

8. Jesus and the tabernacle – Part 2

1/16/2020

So far we went from the Curtains of the Outer Court, the Door of the Outer Court, the Altar of Burnt Offering, the Bronze Laver to the Outer Coverings with badger skin. They all reflect Jesus the Savior and Lord in every way.

Let's continue this great study of the connection between Jesus and the Tabernacle.

A. COVERING OF RAM SKINS DYED RED

Exodus 26:14 You shall also make a covering of ram skins dyed red for the tent, and a covering of badger skins above that.

What do you see here?

Since a ram's skin is not red naturally, but had to be dyed to become red. This reminds us once more of the great significance of blood shown throughout the fabrics of the Doors and Coverings of the tabernacle. Isaiah prophesied of the Messiah some 750 years before His crucifixion:

Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

Jesus paid with His blood the price our sins exacted in God's eyes, so He could redeem us. However, the emphasis here is not merely on individual redemption. The covering lies across the boards of the tabernacle, which are fitted and built together. The upright boards standing together signify God's people as we'll learn more later.

Speaking of a ram, do you remember it was a ram caught in the thicket that God provided to be sacrificed in place of Isaac in Genesis 22:8-13? Abraham prophetically declared, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." Jesus just did that. The ram therefore speaks of consecration and obedience to God.

B. CURTAINS OF GOATS' HAIR

Exodus 26:7-13 "You shall also make curtains of goats' hair, to be a tent over the tabernacle. You shall make eleven curtains. 8 The length of each curtain shall be thirty cubits, and the width of each curtain four cubits; and the eleven curtains shall all have the same measurements. 9 And you shall couple five curtains by themselves and six curtains by themselves, and you shall double over the sixth curtain at the forefront of the tent. 10 You shall make fifty loops on the edge of the curtain that is outermost in one set, and fifty loops on the edge of the curtain of the second set. 11 And you shall make fifty bronze clasps, put the clasps into the loops, and couple the tent together, that it may be one. 12 The remnant that remains of the curtains of the tent, the half curtain that remains, shall hang over the back of the tabernacle. 13 And a cubit on one side and a cubit on the other side, of what remains of the length of the curtains of the tent, shall hang over the sides of the tabernacle, on this side and on that side, to cover it.

What is your interpretation of this?

Altogether there were 11 curtains of woven goats' hair, measuring 6 feet wide by 45 feet long for each, held together by 50 bronze clasps. This covering made a "Tent" over the tabernacle.

Goats were particularly important on the Day of Atonement a.k.a. Yom Kippur.

According to Leviticus 16, two goats were selected by lot, one for sacrifice and the other to be sent out into the wilderness. The blood of the sacrificed goat would be taken into the Holy of Holies by the High Priest, as required by God to forgive the sins of the children of Israel, because without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness according to Hebrews 9:22. Then the High Priest would lay his hands on the head of the other goat and confess all the sins of the children of Israel before it was sent out into the wilderness, signifying that God would forget all the sins thus confessed. Here is the origin of the word 'scapegoat'.

God desires to remove from His people not only the guilt of sin, but also His memory of that sin, so that we may be reconciled to Him.

C. CHERUBIM EMBROIDERED COVERING

Exodus 26:1-6 "Moreover you shall make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine woven linen and blue, purple, and scarlet thread; with artistic designs of cherubim you shall weave them. 2 The length of each curtain shall be twenty-eight cubits, and the width of each curtain four cubits. And every one of the curtains shall have the same measurements. 3 Five curtains shall be coupled to one another, and the other five curtains shall be coupled to one another. 4 And you shall make loops of blue yarn on the edge of the curtain on the selvedge of one set, and likewise you shall do on the outer edge of the other curtain of the second set. 5 Fifty loops you shall make in the one curtain, and fifty loops you shall make on the edge of the curtain that is on the end of the second set, that the loops may be clasped to one another. 6 And you shall make fifty clasps of gold, and couple the curtains together with the clasps, so that it may be one tabernacle."

Please give me your interpretation of this portion.

The covering embroidered with Cherubim was the innermost covering over the Holy Place. The Cherubim embroidered covering formed the ceiling of the tabernacle. There were 10 individual curtains to begin with, each 42 feet long by 6 feet wide. Five curtains were then coupled together with one another, and likewise the other five. Then these two of five curtains were looped together, using 50 golden clasps.

The Book of Exodus does not give us the precise pattern of the embroidery, but we are told that the coloring was blue, purple, scarlet, and white and that the embroideries were Cherubim angels.

The Cherubim are there reminding us of two things:

1) The Cherubim were placed at the east of Eden to keep the way of the tree of life.

To 'keep' in Hebrew means to "observe", keep watch over, preventing Adam and Eve from returning to partake of the tree of life. Here in the tabernacle, the Cherubim are overseeing what goes on inside the Holy Place.

2) The Cherubim are among those in heaven who bow the knee to acknowledge the Lordship of Christ.

