

# Exodus 36:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

The actual tabernacle construction begins with 'every wise hearted man' making ten curtains of fine twined linen (שֵׁשׁ מַשְׂזָר, shesh mashzar) and colored threads. These innermost curtains, visible only to ministering priests, featured cherubim embroidered with 'cunning work' (מַעֲשֵׂה חָשֵׁב, ma'aseh choshev—'designer's work')—artistic excellence dedicated to God though rarely seen. This teaches that God deserves our finest work regardless of human visibility; we work for Him, not for applause. The cherubim design recalls Eden's guarded entrance (Genesis 3:24), now opened through the sacrificial system.

## Historical Context

These ten curtains, each approximately 42' × 6', joined to form the tabernacle's ceiling and walls. The fine linen represented purity, while blue (heaven), purple (royalty), and scarlet (sacrifice) woven with gold thread (divinity) created a magnificent display visible only to priests—teaching that God values hidden excellence.

## Related Passages

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## 1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

### Study Questions

1. What does the creation of beautiful curtains seen only by priests teach about working for God's eyes rather than human applause?
2. How do the cherubim embroidered on the inner curtains connect Eden's closed entrance to the tabernacle's mediated access?

### Interlinear Text

בָּנָי	בָּנָי	כָּל	כָּל	לְבָנִים	לְבָנִים
among them that wrought		H3605	And every wise	hearted man	
	H6213		H2450		H3820
בָּנָי	בָּנָי	אֶת	בְּמִלְאָכָה	מִשְׁכָּן	כָּרְעָם
among them that wrought		the work	H853	of the tabernacle	ten
	H6213	H4399		H4908	H6235
שְׁנִים	שְׁנִים	וְתָכְלֵת	אַרְגָּמָן	וְשָׁנָה	כָּרְעָם
linen	of fine twined	and blue	and purple	and scarlet	curtains
H8336	H7806	H8504	H713	H8144	H3407
בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	חִשְׁבָּנָה	מִשְׁעָנָה	בָּנָי	אֶת
with cherubims	work	of cunning	among them that wrought		H853
H3742	H4639	H2803	H6213		

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