

Friday, November 18, 2022 ▫ Read Exodus 26:1–14

Questions from the Scripture text: What are they to make for the covering of the tabernacle (v1)? How many of them? Out of what primary material? And what threads? With what embroidered upon them? How long should each curtain be (v2)? How wide? How are they to be arranged (v3)? What should be made on the edges in order to connect them (v4)? How many loops per curtain (v5)? What are they to make for connecting the loops (v6)? Out of what? With what ultimate result (end of v6)? What other curtains are to be made (v7)? In how many sections now (cp. v1)? And what length now (v8, cp v2)? What does the extra curtain do (v9)? What assembly does this second set use (v10)? Of what are its clasps made (v11, cp. v6)? What are the extra two cubits of length for (v12–13)? What additional layers are there to be (v14)?

What do we learn from the style of covering of the tabernacle? Exodus 26:1–14 looks forward to the p.m. sermon on the coming Lord's Day. In these fourteen verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the tabernacle was a very mobile, temporary anticipation of glorious presence to come.**

Mobile. With the descriptions of the furnishings completed, the theme of the mobility of God's tent now takes center stage. Before moving out into the court, God's design addresses the covering of the Holy of Holies and of the Holy Place. "Curtains" here is a word that primarily refers to tent coverings used by nomadic people. The people are going to be wandering, and God prepares to wander with them.

Modular. In addition to a portable style of dwelling, the particular design is for very rapid setup and take down. The loops and the clasps on multiple four-cubit (6 ft) sections would enable very quick assembly/disassembly. God's people must be ready to obey and move at a moment's notice.

Both of these aspects of the design remind us that this is not the final form of God's dwelling with His people. This is a greatly gracious season in God's dealings with man, but it is anticipating a greater season still. One day, God's dwelling with man will be permanent, stable, persistent.

Majestic. The materials of these under-curtains are costly. The blue, purple, and scarlet thread employed rare dyes. The clasps are made of gold. The linen is both costly and also mirrors the ritually pure garments of the priesthood when they are on tabernacle duty. Embroidered into this "ceiling" would be cherubim. The candle-light shining on the linen, the gold, and the costly-thread embroidered cherubim would all convey heavenliness even upon the "ceiling" inside the tabernacle.

Multilayered. There are three more layers described here. The design of the next one is the same, except with one extra layer overlapping in the middle, a cubit extra length at each edge, and less expensive materials (goats' hair for the curtains and bronze for the clasps). The next layer is ram skins dyed red. Skins are especially suited to keeping moisture out. The final layer would be especially so, since the word translated "badger" in our version is probably "dolphin." These extra layers not only reinforce the separation from the outside world but preserve the more delicate inner layer.

God, Who made the heavens, describes doing so as "stretching them out like a curtain" in Psalm 104:2. He uses the same word there as we have here. The care and design that He commands to be put into the tabernacle reminds us that this is a copy of a true and heavenly reality. One day, the mobile and modular will be replaced not only with the stability of a stationary temple, but finally with the glorious permanence of the resurrected and returned Savior. And the declaration will be that "the tent of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God" (Rev 21:3).

In Whom are you now with God? How has He come to dwell with You? If God designed and maintained the picture of that dwelling in the tabernacle, what will He do with you?

Sample prayer: Lord, thank You for coming to dwell with Your people and bringing Your people to dwell with You. Forgive me for thinking little of Your presence. Preserve me and sanctify me by Your Spirit, until You bring me at last into the perfection that the tabernacle pictured, I ask through Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP73C "Yet Constantly, I Am with You" or TPH332 "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Exodus 26 versus 1 through 14. These are God's words. Moreover, you shall make the tabernacle with 10 curtains, a fine, women linen. And blue, purple and scarlet thread. With artistic designs of Cherubing, You shall weave them. The length of each curtain shall be 28 cubits and the width of each curtain four cubits.

And every one of the curtains shall have the same measurements. Five, curtains shall be coupled to one another and the other five. So we coupled to one another and you shall make. Loops of blue yarn on the edge of the curtain on the selvage of one set and likewise you shall do on the outer edge of the other curtain of the second set.

50 loops you so making one curtain and 50 loops You shall make. Edge of the curtain. That is on the second. The end of the second set. That the loops may be clasped

to one another. And you shall make 50 clasps of gold and couple the curtains together with the clasps.

So that it may be one tabernacle. So also make curtains of good's hair. To be a tent over the Tabernacle. You shall make 11 curtains. Point of each curtain shall be 30 cubits and the width of each curtain for cubits. And the 11 curtains shall all have the same measurements.

And you shall couple five curtains by themselves and six curtains by themselves. And you shall double over the sixth curtain at the forefront of the tent. You shall make 50 loops on the edge of the curtain that is outermost in one set and 50 loops and the edge of the curtain of the second set.

