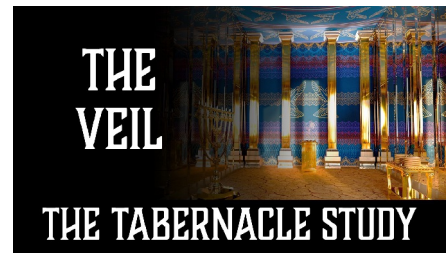


# Church of God Sunday School



## THE TABERNACLE #9 – THE VEIL

### DAILY READINGS:

- ❑ **Monday:** The Tabernacle's three entrances teach the way to God (John 10:1, 7-9; 14:6).
- ❑ **Tuesday:** The Veil separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place (Exodus 26:30-33).
- ❑ **Wednesday:** Once a year, only the high priest could go past the Veil (Leviticus 16:2; Hebrews 9:7).
- ❑ **Thursday:** The Veil represents Jesus opening the way to God for us (Hebrews 10:19-20).
- ❑ **Friday:** The colors of the Veil were blue, purple, and scarlet or crimson (Exodus 26:31; 2 Chronicles 3:14).
- ❑ **Saturday:** When we live the truth of the Gospel (as a "light"), we lift up Jesus (Matthew 5:16; John 12:32).

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"Having ... boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh."* —Hebrews 10:19-20

### The Way Into God's Presence

If you were invited to meet the King of England, you would need to learn *proper etiquette*. There are expected rules and behaviors for meeting earthly royalty. Some examples are—dress formally, arrive early, avoid selfies, and speak only when spoken to. Ignoring those rules could lead to serious consequences. If that is true for an earthly king, how much more important it is to come correctly into the presence of Almighty God! In the beginning, Adam and Eve walked with God, but when they sinned, they had to leave the Garden of Eden. They were put OUT of God's presence. Still, God planned a way for people to return to Him. The Tabernacle teaches spiritual lessons on how to come back into a right relationship with God.

The Tabernacle had three entrances—the Gate, the Door, and the Veil. Each one teaches something about how to approach God. In John 14:6, Jesus explained, "I am the way [the Gate], the truth [the Door], and the life [the Veil]." There are not *many* ways to God, for Jesus made it clear—"No man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Trying to come to God any other way makes one "a thief and a robber" (John 10:1). The Gate is the "way" into the Tabernacle Courtyard. The Door teaches the "truth" about entrance into the Tabernacle Proper. The Veil (the entrance into the Holy of Holies) teaches how to receive spiritual "life" (1 John 5:12).

### The Veil Separated the Two Rooms

Inside the Tabernacle Proper were two rooms—the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place (Exodus 26:33). A thick curtain called the Veil separated them. Only the high priest could go past the Veil into God's presence (Hebrews 9:7), and this was only once a year on the Day of Atonement. *Veil* means "hide or conceal," and it kept the Most Holy Place hidden from view. Yet God's plan of salvation was to restore mankind into a right relationship with Him, making it possible to enter His presence once again.



When Jesus died on the Cross, something amazing happened! It was time for the evening sacrifice (Matthew 27:46), and the priests were going about their duties, unaware of what was about to happen. At the very moment Jesus died, the Tabernacle Veil "was rent in twain [it was torn into two pieces] from the top to the bottom" (Matthew 27:51). Historians have recorded that the Veil was four

inches thick and as much as thirty feet high. No human hands could have torn this apart! When Jesus cried, "It is finished" (John 19:30), the price for sin was paid. The way to God was opened back up. Because Jesus bore our "sin on our behalf," we can now be "in a right relationship with" God (2 Corinthians 5:21 *Amplified Bible*).



### The Veil Represents Jesus

The Veil symbolizes the separation between sinful people and a holy God. If we "walk in darkness" (live in sin), we cannot have "fellowship [a relationship] with [God]" (1 John 1:6). Only Jesus could change this! Hebrews 10:19-20 explains, "The blood of Jesus [His sacrifice for our sins on the Cross]" has opened up "a new and living way" into "the holiest" place (into God's presence).

These verses compare Jesus' body ("flesh") with "the veil." Just as the only way into the Most Holy Place was through the Veil, the only way back into a right relationship with God is through Jesus Christ.

### What Was the Veil Made Of?

The Veil was made "of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen ... with cherubims" embroidered on it, and it hung on "four pillars" (Exodus 26:31-32). When we are saved and have grown in our experience, we become "a pillar in the temple of my God" (Revelation 3:12). The New Testament temple is "the church of the living God" (1 Timothy 3:15). Just as the Tabernacle pillars held up the Veil, we must hold up (believe and live) some important truths in our lives today. The description of the Veil represents these truths.

**BLUE (the color of the heavens):** Jesus came from Heaven (John 8:23), and when we get saved, we are "born again [reborn from above]" (John 3:7 *Amplified Version*).

**PURPLE (the color of royalty):** Jesus is King (Revelation 19:13-16), and through salvation, we are spiritually made "kings" (Revelation 1:6). That means through His power, we are reigning over sin.

**SCARLET (the color of blood):** Jesus offered His body as a sacrifice. We are called to present our bodies as a "living sacrifice" (Romans 12:1). A sacrificial life puts others first (1 John 3:16; Philippians 2:3-4).

**FINE, TWINED LINEN:** Christ makes us able to live a sin-free life (as He did).

**CHERUBIMS:** *Cherubims* means "living ones." Through Jesus Christ (the Veil), we have spiritual life.

While the Curtain of the Gate and the Veil had the same colors and fine, twisted linen, only the Veil was embroidered with "cherubims." This shows that salvation was made available when Jesus opened up the way into God's presence.