D. THE BOARDS AND BARS OF THE SANCTUARY

Exodus 26:15-30 "And for the tabernacle you shall make the boards of acacia wood, standing upright. 16 Ten cubits shall be the length of a board, and

a cubit and a half shall be the width of each board. 17 Two tenons shall be in each board for binding one to another. Thus you shall make for all the boards of the tabernacle. 18 And you shall make the boards for the tabernacle, twenty boards for the south side. 19 You shall make forty sockets of silver under the twenty boards: two sockets under each of the boards for its two tenons. 20 And for the second side of the tabernacle, the north side, there shall be twenty boards 21 and their forty sockets of silver: two sockets under each of the boards. 22 For the far side of the tabernacle, westward, you shall make six boards. 23 And you shall also make two boards for the two back corners of the tabernacle. 24 They shall be coupled together at the bottom and they shall be coupled together at the top by one ring. Thus it shall be for both of them. They shall be for the two corners. 25 So there shall be eight boards with their sockets of silver-sixteen sockets-two sockets under each board. 26 "And you shall make bars of acacia wood: five for the boards on one side of the tabernacle, 27 five bars for the boards on the other side of the tabernacle, and five bars for the boards of the side of the tabernacle, for the far side westward. 28 The middle bar shall pass through the midst of the boards from end to end. 29 You shall overlay the boards with gold, make their rings of gold as holders for the bars, and overlay the bars with gold. 30 And you shall raise up the tabernacle according to its pattern which you were shown on the mountain.

What do you get out of this?

The boards and their bars were made of acacia wood overlaid with gold, as were the pillars of the entrance Door to the Holy Place. There were twenty boards on each of the North and South sides and six boards on the West side of the tabernacle. The boards were held together by five bars, the middle one of which passed through the center of the boards.

God specifies to Moses the size of each board, the number of boards, the fact that they are to be standing upright, how they are fixed into silver sockets to stand, the number of boards on each wall and how to strengthen the corners are all specified.

There were two 'extra' boards, strengthening the corners of the western side. This west-facing wall is called the 'thigh' in Hebrew according to Exodus 26:23, implying strengthened standing in the body of Christ. These extra boards strengthened the corners, the weakest part of the structure, in the same way as the pillars at the Door of the Holy Place and the Veil.

The boards each had an individual standing in the two silver sockets, but they were strongly connected together by the bars. There were five bars, four of which passed through rings on the outside of the boards, plus the middle bar which passed through the center of each board.

God's plan of salvation and His purpose in building are not individualistic in the Book of Exodus. The wood may have come from different acacia trees, but all the boards ended up fashioned and perfectly framed together in one structure, that was God's dwelling place according to Ephesians 2:21. As member of the church of Jesus Christ, we need to work together and stay together.

E. THE DOOR OF THE HOLY PLACE

Exodus 26:36-37 "You shall make a screen for the door of the tabernacle, woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, made by a

weaver. 37 And you shall make for the screen five pillars of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold; their hooks shall be of gold, and you shall cast five sockets of bronze for them.

What do you get out of this?

The Door of the Holy Place is remarkably similar to the Door of the Outer Court. It has the same coloring: blue, purple, scarlet, and the white of the fine twined linen.

This door is reinforced by the presence in front of the curtain of the five golden pillars that give it support. The pillars were made from acacia wood overlaid with gold. The beauty is gold, the structure is wood. This speaks to the mystery of Christ's Person.

1) Gold: The first mention of gold in the Bible is in Genesis 2:11-12. Because it is precious, gold stands for 'divine'.

2) Wood: Because wood grows out of the earth, wood stands for 'human', as in Psalm 1:1-3.

At the feet of the pillars were sockets of bronze, again reminding us of God's judgment on mankind. Through this judgment the strength and magnitude of Christ's victory was displayed on the cross.

Hebrews 2:7-8 You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, And set him over the works of Your hands. You have put all things in subjection under his feet." For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him.

F. THE SHOWBREAD TABLE

Exodus 25:23-30 "You shall also make a table of acacia wood; two cubits shall be its length, a cubit its width, and a cubit and a half its height. 24 And you shall overlay it with pure gold, and make a molding of gold all around. 25 You shall make for it a frame of a handbreadth all around, and you shall make a gold molding for the frame all around. 26 And you shall make for it four rings of gold, and put the rings on the four corners that are at its four legs. 27 The rings shall be close to the frame, as holders for the poles to bear the table. 28 And you shall make the poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold, that the table may be carried with them. 29 You shall make its dishes, its pans, its pitchers, and its bowls for pouring. You shall make them of pure gold. 30 And you shall set the showbread on the table before Me always.

What kind of interpretation are you getting from this paragraph?

The Showbread Table was placed on the right-hand side of the Holy Place, the North side, a little way from the gold-covered boards. It was not very big: approximately 3 ft long, 1.5 ft wide, 2.25 ft high. It was made from acacia wood overlaid with gold.

The Showbread Table had a crown made of gold, unlike the Altar of Burnt Offering. Here in the Holy Place, all is about life, food, light, and fragrant incense. In the Holy Place, we see Jesus "crowned with glory and honor".

On the Showbread Table were placed twelve loaves of unleavened bread, one for each of the twelve tribes of Israel. The loaves were replaced every week with fresh

bread on the Sabbath. Jesus as the Bread of God who came down from heaven to give LIFE to the world, crowned with glory and honor without leavens which represents sins.

John 6:35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."

The Showbread is also called the Bread of the Presence. To eat Christ as the Bread of Life, we must be in the presence of God, who is Spirit.