

Exodus 39:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the covering of rams' skins dyed red, and the covering of badgers' skins, and the vail of the covering,

Analysis

The coverings—rams' skins dyed red (ערת אילים מִצְמִים, orot eilim me'adamim) and badgers' skins (ערת תְּחִשִּׁים, orot techashim, possibly seals or dolphins)—plus the veil (פָּרָקֵת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ, parokhet haMasakh, veil of the screen) protected the tabernacle. The rams' skins' red dye symbolizes substitutionary sacrifice; the outer covering's durability indicates enduring protection. The veil separated Holy Place from Most Holy, teaching that access to God's immediate presence requires mediation. Christ, the veil torn at His death (Matthew 27:51), opened the way to the Father.

Historical Context

The layered coverings—fine linen innermost (beauty), goats' hair (provision), rams' skins (sacrifice), badgers' skins outermost (protection)—demonstrated that God's dwelling required both beauty (internal) and durability (external). The veil's thick weaving made tearing it humanly impossible.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do the layered coverings (beauty inside, durability outside) apply to the church's nature?
2. What does Christ's body torn as the veil reveal about His sacrifice opening access to God?

Interlinear Text

וְאַתָּה מִכְסֵה הַעֲרָתָם בְּקָיִלִם

H853

And the covering

H4372

מִכְסֵה

H5785

עֲרָתָם

מִכְסֵה

H352

בְּקָיִלִם

dyed red

H119

H853

בְּמִסְרָה פָּרָכֶת וְאַתָּה בְּתַפְשֵׁת יְמִינְךָ עֲרָתָם מִכְסֵה הַ

And the covering

H4372

skins

H5785

of badgers

H8476

H853

and the veil

of the covering

H4539

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