### How Do We Lift Up Christ?

What are some ways we (as pillars) can lift up the truths represented by the Veil's colors? Part of being a "living sacrifice" is having the same attitude as Jesus. He said, "Not my will, but thine, be done" (Luke 22:42). To be like Jesus is to want God's will to be done. God does not want anyone to "perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). Our lives should be a witness (be a "light"; Matthew 5:16) to a lost-and-dying world, pointing the way back to God.

When we live out the truth of the Gospel, we are lifting up Jesus. We are drawing people to Him (John 12:32). When we are saved, living free from sin, and living a sacrificial life, we make Jesus real to the world. We become His hands and feet. Jesus' hands (that touched a leper and washed Judas' feet) and His feet (that walked miles to help the woman at the well) are our examples.

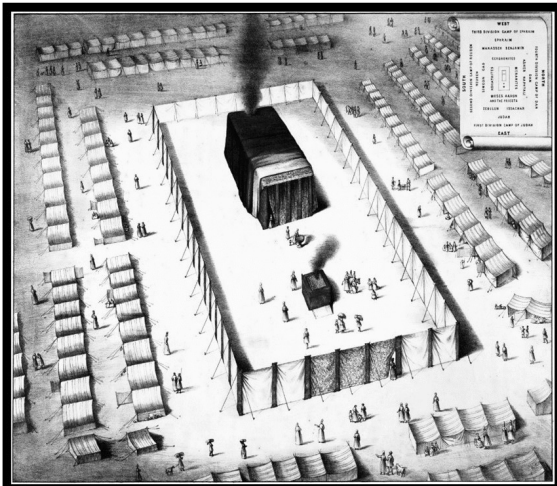
How are we revealing Christ to the world? The Greeks in John 12:21 said, "We would see Jesus." It is the same today—people need to see Jesus!

# Bible Quiz



1. Why were Adam and Eve put out of God's presence?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who is the only way to God? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What did Jesus call people who try to come another way?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What does the word *veil* mean? \_\_\_\_\_

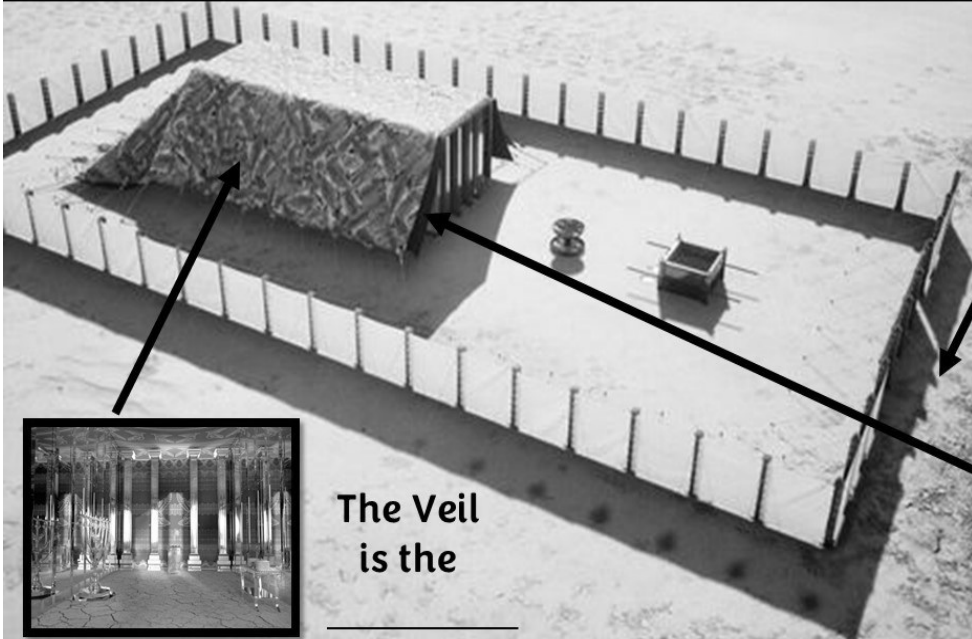
5. What did the Veil separate? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What happened to the Veil when Jesus died? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What is the purpose of a literal pillar in the Tabernacle? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What is our purpose as spiritual pillars? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What do the Cherubims represent? \_\_\_\_\_
10. List some of the ways you can be Jesus' hands and feet: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## THE TABERNACLE WAS DISTINCTIVE

- The Tabernacle (God's dwelling place in the Old Testament) stood out.
- As Christians (God's dwelling place today), how will we reach people if we blend in?
- We are to be "a city ... set on a hill [that] cannot be hid" (Matthew 5:14).

# The Three Entrances



The Gate is the



The Door is the



The Veil is the

## WHAT DOES THE DESCRIPTION OF THE VEIL SYMBOLIZE?

\_\_\_\_\_ **Jesus is the Son of God; to be "born again" is to be "born from above."**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Jesus is the King of kings; we are kings when we are reigning in this life.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Salvation came through Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross; we are to live a sacrificial life.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Jesus lived a sin-free life; we can live free from sin.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **are "the living ones"; the saved of all the ages.**



**WORD BANK: purple, scarlet, Cherubims, blue, fine twined linen**

**"In the Old Testament, the New is hidden; in the New Testament, the Old lies open."**