

# The Tabernacle — The Veil

## Slide #2 – Opening Thoughts

- Proper etiquette for meeting Queen Elizabeth
  - **DO:**
    - curtsy or bow
    - say "Your Majesty, ma'am"
    - be early
  - **DO NOT:**
    - sit until she sits
    - eat until she eats
    - touch her
    - leave before the Queen
    - do not speak unless spoken to
    - try to arrive empty-handed
    - take selfies
    - take pictures of the royal palace
    - ask personal questions
- Far more important question – How do you enter God's presence?
  - Adam & Eve were put OUT of God's presence
    - the Tabernacle teaches us **HOW** to get back INTO the presence of a Holy God
  - remember, God gave more importance to the design of the Tabernacle than He did to the Creation of the world (50 chapters compared to 2 chapters)

## Slide #3 — The Three Entrances

- It seems like it would have been more convenient to have multiple entrances
  - Yet, today, people want many ways to get to God (good works, Mohammed, etc.)
  - John 10:9 – Jesus said, "I am the door."
  - John 10:1 – "He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber."
- Each entrance teaches us the right way to approach God
- **1<sup>st</sup> – The Gate – the Way:**
  - Garden of Eden: the flaming sword "turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life" (Genesis 3:24)
    - not to **KEEP OUT** but show the only way back into God's presence is through the Word (Jesus)
  - People are looking for a better **WAY** to live.
    - Jesus is saying, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).
  - The pillars (with curtains of righteousness) are pointing people to the Gate (Jesus)
    - we might invite them to church or young people's meeting
    - many STOP here -- they hear about how to get to God, they see the way, but ...
      - not willing to give up their sinning (Altar of Brass)
  - Matthew 7:14 "Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life [the 3<sup>rd</sup> entrance], and few there be that find it [life]."
- **2<sup>nd</sup> – The Door – the Truth:** Jesus brings truth (freedom from sin, falsity, false religion)
  - John 18:37 Jesus told Pilate the reason He came to this world was to "bear witness [testify] unto the truth"

- Pilate asked, "What is truth?"
- Psalm 51:6 "Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts [heart]"
  - song: "I searched for Him & knew not what I searched for; I longed for Him & knew not what I longed for; Then, I found Jesus & knew that I would search no more; He filled that longing down in my soul."
- John 8:32 "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."
- John 8:36 "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."
- Also, the entrance to the Tabernacle Proper represents the Church of God
- 1 Corinthians 12:18 God places the saved in the body as it please Him
  - God's plan is to teach us **HOW** to stay saved
  - Hebrews 10:25 "Not forsaking the assembling ... together"; "exhorting one another"
  - 1 Corinthians 1:21 "by the foolishness of preaching"
- BUT many STOP here – believe in "go to the church of your choice"; do not believe church attendance is necessary
- We cannot get to the Father unless we go through Jesus (the Word – truth)
- **3<sup>rd</sup> – The Veil – Life:** through Christ we have spiritual life
  - The Tree of Life was in the midst of the Garden, the place where God walked & talked with Adam & Eve
    - when they sinned, they "died" (lost spiritual life)
    - the veil teaches us this is the way back to spiritual life
  - 1 John 5:12 "He that hath the Son hath life."
  - Notice, there are no Cherubims ("the living ones"; the saved) on the Gate or the Door
    - through the veil, we have spiritual life (thus, "the living ones" are on this entrance)

#### **Slide #4 – Description of the Veil (Review)**

- Exodus 26:31 "And thou shalt make a vail of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen of cunning work: with cherubims shall it be made."
  - "blue" – Jesus is the Son of God, the "Lord of Glory" (1 Corinthians 2:8)
  - "purple" – Jesus is the king of Kings (purple was used for kings)
  - "scarlet" – salvation through Jesus' death on the Cross
  - "fine twined linen" – Jesus lived a sin-free life (1 John 3:5)
  - "with cherubims" – represents the saved of all the ages
- Exodus 26:32 "And thou shalt hang it upon four pillars"
  - a pillar holds something up, is unmoveable
  - at the entrance to the outer court, the four pillars represent the four Gospels