And you shall make 50 bronze clasps. Put the clasps into the loops and couple the tent together. That it may be one. The remnant, that remains of the curtains of the tent. The half curtain that remains shall hang over the back of the tabernacle. And a cubit on one side and a cubit.

On the other side of what remains of the length of the curtains of the tent. Shall hang over the sides of the tabernacle. On this side and on that side. Cover it. There's also make. A covering of Ramskins, dyed red. For the tent and a covering of badger skins.

Above that. So far the reading of God's inspired. And in there, and tort The words people are. About to be wandering and the Lord has Told us about. The holy of holies which is also called another way to translate that. Actually It's not also called Is the most holy place.

With his presence. In his. Prophetic. Relation. The testimony that's inside the arc. And in his, Priestly relation with the lid, the emergency seat, the Atonement cover that is on the arc. And in his kingly relation to his people. With the chair of being built into the lid, who are a throne For you all by.

And of course, we know that the Lord Jesus is The profit priest and King. Who is the god, man? In whom the Lord has. Fully. And finally, been, All those things to us, even as he was those things to them before the Incarnation and pictured. Himself to them. Pictured Christ to them.

So that was in the Holy of holies and then We heard about the holy place. The next place out in particularly the two things that we heard about from the Holy place in the previous passage, where the table for the show bred. With pictures and plates and so forth.

Communicating. Dining table. And, The bread one for each tribe of Israel, is going to be put out on it. The fellowship that Israel would have. By way of God's presence to them. In the most holy place. The fellowship that God's people would have with him through Christ. And then the light of God's blessing, the layup stand.

Which looked like a tree. And reminded them of the perfect fellowship of Eden. That had been lost, but was pictured to them. By a tree. Lamp, as it were. And, Which they, of course, did not know that it would look forward to you. That city garden or garden city that Would be there at the end and the perfected.

Blessing of God, just as the perfected fellowship of God upon, man, that we still have pictured to us. In the Lord's Supper. And we will one day have actual table fellowship with our redeemer. The god man are mediator of the Lord Jesus. So, also the light looks forward to the light.

At the very end when the sun and moon have run their course as it were. Longer than the Sun, and the moon is As we are singing about in Psalm 72, This week and the next couple of weeks, Lord willing, And so, there's the Blessedness of God and the light that shines upon them.

And we hear it both in the uronic blessing. The Lord. Make his face to shine upon you, the Lord lift up his face upon you. And of course, that's what we come to know in the Lord Jesus Christ. As the Spirit makes the light. Of the knowledge of the glory of God to shine in our hearts.

In the face of Jesus Christ. By faith already anticipating that, which we will see. As we sing. And, One of the. The hymns. I'm a faith becomes sight. So there's all of that and all of that is going to go with the people, But the people are going to be a wandering people.

And so, God needs or God has designed for them. A wandering temple as it were not a house but a tent And the word that's used for curtains throughout here is the word that is used. For the fabric covers of nomadic. People's tents. So people especially who had animals that weren't crop farmers and they would move to replace to place.

And they would set up their own tents and those tents would have coverings. The words for those coverings as the word for curtains. Here. But, God's tent to them is more than just mobile. And that it's Portable. It's also modular to make it easier. For them to carry. So that the many priests who would be.

Carrying and handling. The tabernacle would be able to divide up the labor more easily. So, you have these long stretches of fabric that are not actually. A whole lot wider than this. And they would have. The loops on each edge so that one clasp could go through both loops, but that would make it much easier.

You know, one man could carry 50 cold glass clasps and another man could carry one of the curtains and another man could carry one of the curtains and between those three men not only would it be easy to carry but very easy at Clasp that up and then you have next class guy.

And next curtain guy, and you can see how quickly and easily The entire tabernacle could be set up, so it's modular. The Lord giving his people, The privilege of serving. Some of his people in particular, the privilege of serving in. Facilitating the presence of the way that God would communicate as presence to us.

And And, Conduct the public worship. Among his people and we have even better. For Christ himself as our tabernacle and he is in heaven and he is indwelt. Each of us by his spirit who believe in him. And, And we are united to him. And now you are. Prepared, as you.

Carry about with you the knowledge of the Lord Jesus by faith and you too have a duty, don't you the maintenance of your own heart? And Your own mind, your own soul that we may be in good preparation and good season for the public worship. Week by week on the Lord's day.

This was a marvel and it's mobility and its modularity. And the Lord has exceeded it. For that marvel. In the New Covenant. Admit the administration under Jesus. Who sits and thrown in heaven. And it was majestic, It was majestic on the inside where the priests could see, You know, on the outside and you know, pretty fancy especially once they get Further inland away from the Mediterranean I'm guessing.

The dolphin skins were harder to find. The. The man who had. Done the research and learned all the languages. And from whom I learned that And his most recent company. Commentary says. Sea cow. Skins. I'm not sure how you differentiate between, The Egyptian and Phoenician. And Hebrew cognate words.

