

The Tabernacle – The Coverings

Slide #2 – Many Details (Exodus 26:1-30)

- Moses was told to build according to the "pattern" (important!)
 - there are reasons for the many details
 - teaches the plan of salvation & how to stay saved
- **Outer Court** – separated the Tabernacle Proper from the camp (rest of the world)
- **Tabernacle Proper** – a type (symbol) of the Church of God

Slide #3 – The Four Coverings

- each one points to Jesus
- the coverings are described from the inside out
 - this is how God works on us (begins on the inside; works to the outside)
 - more details are on the inside = our understanding becomes greater after salvation & as we continue "assembling ourselves together" (worship services); Hebrews 10:25

Slide #4 – The First Covering

- the innermost curtain was made of "fine twined linen"
 - Revelation 19:8 – represents the "righteousness of the saints"
 - there is no sin in God's church
- **colors** = "blue, purple & scarlet"
 - same colors as the gate of the outer court
 - "blue" = heavenly purity (Lord)
 - "purple" = royalty (King)
 - "scarlet" = sacrifice at the Cross (Savior)
 - represents people who believe and have put on these truths
 - Isaiah 61:10 "he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness"
- **"with cherubims of cunning work"**
 - "cunning work" = the work of a skilled embroiderer
 - what are "cherubims"?
 - In a vision (Ezekiel 1:1) Ezekiel saw "four living creatures" (Ezekiel 1:5)
 - Revelation 4:6 says "four living creatures" (in the Greek)
 - Ezekiel 1:10 there were four of them
 - Ezekiel also called them "cherubims" (Ezekiel 10:15)
 - Ezekiel 1:5 – "their appearance ... had the likeness of a man"
 - what did they look like? Compare:

Ezekiel 1:10	Revelation 4:7
"the face of a man"	"face as a man"
"the face of a lion"	"like a lion"
"the face of an ox"	"like a calf"
"the face of an eagle"	"a flying eagle"

2 Corinthians 5:17
 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature"

Slide #5 – The Redeemed

- Revelation 5:8 – the four living creatures sang a new song, a song of redemption
 - definition of "redeemed" = buying back what was previously lost
 - Jesus paid the price for our salvation (He bought us back)
- Who are the redeemed?
 - Songs:
 - "I am redeemed Bought with a price Jesus has changed my whole life"
 - "I'm redeemed – Praise the Lord! I'm redeemed by the blood of the Lamb."
 - Revelation 14:4 "These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed"
- The "cherubims" ("four living creatures") are symbolic of the redeemed, the saints of all ages, all of God's people
 - lion, calf, man, eagle = represent character traits of God's people
 - represent the four major divisions of O.T. Israel (all of God's people)
 - each major division had these insignia (standard)
 - represents the four major divisions of the Gospel Day:
 - (1) lion = morning time church
 - (2) calf = Dark Ages
 - (3) face of a man = Protestantism
 - (4) eagle = evening-time church

Slide #6 – Cherubims Are Guardians of God's Holiness

- (Read Genesis 3:24)
 - many assume the cherubims kept the way closed (that they kept Adam & Eve out)
 - "he placed ... a flaming [Holy Spirit] sword [God's Word; Hebrews 4:12]"
 - "which turned every way, to keep the way"
 - Jesus said "I am the way" (John 14:6)
 - the only WAY back into God's presence is through the Word (Jesus; John, Chapter 1)
- God's people show others the way back into a right relationship with God
 - the message of the redeemed is "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty" (Rev. 4:8)
 - we are guardians of God's holiness (live it, proclaim it, and protect it)
 - holiness is a testimony to the lost = we are showing people the WAY to God
 - a holy life brings conviction to the sinner
 - we are not trying to make people feel bad but show them a better way (the only way)

Slide #7 – The Second Covering

- Exodus 26:7 – made of "goat's hair" – Palestinian goats were black
- a coarse, dark-colored cloth, quite common to this day in the East for making tents
 - Song of Solomon 6:5 AMP – "Your hair is like [the shimmering black fleece of] a flock of [Arabian] goats"
- Jude 13 speaks of "blackness" and "darkness"
 - "darkness" represents the power of sin (Colossians 1:13)
 - goats were used for the sin offering (Leviticus 16:5; Numbers 28:22)
 - goats represent being separated from God
 - Matthew 25:31-33, 41 – sheep on the right hand and goats are on the left hand
 - sheep = defenseless and reliant upon a shepherd for care, protection, and direction

