

Through the Veil

Hebrews 10:20

Directions are needed for those of us who get lost or frustrated in life. Sometimes, in our pride, we stop our ears from listening to others or, worse yet, we determine to figure everything out by ourselves. This verse gives clear directions for how any person with any interest in approaching God must come to Him. The writer of Hebrews says we must come “Through the veil” that is “His flesh.” What does this mean?

I. The Hebrews had always known there was a barrier between sinners and God.

In their place of worship, the Jerusalem Temple, there was a thick curtain separating all from God. This curtain, known as the “veil,” was made of fine linen and blue, purple and scarlet yarn. The Jerusalem Temple had a curtain, four inches thick, made of blue, purple and scarlet cloth that was 60 feet high, and 30 feet wide. Cherubim (angels) were embroidered throughout the entire veil. Cherubim are first mentioned in Gen. 3:24, *“God drove man out of His presence ... and stationed cherubim with the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.”*

The word “veil” in Hebrew means a screen, divider or separator that hides. What was this curtain hiding? It was shielding a holy God from sinful man. On the veil there were cherubim embroidered. Whoever entered into the Holy of Holies was entering the very presence of God. Anyone except the high priest who entered the Holy of Holies would die. Even the high priest could only pass through the veil and enter the Holy of Holies one day a year, called the Day of Atonement. It was a thick veil.

II. The way into the presence of God is always through the veil, which is the person of Jesus Christ.

The Old Testament is filled with types. This verse contains one of the best expressions of an OT type. Do you wish to know God? Come *“Through the veil, that is, His flesh.”* More importantly, you come through “the flesh” of Christ. The cross of Christ—the purple, blue and scarlet represents His death. When Christ died ... *“the veil was torn from top to bottom”* (Matthew 27:51; Mark 15:38; Luke 23:45). God was saying to us ... *“Come! Come to me ‘through the veil.’ Come! Come to me through My Son.”*

A. This is the way He inaugurated ... *“by a new and living way which He inaugurated”* (v. 20).

You may argue over the need of an atonement, or challenge the exclusivity of Christ, but you are arguing with God. It’s like the kindergarten student arguing with the university professor.

B. This is a new and Living way ... *“by a new and living way which He inaugurated”* (v. 20).

Dead, formal religious rituals will never bring you confidence and boldness before God. The way in which you come is the Living Christ, the mediator between God and man, our High Priest!

C. This is done for us ... *“by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us”* (v. 20).

There is no greater joy than to have the confident knowledge that your sins are forgiven, that your Holy Creator takes no notice of your sins, that His blessings are all yours through Christ!

III. Freedom in this life comes from knowing and appreciating the Person and work of Christ.

“Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence... through the veil...let us draw near to God” (v. 22).

A. We draw near to God when we know His Spirit is working in us ... and we need no external code.

This is the message of the New Covenant. Train yourself to listen to the voice of the Spirit!

B. We draw near to God when we know He’s forgotten our sins ... He remembers no more (v. 17).

When does He remember no more? The moment you, by faith, pass through the veil.

C. We draw near to God when we know the basis of our acceptance is Jesus Christ.