

SWORD MINISTRIES (Ephesians 6:17)

THE ELEVEN GOATS' HAIR CURTAINS

EXODUS 26:7-13

The number '11' speaks of lawlessness, disorder, incompleteness, rebellion and sin. **Examples:** 11 apostles after Judas fell; the future Antichrist is the 11th horn of **Daniel 7**; it was an 11-day journey from Horeb to Kadeshbarnea, though it would take Israel 40 years!

The 'goat' was used principally as a sin offering in Israel; the hair was predominately black in this part of the world. The goat is a symbol of sin in both the Old and New Testaments:

LEVITICUS 5:1-6 'a lamb or a kid of the goats, for a sin offering...' **LEVITICUS 16:1-10** 'And he shall take of the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats for a sin offering...' in both references we see the goat in connection of being used as a sin offering.

MATTHEW 25:31-46 Jesus is speaking prophetically of the judgment of nations which will occur at His 2nd Coming. 'And before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And He shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.' As we continue to study this passage we understand that the sheep are equated with righteousness, and the goats with eternal damnation.

In the number of curtains (11) and the material (goats' hair), we have the thought of sin. The goats' hair curtains speak to us of Jesus Christ, Who became the sin offering and received the wages of sin for us – death.

2 CORINTHIANS 5 (vv14,15) 'And that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again.' Interestingly, the words 'live' and 'died' are both used twice in this verse. God's Word urges us to give our lives over to Jesus since He died for us as the sacrifice and payment for our sins. (v16) today as believers, we are encouraged to live lives in the Holy Spirit (**2 CORINTHIANS 4:17,18; MARK 3:31-35; GALATIANS 5:25; ROMANS 8:4,5**) (vv17-21) 'For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.' Jesus took all our sins upon Himself; praise Him tonight!

EPHESIANS 4:31,32; 5:1,2 'And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor.' What God has done 'for us' in the past and in the present, and will do in the future is truly awesome.

ROMANS 5:6-8 'But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.'

ROMANS 8:26-34 'Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself

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makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered...What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, Who also maketh intercession for us.'

1 THESSALONIANS 5:10; TITUS 2:14; HEBREWS 9:12,24; 1 PETER 2:21 'For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps.' Jesus suffered for us; as we read of His suffering that He endured, remember that Jesus took the punishment we deserved, it was our sins which put Him through all the suffering.

More thoughts concerning the goats' hair curtains: contrast the black goats' hair curtains laid over top of the white fine linen curtains. Contrast the Light of the world, the Righteousness of the world, becoming a sin offering for you.

LUKE 2:21-33 as Simeon came into the Temple in the power of the Holy Spirit, he picked up Jesus in his arms and proclaimed to God the Father: 'For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation!' Simeon was holding 'salvation' in his arms; Jesus Christ is Personally Salvation.

PSALM 9:13,14 'That I may shew forth all thy praise in the gates of the daughter of Zion: I will rejoice in Thy salvation.' **PSALMS 13:3-5; 18:1,2; 27:1-5** The Hebrew word translated 'salvation' is 'yēshuw'ah' - something saved, i.e. (abstractly) deliverance; hence, aid, victory, prosperity:—deliverance, health, help(-ing), salvation, save, saving (health), welfare. Jesus is Yeshua!

EXODUS 26 (vv7-11) 'And thou shalt make fifty taches [clasps] of brass [bronze], and put the taches into the loops, and couple the tent together, that it may be one.'

'Brass' (bronze) is always a symbol of judgment; it was the metal that could withstand the heat of the Altar of Sacrifice in the outer courtyard. Sin must be judged and Jesus paid the entire amount.

'Fifty' in the Bible is the number of jubilee, of freedom. **LEVITICUS 25:8-13** 'And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof...' the 50th year was to be a Sabbath year, dedicated unto the Lord. Freedom was proclaimed, all possessions were returned to the original owners.

As we conclude the goats' hair curtains, we see the symbol of sin which must be judged (**ROMANS 6:23; 5:1,2; JAMES 1:15**), and freedom (**JOHN 8:30-36; 19:25-30**). Jesus paid in full the price of our sins, those who receive Him by faith are set free from the penalty and the power of sin! **ROMANS 6:1-18**