

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 (עֹרֹת אֵילִים תְּחַשִּׁימִים, orot eilim me'adamim) and badgers' skins (עֹרֹת תְּחַשִּׁים, orot techashim, possibly seals or dolphins)—plus the veil (פְּרֹכֶת הַמָּסָךְ, 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

Psalms 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

וְאֵת	מְכֹסֵה	עֹרֹת	הָאֵילָנִים	הַמְאֻדָּמִים	וְאֵת
H853	And the covering	skins	of rams	dyed red	H853
	H4372	H5785	H352	H119	
	מְכֹסֵה	עֹרֹת	הַתְּחָשִׁים	וְאֵת	פָּרֹכֶת
	And the covering	skins	of badgers	H853	and the veil
	H4372	H5785	H8476		of the covering
				H6532	H4539

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