Holy place. The Holy place and the Most Holy place together (which made up the tabernacle) were 45 ft by 15 ft. "Silver" is symbolic of redemption. There was redemption between God and the sinful earth out there in the wilderness. These sockets were on the ground under the boards.

***Exodus 26:20 "And for the second side of the tabernacle on the north side [there shall be] twenty boards:"***

***Exodus 26:21 "And their forty sockets [of] silver; two sockets under one board, and two sockets under another board."***

***Exodus 26:22 "And for the sides of the tabernacle westward thou shalt make six boards."***

***Exodus 26:23 "And two boards shalt thou make for the corners of the tabernacle in the two sides."***

***Exodus 26:24 "And they shall be coupled together beneath, and they shall be coupled together above the head of it unto one ring: thus shall it be for them both; they shall be for the two corners."***

***Exodus 26:25 "And they shall be eight boards, and their sockets [of] silver, sixteen sockets; two sockets under one board, and two sockets under another board."***

This was a repetition of verses 18 and 19, except it was on the opposite side of the tabernacle. In verse 22, this covered 13 1/2 feet of the 15 feet; so in verse 23, the boards in the corners connected the west and the north and south sides. This was just telling that these two corners were connected to the sides by coupling them at the top and bottom. This "eight" was the six plus the two corner boards.

***Exodus 26:26 "And thou shalt make bars [of] shittim wood; five for the boards of the one side of the tabernacle,"***

***Exodus 26:27 "And five bars for the boards of the other side of the tabernacle, and five bars for the boards of the side of the tabernacle, for the two sides westward."***

***Exodus 26:28 "And the middle bar in the midst of the boards shall reach from end to end."***

***Exodus 26:29 "And thou shalt overlay the boards with gold, and make their rings [of] gold [for] places for the bars: and thou shalt overlay the bars with gold."***

***Exodus 26:30 "And thou shalt rear up the tabernacle according to the fashion thereof which was shewed thee in the mount."***

These gold plated shittim wood poles fit into the gold rings to strengthen the walls of the tabernacle. As we have said before, this wood (worldly) could not be exposed in the near presence of God, so they had to be gold plated. This tabernacle was fixed where it could be quickly assembled or disassembled. These dowels in each board just fit together tightly and the poles gave it extra strength when they were run through the gold rings. Moses was cautioned again, here, that the tabernacle must be raised the same way every time, just like he had been shown by God.

***Exodus 26:31 "And thou shalt make a veil [of] blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen of cunning work: with cherubims shall it be made:"***

***Exodus 26:32 "And thou shalt hang it upon four pillars of shittim [wood] overlaid with gold: their hooks [shall be of] gold, upon the four sockets of silver."***

***Exodus 26:33 "And thou shalt hang up the veil under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the veil the ark of the testimony: and the veil shall divide unto you between the holy [place] and the most holy."***

***Exodus 26:34 "And thou shalt put the mercy seat upon the ark of the testimony in the most holy [place]."***

***Exodus 26:35 "And thou shalt set the table without the veil, and the candlestick over against the table on the side of the tabernacle toward the south: and thou shalt put the table on the north side."***

A curtain was to be made to separate the holy place, which contained the table and the lampstand, from the most holy place, which contained the mercy seat on the ark. This "veil" was between the holy place and the most holy place, and no one entered there, except the high priest on the Day of Atonement. This veil of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen was symbolic of Jesus' flesh. The high priest had to be properly attired and bring blood to put on the mercy seat. If the high priest entered unworthily, God killed him.

***Hebrews 10:20 "By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;"***

When Christ died on the cross, the curtain separating the most holy place in the temple was torn in two by an unseen hand. This symbolized that Jesus had gained for his people full and eternal access to God’s holy presence. No other sacrifice would ever be needed. Here, again, we see the "silver" was on the ground between God and the sinful earth. The only furniture in the Holy of Holies was the ark of the Covenant. As we said before, the ark was like a box. It was covered inside and out with 24 kt gold. It contained the stones the Ten Commandments were written on, the Manna, and Aaron's rod that bloomed. The ark was covered with the mercy seat, which was 24 kt solid gold worth, by our money, over four million dollars. The cherubims overlooked the mercy seat. The presence of God was between the cherubims above them and the mercy seat. We see that the candlestick of beaten gold and the table covered with 24 kt gold (which held the twelve loaves of bread) were just outside the vail and were in the Holy Place. We said before the candlestick and the bread were both symbolic of Jesus. Jesus, when He died on the cross, tore the temple curtain in two from the top to the bottom and opened the way into the Most Holy Place for you and me.

***Exodus 26:36 "And thou shalt make an hanging for the door of the tent, [of] blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, wrought with needlework."***

***Exodus 26:37 "And thou shalt make for the hanging five pillars [of] shittim [wood], and overlay them with gold, [and] their hooks [shall be of] gold: and thou shalt cast five sockets
of brass for them."***

The door of the tent was a tent of meeting. Here the people’s representatives the priests and Moses met with Yahweh and He with them. Here the dispute between Aaron, Miriam, and Moses was arbitrated. The instructions about the daily offerings state that at the door of the tent of meeting the lambs shall be offered morning and evening. Here God spoke with Moses “face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend” (Exodus 33:9–11). He also met with the people here: “and there I will meet with the children of Israel” (Exodus 29:43). All had access to Him. This is the place where the entire contents of Leviticus are represented as being delivered to Moses by Yahweh (Leviticus 1:1). The one door indicates there is only one way to God. Jesus is the door to heaven, there is no other way. That way is through the blood atonement on the brass altar, which was accomplished by Christ shedding His blood for us on the cross. The "sockets of brass" showed that Jesus is the Judge of the world. The number five indicates grace.

***John 14:26 “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”***

***Hebrews 9:22 “And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”***

***Mark 14:24 “And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.”***

The laver symbolizes our need for daily cleansing, the table of bread symbolizes our need for communion and fellowship, and the incense altar symbolizes our need for prayer. The veil (curtain) separated man from God’s holy presence but was torn apart at the time of Christ’s death, giving every believer access to God’s presence as symbolized by the Ark of the Covenant. This curtain was held up by five (grace) pillars represented by the names of Jesus in Isaiah.

***John 13:8 “Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.”***

***1 Corinthians 11:25 “After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.”***

***Revelation 5:8 “And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.”***

***Matthew 27:51 “And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;”***

***Revelation 11:19 “And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.”***

***Isaiah 9:6 “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”***

**QUESTIONS**

1. What does "tabernacle" mean?
2. What does "linen" symbolize?
3. What does "blue" symbolize?
4. What does the "red" color show us?
5. How long should each curtain be in V-2?
6. The unity of the church is through \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
7. What did the goats' hair symbolize?
8. What was the second goat of a sin offering called?
9. What does "brass" have to do with?
10. What does the number fifty mean? (two things)
11. In V-12, the covering was like a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
12. The rams' skins were dyed what color?
13. What makes Jesus beautiful to believers?
14. What was the length and breadth of the wall boards?
15. Twenty boards, 27 inches, will cover what space?
16. What were the dimensions of the whole tabernacle?
17. What were the forty sockets under the boards made of?
18. These gold plated shittim wood poles helped in what way?
19. What was the veil between the Holy Place and Most Holy Place made of?
20. What was it symbolic of?
21. What was the only time the most holy place could be entered?
22. Where were the candlestick and the table of shewbread located?
23. This hanging for the tent door showed us what?
24. Name five names of Jesus, that shows us His grace?