

The Tabernacle – The Outer Curtains and the Gate

(SLIDE #2) "Hangings" or Curtains (Exodus 27:9)

- "hangings," or other translations say "a wall of curtains"
- 100 cubits long (north & south) x 50 cubits (east & west)
 - **cubit** = length from man's elbow to fingertip (approx. 18 inches)
 - 150 x 75 feet
 - 7½ feet tall
- the curtains separated what was holy (God's dwelling place) from what was sinful (the world)
 - God wants an obvious, clearly marked line between what is the sinful and what is holy
- when people looked toward the Tabernacle – the curtains were the **first thing** they saw
 - children's song – "Your life's the only Bible some people read"
 - when people wonder, "Who is God?" our lives (our holy living) should point the way to God
 - this is God's chosen way to show the unsaved **what** is holy & **how** to be holy
- some say ...
 - "The outward standard **does not matter**. God looks on the heart."
 - We are not trying to win God, we are trying to win the lost.
 - 1 Samuel 16:7 – Man looks on the outward appearance
- "curtains" represent righteousness (holy living)

(SLIDE #3) The Curtains Were Made of "Fine Twined Linen" (Exodus 27:9)

- The linen of the courtyard fence was white
 - Revelation 19:8 – "the fine linen is the righteousness of saints"
 - (**Note:** some of the clipart/photos do not show the curtains as white as they should be)
- "twined linen" = "a superior quality of fine linen was made from yarn of which each thread was composed of **MANY** delicate strands"
 - Ecclesiastes 4:12 — "a threefold cord is not quickly broken"
 - "threefold" = God, you, and me
 - before we approach God (the Holy of Holies), we must pass the curtains — representing ...
 - righteousness and unity of God's people
 - Matthew 5:23-24 tells us if we have a problem with our brother ...
 - **BEFORE** we bring our gift to the altar
 - (the altar comes **AFTER** we pass the curtains & through the gate)
 - we need to "be reconciled" (get things worked out)
 - we need to avoid things that tear God's people apart
 - politics, differences of opinion (not doctrine), personal differences (looks, family, speech, etc.) can **DIVIDE** if we are too vocal
 - compare to curtains being ripped apart – we are no longer something the world looks at and sees the way to God
 - **UNITY among** God's people is **VITAL!**

(SLIDE #4) Pillars Hold the Curtains in Place

- pillar means "support, immovable, does not waiver"
- curtains could only be lifted up and stay lifted up if the pillars were kept in place
 - God wants His people above the (dirt) level of this sinful world
 - John 12:32 Jesus said – "If I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me"
 - We represent Jesus (who was lifted up on the Cross)
 - We must be lifted up (living holy lives) so we can "draw" people to Jesus
- Pillars are **NOT** just a few old, established saints
 - Revelation 3:12 – "Him that **overcometh** will I make a pillar ... he shall go no more out"

- as you become established in the truth (read, pray, study) – you become a pillar
- **CONSIDER** – if the curtains were not connected to the pillars, whenever a strong wind came along, the curtains would be blown away
 - Ephesians 4:14 – be **not moved** by "every wind of doctrine"
 - do not let people talk you out of your salvation
 - become **"connected"** to established, spiritual people (Godly, Christian mentors)
- Pillars **SUPPORT** the truth
 - 1 Tim. 3:15 – "the church of the living God, the pillar and ground [foundation] of the truth"

(SLIDE #5) Pillars, Sockets, Fillets, and Hooks

- Pillars – overlaid with brass
- Pillars held in place by sockets (bases) of brass
- Pillars had hooks and fillets of silver
- The "fillets" were connecting rods, joining the top pieces of the pillars

(SLIDE #6) Wood Covered With Brass

- Pillars were made of **wood** covered with **brass**
 - imagine how heavy 60 pillars (7½ feet long) of SOLID brass would be (for transport)
 - wood represents = our flesh (human way of thinking)
 - Mark 8:24 — "men as trees"
 - if not kept in place, our flesh will be "showing"
 - our flesh wants its way (popular song — "I did it my way")
 - this does not show Christ to others
 - Paul said "I keep **UNDER** my body" (1 Corinthians 9:27)
 - our body (our human way of thinking) wants to take charge
 - example: "I'm going to give them a piece of my mind"
 - God does not want our flesh (our humanity) on display
 - wood (flesh) was covered with brass
 - brass represents God's judgments
- **Bible examples of brass:**
 - serpent of brass (Numbers, Chapter 21)
 - the people of Israel were out of order (murmuring & complaining)
 - it brought down God's judgment on them
 - God sent fiery serpents, which bit the people – many died
 - verse 9 – Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole – "look and live"
 - Revelation 2:18 – Christ has feet like brass
 - Jesus put His foot down (judgment) on things that were out of order
- God's "judgments" keep our flesh in place
 - when we obey God's Word (submit), our flesh is no longer "out of order"
- **Examples of God's "judgments":**
 - messages on the standard, dating, worldliness
 - hard sayings:
 - John 6:60 – "Many ... they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?"
 - John 6:66 – "From that time many ... walked no more with him."
 - people like to hear messages about love, being kind, etc. (and those are necessary)
- "Brass" (judgment)-covered "pillars" keep our "curtains" (righteousness) in place