- goats = headstrong, self-reliant, and independent
- Jesus became sin for us (2 Corinthians 5:21)
 - He became the "goat"
 - He became "blackness" (darkness)
 - when Jesus died, for 3 hours "there was darkness over the whole land" (Matt 27:45)

Slide #8 – The Third Covering of the Tabernacle

- Exodus 26:14 "And thou shalt make a covering for the tent of rams' skins dyed red."
- God was particular about how the Tabernacle (His dwelling place in Old Testament) was covered
 - is He particular about how the New Testament Tabernacle is covered?
 - what is the New Testament Tabernacle?
 - our "tabernacle" is our earthly body (2 Peter 1:13-14)
 - our earthly body needs to have a covering
 - when Adam & Eve tried to make a covering for themselves out of fig leaves (aprons)
 - God said that it did not cover them properly
 - God made coverings (coats) for them out of animal skins (much more modest)
 - where did God get the coats?
 - the covering required a death, blood was shed
- The Tabernacle was covered with "rams' skins dyed red"
 - Jesus shed His blood for us that our sins might be fully covered
 - for us to become one of the redeemed, Jesus had to shed His blood
 - we are born again; made spiritually alive
- **Other coverings:** (like Adam and Eve's aprons)
 - false religion has created a lot of "coverings" for their sins
 - good works, join a church, take church classes, make weekly confessions, be voted into the congregation
 - do these save you?
 - Isaiah 4:1 – "let us be called by thy name to take away our reproach [sin]"
 - just having the label "Christian" is an inadequate covering
 - the name "Church of God" by itself is not adequate
 - these do not take away (cover) our sins – only the blood of Jesus does that
 - the covering of "rams' skins dyed red" represents our sins being forgiven
 - this covering (Jesus' blood) COVERED the black goat skin (representing sin)

Slide #9 – Fourth Covering

- the outside covering – the only one that could be seen from without
 - "of badgers' skins" (Hebrew word tachash)
 - could be badger, sea-cow, porpoise, or other sea animal
- not attractive (contrast with the embroidered linen covering)
 - Isaiah 53:2 CEV – "Nothing about the way [Jesus] looked made him attractive to us."
- covering was made to protect what was inside
 - protect from the hot burning sun, the rain & storms
- what protects the inside (our salvation; being one of the redeemed) from the outside elements (the world, sin)?
 - the standard of holiness

- this is not always attractive to people on the outside (the world)
- it does get their attention (separate, different)

Slide #10

- **Exodus 26:15** "make boards for the tabernacle of [acacia] wood standing up."
 - people who are willing to be "standing up" for God (His standards of holiness)
 - the world cannot see your heart
 - the world cannot see the inner coverings
 - 1st = saints' fellowship with God; 2nd = Christ became blackness (sin) so we could become white (holy); 3rd = Christ became sin (our covering)
 - the world sees how you dress, how you talk & your actions (the standard of holiness)
 - that is why it is so important what the world sees
 - we are trying to show the world (sinners) **the WAY**
 - "standard" = ensign, banner, flag
- by living God's standard, we show people the way to the true church (the Church of God)
 - the standard is for our protection (just as the covering of badgers' skin)
 - protect what is inside (salvation, our relationship or fellowship with God)
- **standard examples:**
 - Psalm 101:3 "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes"
 - is pornography a "wicked thing"?
 - are songs about lying, cheating, and sex before marriage a "wicked thing"?
 - are movies that promote these things (show them to be okay) a "wicked thing"?
 - could you watch or listen to these things with Jesus sitting beside you?
 - would you text, forward, tweet, or share these things with Jesus?
 - Proverbs 23:7 "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he"
 - these things will affect your thoughts and then (in time) your actions
 - in the Christian's armor, what is the helmet of salvation protecting?
 - the mind!
 - there are things we need to prevent from entering our mind
 - preaching on the standard explains to us what those are
 - modest apparel is another example

We need to protect our experience of salvation

- the enemy is trying to take it away from us
- if our coverings are not as they should be, elements (rain, sun, etc. – peer pressure, opinions, worldly influences) will ruin what is inside (our experience of salvation)
- At first – all people see are the external standards of holiness (outer covering)
 - some call it legalism (list of rules) or a cult
- come a little closer – look at the rest of the coverings:
 - the blood of Jesus that covers us, saves us from all our sins
 - Jesus gave His life (became "darkness" or "blackness")
 - We can be one of the living ones (cherubims), have spiritual life (relationship with God)
 - all the coverings are important!