

SWORD MINISTRIES (Ephesians 6:17)

THE TABERNACLE CURTAINS AND COVERINGS EXODUS 26:1-14

(v1) *'Moreover thou shalt make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet: with cherubim of cunning work shalt thou make them.'* In review, the ten curtains of fine twisted linen speak of Jesus and the believer today: 'fine linen' Christ's righteousness **ROMANS 10:4; 3:22**, and the believer's righteousness in Him **2 CORINTHIANS 5:21; PHILIPPIANS 3:9**. 'Blue' the color of Heaven, pointing to Jesus as the Lord from Heaven **1 CORINTHIANS 15:47; JOHN 1:16**. 'Purple' speaks of royalty, kingship, riches **EPHESIANS 3:18; PHILIPPIANS 4:19**

(v1) *'Moreover thou shalt make the tabernacle with ten curtains...and scarlet...'* 'Scarlet' is the color of blood, speaking of the substitutionary atonement of Jesus Christ for us. **ISAIAH 1:10-18** mankind has a sin problem before an infinitely Holy God; God tells us: *'Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings... Come now, and let us reason together... though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.'*

1 PETER 1:18-21 the Bible tells us that the only way to be washed before God is through the applied blood of Jesus Christ to our sins: *'But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.'* **HEBREWS 9:11-14,24-26** scarlet foreshadowed Jesus' substitutionary death for you and me.

(v1) *'...with cherubim of cunning work shalt thou make them.'* This was to be the work of a skilled workman; keep in mind that the linen curtains were the first of four layers covering the framework, they could only be seen from the inside of the Tabernacle, and they also made the ceiling. As the priests ministered inside the Holy Place, keeping the lamps and incense burning, changing the bread on the Table, they would have ministered under the wings of the embroidered cherubim on the linen curtains. It was no doubt a beautiful curtain.

PSALM 63:1-7 *'Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.'* The imagery is easy to see as the Tabernacle curtains made the ceiling. *'Rejoice'* is the Hebrew word רָנַן rānān - to creak, i.e. to shout (usually for joy):—aloud for joy, cry out, be joyful (greatly, make to) rejoice, (cause to) shout (for joy), (cause to) sing (aloud, for joy, out), triumph.

PSALM 91:1-4 *'He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.'* Where God dwells is beautiful, and the fine linen curtains in the Tabernacle certainly point to His dramatic presence.

THE TABERNACLE (Study #21)

ISAIAH 53:1-12 *'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.'* the priests were the only ones to see the inner beauty in the Tabernacle. They would have seen the 48 boards overlaid with gold, the fine linen curtains with skillfully woven cherubim, the Golden Altar and Lampstand; those on the outside would see the grayish covering of badgers' skins. Today, the believer is the only priesthood the Bible speaks of in the New Testament, as priests we see the 'inner beauty' of the Lord Jesus Christ; the world looks at Him as just another religious figure, but we see the Pure Gold Son of God! *'But he was wounded [pierced through] for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities...'* the world sees the death of a man, we see the substitutionary atonement of God on our behalf.

ISAIAH 40:25-31 *'But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.'* The Hebrew word translated 'wait' is qāwâh, {kaw-vaw'}; a primitive root; to bind together (by twisting), i.e. collect; (figuratively) to expect. What a picture of the fine twisted linen curtains as the believer today is entwined with the Lord. God promises us that our strength will be renewed, changed, altered; and we will grow in Him for the better when our hope is securely entrenched in our Savior.

PSALM 17:5-15 *'Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings'* the believer is a priest today (see **REVELATION 1:5,6; 5:9,10; 1 PETER 2:9**); how awesome it is to be intertwined with Him in His sanctuary, gazing at His beauty! **PSALM 27:1-14; 36:5-9** the fine linen curtains with embroidered cherubim speak to us of fellowship in the House of the Lord, praise Jesus for all He has done.

(vv2-6) Each of the ten linen curtains was 28 cubits long and 4 cubits wide (approximately 42ft x 6ft). The Tabernacle framework was 30 cubits long, 10 cubits wide, and 10 cubits high. The 10 curtains were arranged in two groups of five, joined together by 50 clasps of gold, and 50 loops of blue. The curtains were placed over the framework and would cover the Tabernacle on all three open sides, leaving one cubit off the ground on both sides.

'...and it shall be one tabernacle...' God desires unity in His church as well; with renewed minds, we need to stay united in Christ. The number '50' is very significant, it is the number of freedom, liberty, jubilee. The 50th year was to be a year of jubilee, all possessions were restored to their original owners, it was to be a Sabbatical year of rest, a holy year unto the Lord. Today, we have liberty in Christ. Rely on Him! **JOHN 8:31-36**