#### **Slide #5 – Application of the Blue, Purple, Scarlet, Linen**

- **"pillars"** – at the Gate (4 Gospels – where we first learned about Jesus)
  - now, more personal – all who are saved ("overcometh") are pillars "in the temple of my God" (Revelation 3:12)
  - 1 Timothy 3:15 "the church of the living God [is] the pillar and ground of the truth"
    - the "pillars" hold up the veil
- God's people hold up (believe & live out) the truths all the colors of the veil represent
  - **"blue"** = we are "born again"; John 3:7 (Greek says "born from above")
  - **"purple"** = we are "kings" (reigning over sin)

- **"scarlet"** = just as Jesus presented His body as a sacrifice, we are to present our bodies as a "living sacrifice" (Romans 12:1)
  - Jesus said, "Not my will but thine be done" (Luke 22:42)
  - When we are saved, we want God's will to be done in our lives
  - Christians live a sacrificial life
    - 1 John 3:16 "Because he laid down his life for us ... we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."
    - Philippians 2:3-4 "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others."
      - That is a sacrificial life.
- **"fine linen"** = Christ has made us able to live a sin-free life (as He did)

### Slide #6 – The Veil Is Torn

- The veil separated "the holy place" from "the most holy" (verse 33)
- "Veil" comes from a root word, meaning "to separate."
  - The veil separated man from God's presence
- Jewish tradition – the veil was 60 feet long, 30 feet high, 4 inches thick
- At the time when the Passover lamb was killed; the time of the evening sacrifice
  - Matthew 27:46 "about the ninth hour" (3 p.m.)
- Matthew 27:50-51 when Jesus died "the veil ... was rent in twain from the top to the bottom"
  - "twain" = 2 pieces
  - consider the reported width (4 inches)
  - veil was heavily embroidered (harder to tear)
    - "The fabric of the veil was a handbreadth thick, woven of seventy-two strands, and each strand consisted of twenty-four threads." (Talmud)
  - "top to the bottom" – no human hands could have torn it apart (30 feet high)
- Jesus cried, "It is finished" – the old covenant was finished, and the new covenant began

### Slide #7 – The Mystery of Godliness

- Hebrews 10:20 – "the veil" represents Jesus' "flesh"
- This is a mystery
  - History has many **unsolved** mysteries:
    - What happened to Amelia Earhart? (disappeared while trying to fly around world)
    - Where is Blackbeard's treasure?
    - What was the purpose of Stonehenge?
  - This is the **greatest** mystery – how could God become a man?
- 1 Timothy 3:16 "Without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh"
  - "without controversy" — there is no doubt
  - "great ... mystery" — hidden truth
  - "manifest in the flesh" — God (Jesus) became visible in the human flesh
  - Here is the great mystery – Christ came as a human, and His death/resurrection opened the way for man to get back into right relationship with God
  - All of Christianity depends on this

- Colossians 1:26-27 — "The mystery ... hid from ages and from generations ... now is made manifest [visible] to his saints: ... which is Christ in you."
  - just as the pillars held up the veil, when we live godly lives ("Christ in you" – in our talk, actions), we reveal this mystery to a lost world (showing people how to get to God)

### **Slide #8 – How Can We Hold Up Christ?**

- When people look at the blue sky, it can seem so far away
  - Jesus might seem like a hard concept
    - hard to connect with, unreachable, so far away
- But we are here – right beside our friends, family, classmates, coworkers
  - when we lift up the veil (the truth of the Gospel) — we are Jesus' hands and feet
    - the **hands** that did not avoid touching a leper
    - the **hands** that washed Judas' feet (right before he betrayed Jesus)
    - the **feet** that walked miles out of His way to help Legion & the woman at the well
  - when we are Jesus' hands & feet, we make Jesus **real** to the world
  - John 12:21 – the Greeks told Philip, "Sir, we would see Jesus"
    - the unsaved world is looking at us saying, "We need to see Jesus!"
- The Tabernacle (God's O.T. dwelling place) was very distinctive! It stood out.
  - We (God's dwelling place in the N.T.) are to be distinctive!
    - we hold up (the veil) – the standards of God's Word
    - we are a holy people – living free from sin
  - Do not believe the lie — that we will reach more people if we blend in, if we are not too different
    - How will people find us, if we blend in?