

Chap.6 THE ROOF OF THE TABERNACLE

The tabernacle in the wilderness rested upon a foundation of one hundred silver sockets weighing one hundred pounds each.

Upon the this foundation stood forty-eight upright boards made of acacia wood, and covered with pure gold. Each board was fifteen feet long, and over two feet wide. These boards were had two projections on the lower end, and these projections fit into the silver foundation sockets. The upright boards were then held together by five horizontal bars of gold-covered wood. We come now to the roof of the tabernacle, the shelter under which the priest was to minister in the sanctuary.

FOUR LAYERS

The roof of the tabernacle consisted of four layers of material. The first covering placed over the tabernacle, and, therefore, the only one which would be visible from the inside, was a curtain of fine twined linen, embroidered with blue and purple and scarlet color. It covered the entire top of the tabernacle and hung over the sides, almost to the ground. Beautifully embroidered in the pattern of this linen sheet were the figures of cherubim overshadowing both the holy place, and the holies of holies. This main curtain consisted of ten separate curtains coupled together to make one great covering for the interior of the tabernacle.

Moses received minute instructions as recorded in Ex.26:1, "Moreover thou shalt make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet:which cherubims cunning work shalt thou make them."

Pg.49

The beautiful curtain formed the ceiling of the tabernacle proper, visible only and exclusively from the inside, visible only to the worshiper who had by way of the altar and the laver been admitted into the sanctuary itself.

The outsider, on the outside of the tabernacle, saw nothing of its exquisite beauty.

The linen curtain which formed the ceiling represents Christ in all the glory of His perfect righteousness and redemptive work.

The outside badger skins were Christ in His Humanity, and in His suffering upon the Cross of Calvary.

Now the curtain which formed the ceiling of the tabernacle was in four colors:

Blue — stands for Christ's heavenly origin

Scarlet — stands for His Sacrificial death

Purple — stands for His royal character

White — stands for His sinless righteousness and perfection.

In addition there were cherubim with outstretched wings hovering as it were over the priest in the sanctuary, watching every move he made.

Ezekiel tells us the cherubim were living creatures, which had four faces,
A fourfold character of the person of the Lord Jesus Christ;

The face of a man - speaks of His perfect humanity
The face of a lion - speaks of His Kingship & Power
The face of an ox - symbol of sacrifice & service
The face of an eagle - speaks of the ability to set great distances

Goats' Hair Curtains (Pg.50)

The second layer of the roof of the tabernacle was made of goats' hair.

“And thou shalt make curtains of goats' hair to be a covering upon the tabernacle: eleven curtains shalt thou make. “ (Exod. 26:7)

These goats' hair curtains were placed over the linen curtains, and extended down the sides and back of the tabernacle entirely to the ground.

A goat in the Bible is a picture of Christ as our sin-bearer.

Was a clean animal, fit for sacrifice upon the altar of burnt offering.

On the day of atonement, the priest was to take two goats.

One was slain at the altar and his blood poured out at the base of the altar, symbolic of the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ, in His death.

(Lev.16:19-22) “And he shall sprinkle of the blood {of the goat} upon it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it, and hallow it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel.

And when he hath made an end of reconciling the holy place, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar, he shall bring a goat:

And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquity of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness:

And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited:and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness.”

Read pg.(51)

Our sins were laid upon the Lord Jesus Christ.

There was a transference of our guilt to Him, and he paid the price of death by shedding His blood. He took our sins, in order that we might become the recipients of His righteousness.

Christ is our sin-bearer, our Substitute.

The white linen curtains, which formed the ceiling of the tabernacle proper, of course, were underneath these goats' hair curtains, indicating that our acceptance in Christ and our righteousness and salvation depended upon

The substitutionary work of our sin-bearer, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

(Pages 52-53)

Our Lord feared nothing except sin: S-I-N !

My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me.

My God, my God , why hast thou forsake Me?

It was sin, nothing but sin.

Chp. BADGER SKINS AND SHOES

The roof of the tabernacle in the wilderness consisted of four consecutive layers of cloth and weather-proof leather.

The inner most layer forming the decorated ceiling of the tabernacle was the finest white linen embroidered in blue and red and purple, and decorated with the figures of cherubim with outstretched wings, looking down as it were upon those who worshiped in the tabernacle. The next layer was made of goat's hair.

We come now to the third and fourth layers from the inside to the outside of the roof.

“And thou shalt make a covering for the tent of rams' skins dyed red, and a covering above of badgers' skins.” (Exod.26:14)

The third layer forming the roof of the tabernacle was made of leather, rams' skins tanned and dyed a deep crimson red color, and coupled together to make one large covering which was a placed over the lower two coverings of the linen and hair curtains.

Ram As Substitute

The rams' skins pointed to the Lord Jesus Christ in the role of a Substitute for sinners. It speaks of the substitutionary atonement made by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ in our behalf. The color, red, as it occurs in the tabernacle, invariably speaks of the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and the atonement which He made for the sins. The skins, speaks of the complete covering for the sinner who dwells underneath this canopy.

The first mention of skins is in (Gen.3:21). - READ {pg.56}

The lesson in this first recorded sacrifice, is plain. Adam was under the sentence of death, and must die for his sin, unless a substitute could be provided. The animal from which God took the skin to clothe Adam was therefore, a substitute for Adam — it took Adam's place, and it died Adam's death.

The substitute must die, the substitute must give its blood, before the sinner can be clothed by the covering of the skin of this substitute.

It became a fixed Rule.

Pg. 57. Able brought a ram.

Abraham and Isaac

In (Gen. 22) we have another illustration of this same truth.

Abraham is told to take Isaac, his son, to Mt. Moriah, to be sacrificed upon the altar.

(Gen.22:13) “And Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of His son.” [In the place of His son]

(Gen.22:14) “ And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah -jireh

[Jehovah will provide a substitute for me]: as it is said to this day, in the mount of the Lord {Mt, Calvary} it shall be seen.”

Read the rest of (Pgs. 58-59)

*The Good Samaritan “But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was.” (Luke 10:33).

(Luke 10:34) “And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set Him on His own beast”

Here is a complete change of places, perfect substitution.

Badgers’ Skins

We come now finally, to the fourth and outer covering of the tabernacle.

“And thou shalt make a covering for the tent (tabernacle) of rams’ skins dyed red, and a covering above of badgers’ skins.” (Exod. 26:14).

These badgers’ skins had no colorful beauty; they were drab, dull and bluish grey. It was the only covering visible to the outsider, and had nothing appealing about it at all.

All this — is a perfect picture of the humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ.
(Isa.53:2-3)

The badgers’ skins, then, represent all that the world can see in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, until they have been born again.

Porpoise Leather

The word “badger” is “Porpoise”

The outer covering of skins was made of Leather, and the skins were taken from porpoises — not badgers as it is in our English translation.

The porpoise was a marine animal, its hide made excellent leather.

The Israelites had stocked up on these leather skins, after obtains them from the Nile and the Red Sea when they left the land of Egypt.

Leather Shoes

In (Eze. 16:10) we read the use to which this porpoise leather was usually put.

(Eze 16:10) “I clothed thee also with broidered work, and shod thee with badgers’ skin.”

Deut.8:4 “Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell.”

Deut.29:5 “ And I have led you forty years in the wilderness: your clothes are not waxen old

upon you, and thy shoe is not waxen old upon thy foot.”

(Neh. 9:21) “Yes forty years didst thou sustain them in the wildness so that they lacked nothing: their clothes waxed not old, and their feet swelled not.”