

The Coverings of the Tabernacle
Grace Greater than Our Sin
 Exodus 26:7-14

Tonight, we continue our study by examining the four separate material coverings of the tabernacle:

- (1) The 10 linen curtains, elaborately embroidered, formed the ceiling and were the "Tabernacle" proper.
- (2) The 11 goats' hair curtains are called "the tent" (v.11,12) and went immediately over the fine linen curtains.
- (3) The ram's skins dyed red (v.14) composed the third layer of the coverings and rested on the goats curtains.
- (4) The badger skin curtains formed the top covering and this material was seen by those outside the tent.

I. We See God's Grace in the Coverings of the Tent of Meeting . . .

11 curtains made from goats were joined together --- 6 curtains were joined together with 5 curtains.

(A). The number six is the number for man in Scripture and nature . . .

Man was created on the sixth day (Genesis 1:26), there should be six days of labor for man (Exodus 20:9).

The measurement of his labor --- 12 inches to a foot, eighteen inches to a cubit, thirty six inches to a yard.

The measurement of his time --- 24 hours, sixty minutes to an hour, sixty seconds to a minute . . .

There are six different words for "man" in the Bible --- 4 in the Old Testament and 2 in the New.

When Christ took the place of sinful man he was crucified on the "sixth" hour. The sign of evil is 666.

Man did six things to Christ in their torture of Him: (1). They scourged His back, (2). They struck Him with the palms of their hands, (3). They spat upon Him as they beat Him, (4). They placed thorns upon His brow, (5). They drove nails into His hands and feet, (6). They plunged the spear into His side.

(B). The number five is the number for grace in Scripture and in nature . . .

Grace is "showing favor to the unworthy" as in "being justified freely by His grace" (Romans 3:24).

When the young man David killed Goliath he was instructed to choose five smooth stones from the brook.

"I'd rather speak 5 words with understanding than 10,000 words in an unknown tongue" (I Cor. 14:19).

Throughout the Tabernacle, we have measurements stamped with the number 5 --- God's grace.

Underneath this tent covering, God met man. The 11 goats hair curtains speak of God's grace to man.

II. We See Christ's Cross in the Coverings of the Tent of Meeting . . .

The King James Version says these curtains were made out of goats' hair. "Hair" is not in the original. The emphasis of the text is on "goats." These were goat coverings. When Israel collectively stood before God, the goat was the only animal ever sacrificed. The goat is a type of Christ dying in the place of His people.

- (1). A goat was slain during the Feast of Unleavened Bread for a sin offering (Numbers 28:17).
- (2). A goat was slain as a sin offering for atonement during Pentecost (Leviticus 23:15,19).
- (3). A goat was also slain during the Feast of Trumpets (Numbers 29:1-5).
- (4). Two goats, a slain goat and a scapegoat, were given on the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16).
- (5). A goat was slain during the Feast of Tabernacles (Numbers 29). In addition to these national convocations:
- (6). A goat was slain when a ruler sinned (Leviticus 4:23).
- (7). A goat was slain when a commoner sinned (Leviticus 4:27,28).
- (8). A goat was slain when a sin was committed out of ignorance (Numbers 15:24,27).
- (9). A goat was slain at the beginning of each month (Numbers 28:11,15).
- (10). A goat was slain at the consecration of a priest (Leviticus 9:2,3).
- (11). A goat was slain at the dedication of the altar (Numbers 7:16).

11 times in Scripture the sacrifice of the goat was to be offered and sacrificed. When not sacrificed, goats are usually seen in an evil connection as when Rebekah deceived Isaac using goats' skins (Gen. 27),

or when Joseph's brothers killed a goat and dipped his coat in the blood, or when the Lord will separate "the sheep and the goats." In short, goats in Scripture represent sin. Christ on the cross became sin.

II Corinthians 5:21 --- *"He who knew no sin was made sin for us."*

Isaiah 53:10 --- *"Thou shalt make His soul for an offering for sin . . . he poured out his soul unto death."*

Leviticus 4:25 --- *"The priests shall pour out his blood at the bottom of the altar."*

It is interesting to note that what joined the five curtains with the six were rings of brass --- judgement.

III. We See Man's Mistake in the Coverings of the Tent of Meeting . . .

Rams skins dyed red formed the third layer. These skins were used at the consecration of priests.

Zeal for the Father's honor consumed him (John 2:17). He poured out his life as a priest and offering.

Above the ram skins were badger skins --- plain, brown ordinary skins that were nothing to look at.

"Is not this the carpenter?" the people asked about Christ (Mark 6:3). *"He made Himself of no reputation"* says Paul about our Lord (Philippians 2:7).

"As for this fellow, we know not from whence He is" said the people of our Lord (John 9:29). *"His visage was more marred than Moses and his form more than the sons of man."* (Isaiah 52:14). People deemed Christ utterly helpless.

May we never make the mistake of seeing Christ as only a man -- He is God Himself.