For dolphin from sea cow. But You get the idea. But on the inside, it's even more impressive than that. Because it's fine web and linen and blue, and purple and scarlet thread, which would have been very expensive and where would they get the materials for this? Well, we know where the Lord had gathered up riches in Egypt and given the Egyptians much understanding and skill.

In textiles and And agriculture. And And various sciences and metalworking and so forth. And so, The Lord when he gave them to plunder the Egyptians. On the way out of Egypt, in part was preparing for them to have these heavenly scenes. So inside the tabernacle, you'd have everything made of gold and the The lamp lights from the tree lamp with the, with the flickering oil, light shimmering off of this gold and then above, you'd have the linen.

So it would reflect the gold nests of the light and embroidered into it. These. These pictures of cherubim. Which are a reminder that. God, who makes His presence to be known and thrown in the must. Holy place is not contained in the Holy place. He actually. A heavens. And the highest heavens cannot contain him as Solomon.

Would pray. When they were inaugurating the temple. But or when the Lord was inaugurating the temple but they would have a picture, reminding them of that. That he is also made them to know to know the throne of his glory as in the highest heaven. Not not just in the sky and what we would call outer space, but The third heaven.

The Lord would make his glory known there and there'll be a little picture of that inside. That only the sons of Aaron would ever. Would ever see completely set up and so forth. Although, perhaps if you were Another Levite. You could get a glimpse while the guys were bundling things up and carrying them along.

You still wouldn't have. The full picture. But, They didn't have the full picture either, did they? For this Christ. Who is pictured? Heaven and highest heaven. Could not contain. The Lord God fully expresses presence but the Lord Jesus good. The word became flesh and dwelt among us. Tabernacle is actually, the word tinted is the, is the Greek word there in John chapter 1 and dwelt among us and we beheld, His glory is that the only begotten of the Father?

No man had ever seen. God. But the only begotten is in the bosom of the Father, He is fully revealed him. And so that if you ask show us the Father and it is not Jesus says, If you've seen him, you've seen the father That the fullness of the Godhead, dwells.

Dwells in him and this is the one whom we know already by faith. Although not Not by sight and by the time we see him our hearts and minds will be sanctified such that we will be taken, not so much with the physical appearance, although we trust but it will be marvelous and glorious.

But we will have a full appreciation then or at least a sin less appreciation. I think we'll have an increase in appreciation forever because of our finiteness. We'll have a sinless appreciation of who Whom it is that we see. Or who it is that we see. Rather. And, Truly the majesty of the inside.

Of these coverings. Was in. Designed intended to communicate that in just a small way. What we have in a much greater way by faith in Christ already. And look forward to having it in Greater way. When we have the site of the Lord, Jesus, With glorified and sinless minds and hearts and resurrected eyes.

And All of that, all those Marvels In the last place in this passage. Although the So much of the ink is spent on. The first layer, then you have the second layer a little bit, more ink in part so that you can see the downgrade in the materials as you As you get outside goat's hair instead of find women linen.

And bronze clasps instead of gold clasps, which You know, of course the gold would catch the The shining of the light in a way that would have been better than and more heavenly In its impression. And then you don't have very much at all about the Ramskins died red.

Although The red dye is valuable. Of course, and probably. Provides some weather protection. And then we already mentioned the the dolphin skins. On the outside. And so this multi-layer is really weatherproofing. And implying some of the persistence of God's presence with them. That this is not a tabernacle that he intended to have to be.

Rebuilt. But he had, he had provided. For proper insulation and proper protection from moisture. And And so forth. For the tabernacle in these multiple layers. Psalm 104. God uses the same word for these coverings. To talk about his stretching out, heaven, like a curtain. Reminding us. The great. Dwelling that he has made.

Of himself. And display of himself even in the creation as a whole. But, of course, most of all In our Lord Jesus Christ, one day. The mobile and the modular is going to be replaced not merely with the stability of Solomon's temple. Or. The reminder. That, that couldn't be the glory that came from.

As we're in the Maya's temple. Or even the man-made attempt to construct. A memory of religion inheritance temple. About one day, all of these would be replaced. By that, which is most mobile, most modular. Infinitely, most majestic. And persistent. The presence of. The Lord Jesus Christ in a permanent and infinitely.

Glorious way in a resurrected and returned. Savior. And then Revelation, really 1:3 tells us, That the great, an incident will be that the tent of God, the tabernacle of God, is among men. And he will dwell with them. And they shall be his people. God himself will be with them.

And he will be their God. And that's where it's all going. On the best days were, Nowhere, close. On the worst days. It's not taking anything away or slowing down. What the Lord has intended. For those whom use redeeming unto himself in Christ. That we might enjoy the fullness.

Of which this tabernacle was just the smallest picture. Praise God. Let's pray. My father in heaven. Oh, help us to know you. In the Lord, Jesus Christ by faith by the work of your spirit. Grant unto us a Lord. That we would. Know your presence and delight in you already by faith.

Even as we look forward to the fullness of delight by sight in Jesus name. Amen.