(SLIDE #7) Pillars Are Filleted With Silver (Ezekiel 27:17)

- "Fillets" = means "joiners"
 - silver connecting rods, joining the heads (tops) of the pillars

- **Bible Examples of Silver:**
 - Jesus was sold for 30 pieces of silver (Matthew 26:15)
 - Joseph was sold for 20 pieces of silver (Genesis 37:28)
- Silver represents the plan of salvation
 - salvation is what holds all God's people ("pillars") together
- The word "fillet" also means **"to LOVE"**:
 - The plan of salvation (Christ's sacrifice on the Cross) includes great **LOVE**
 - John 15:13 – "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."
- Having the same beliefs is **NOT** what joins us together
 - John 13:35 "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have **LOVE** one to another."
 - Doctrine is important, and God is bringing honest hearts to a greater understanding of the truth
 - Not everyone has the same amount of light (understanding), but the love of God holds us together

(SLIDE #8) The Hooks of Silver (Exodus 27:17)

- "Hooks" on the "pillars" were made of silver
 - silver = part of the plan of salvation
- Ropes connected the silver "hooks" to the brass pins
 - brass pins acted as tent stakes
- As "pillars," our experience of salvation will be **anchored** in Christ WHEN ...
 - we accept the plan of salvation (silver hooks)
 - we take the judgments of God (brass pins)
- Nothing moved the curtains and the pillars because they were **ANCHORED**
 - Hebrews 6:19 – "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast"

(SLIDE #9) Only One Entrance

- No matter where you begin, it all leads to the GATE
 - false religion has other ways:
 - examples: joining a church, speaking in tongues, taking religious classes
 - John 10:7 – Jesus said, "I am the door"
 - Acts 4:12 – "Neither is there salvation in any other"
 - John 10:1 – if you try to come in other ways, Jesus said you are a "thief and robber"
- **Three Entrances of the Tabernacle:**
 - **Gate** – entrance to the Tabernacle Courtyard
 - **Door** - entrance to the Tabernacle Proper (first room)
 - **Veil** – entrance to the Holy of Holies (second room)
 - 3-fold emphasis (Gate, Door & Veil)
 - John 14:6 — Jesus said "I am the **way**, the **truth**, and the **life**"

(SLIDE #10) The Curtain of the Gate

- **"of blue"** – the color of the heavens
 - salvation requires believing Jesus had a heavenly origin (He is Divine)
 - John 8:23 — Jesus said, "I am from above ... I am **not** of this world"
 - without believing this – you will only believe He was a good teacher
- **"of purple"** – royalty, kingship (John 19:3, 5)
 - Jesus is the King (Revelation 19:13-16)
 - too many like Jesus in the manger (no submission to Him as a baby)
 - we must submit to Jesus as our King (let Him rule our lives)
- **"of scarlet"**

- blue and purple described **BEFORE** scarlet
- must accept Jesus is God and His Kingship (Lord) before salvation
 - Romans 10:9 – "confess ... the Lord Jesus" (must accept He is going to be Lord of your life)
 - **THEN** "thou shalt be saved"
- **curtain was of "fine twined linen, wrought with needlework"**
 - "fine linen" = white (righteousness)
 - "wrought" means "embroidered"
 - the threads are interwoven, inseparable
- To enter the Tabernacle (to be saved), you must accept **ALL** the truths represent by the colors
 - these truths are interwoven, inseparable
 - **blue** = Jesus is Divine (He is God)
 - **purple** = Jesus must be Lord of your life
 - **scarlet** = salvation through Jesus' death on the Cross

(SLIDE #11) Four Pillars of the Gate

- "pillars" = people with a solid experience
 - four solid pillars who wrote about the work of Christ so others could see how to enter
 - represents the four Gospel writers = Matthew, Mark, Luke & John

(SLIDES #12 & #13) Activity & Answers