

Exodus 26:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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:

Analysis

The veil (פָּרוֹכֶת, paroketh) of blue, purple, scarlet, and fine linen with cherubim separates Holy Place from Most Holy. This veil represents Christ's flesh (Hebrews 10:19-20)—His humanity that both revealed God and separated man from direct access until His death. The cherubim woven into it show that the way to God's throne passes through holiness' guardians. When Christ died, this veil tore (Matthew 27:51), opening access.

Historical Context

This veil hung on the four pillars (v.32), creating an impenetrable barrier before the ark. Only the high priest could pass through, once yearly on Yom Kippur (Leviticus 16), representing Christ who would enter heaven itself for us.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How did Christ's flesh both reveal God and limit access until His death?

2. What did the veil's tearing at Christ's death accomplish for your access to God?

Interlinear Text

וַעֲשֵׂהָ	כַּף כֶּתֶם	תְּכֵלֶת	וְאַרְגָּמָן	וְתוֹלַעַת עֵר	שָׁנִי
And thou shalt make	a veil	of blue	and purple	H8438	and scarlet
H6213	H6532	H8504	H713		H8144
וְשֵׁשׁ	מְשֻׁזָּר	מְעֵשֶׂה	חֵשֶׁב	וַעֲשֵׂהָ	אֹתָהּ
linen	and fine twined	work	of cunning	And thou shalt make	H853
H8336	H7806	H4639	H2803	H6213	
כְּרֻבִים:					
with cherubims					
H3742					

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 27:51 (Parallel theme): And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;

2 Chronicles 3:14 (Creation): And he made the veil of blue, and purple, and crimson, and fine linen, and wrought cherubims thereon.

Exodus 36:35 (Creation): And he made a veil of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen: with cherubims made he it of cunning work.

Exodus 26:1 (Parallel theme): Moreover thou shalt make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet: with cherubims of cunning work shalt thou make them.

Exodus 36:8 (Creation): And every wise hearted man among them that wrought the work of the tabernacle made ten curtains of fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet: with cherubims of cunning work made he them.

Leviticus 16:2 (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the veil

before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; that he die not: for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat.

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