

# Numbers 4:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they shall bear the curtains of the tabernacle, and the tabernacle of the congregation, his covering, and the covering of the badgers' skins that is above upon it, and the hanging for the door of the tabernacle of the congregation,

## Analysis

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The detailed enumeration of the Gershonites' specific responsibilities—the tent curtains, the tabernacle covering, the outer covering of badger skins, and the hanging door—shows that God leaves nothing to chance in worship. Each element served a purpose in protecting and beautifying God's dwelling place among His people. This meticulous detail reflects the Reformed principle that God's worship must follow His revealed will (the regulative principle), not human imagination.

## Historical Context

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The tabernacle's covering consisted of multiple layers: fine linen curtains embroidered with cherubim, curtains of goats' hair, rams' skins dyed red, and an outer weather-resistant covering of badgers' skins (or possibly dugongs). Each layer had symbolic and practical significance.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. What do the multiple protective layers of the tabernacle teach us about God's comprehensive provision and protection?
2. How should the detailed prescription of worship elements inform contemporary worship planning?
3. In what ways does the beauty combined with functionality of the tabernacle reflect God's character?

## Interlinear Text

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וְיִשְׂרָאֵל	אַתָּה	יְרִיעָת	הַמִּשְׁקָן	אַתָּה	אַל
<b>And they shall bear</b>	H853	<b>the curtains</b>	<b>of the tabernacle</b>	H853	<b>and the tabernacle</b>
H5375		H3407	H4908		H168
מָעוֹד:		וּמְכַס הַ	וּמְכַס הַ	הַתְּמִשְׁחָה	אֲשֶׁר
<b>of the congregation</b>		<b>and the covering</b>	<b>and the covering</b>	<b>of the badgers</b>	H834
H4150		H4372	H4372	H8476	
עַל יְ	אַתָּה	מְלָטָה עַל יְ	מָס הַ	פֶּתַח	
H5921		<b>skins that is above</b>	H853	<b>upon it and the hanging</b>	<b>for the door</b>
		H4605		H4539	H6607
וְיִשְׂרָאֵל		מָעוֹד:			
<b>and the tabernacle</b>		<b>of the congregation</b>			
H168		H4150			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 26:14** (Parallel theme): And thou shalt make a covering for the tent of rams' skins dyed red, and a covering above of badgers' skins.