

## **THE TABERNACLE OF MOSES**

### **“God’s Framework and Coverings”**

#### **The Foundation of Silver-**

Ex 30:11-15

11 Then the LORD said to Moses,

12 "When you take a census of the Israelites to count them, each one must pay the LORD a ransom for his life at the time he is counted. Then no plague will come on them when you number them.

13 Each one who crosses over to those already counted is to give a half shekel, according to the sanctuary shekel, which weighs twenty gerahs. This half shekel is an offering to the LORD.

14 All who cross over, those twenty years old or more, are to give an offering to the LORD.

15 The rich are not to give more than a half shekel and the poor are not to give less when you make the offering to the LORD to atone for your lives. NIV

Ex 38:25-28

25 The silver obtained from those of the community who were counted in the census was 100 talents and 1,775 shekels, according to the sanctuary shekel--

26 one beka per person, that is, half a shekel, according to the sanctuary shekel, from everyone who had crossed over to those counted, twenty years old or more, a total of 603,550 men.

27 The 100 talents of silver were used to cast the bases for the sanctuary and for the curtain--100 bases from the 100 talents, one talent for each base.

28 They used the 1,775 shekels to make the hooks for the posts, to overlay the tops of the posts, and to make their bands. NIV

*The silver obtained in the census was used as the foundation of the tabernacle and the tops of the posts of the courtyard. The half shekel was given as a ransom and represented the life of the one offering it. Silver is the redemption metal and the tabernacle was based and capped in silver!*

*The other interesting thing to note is that the half shekel was ten gerahs. Ten is the number of the Law. Just as all are held to the same standards (the Ten Commandments), all were required to pay the same ransom price (ten gerahs).*

1 Peter 1:18-19

18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers,

19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. NIV

*Unlike the nation of Israel, we were not redeemed by precious metals, but by the precious blood of Christ. The clear transition from silver redemption to blood redemption can be seen in Judas’s betrayal.*

Matt 26:14-16

14 Then one of the Twelve--the one called Judas Iscariot--went to the chief priests

15 and asked, "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?" So they counted out for him thirty silver coins.

16 From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over. NIV

*With the redemption metal, Judas sold out the redeemer to his persecutors. (See also Zech 11:10-15 and Matt 27:3-10)*

Other foundation notes:

- ❑ Silver atonement is now blood atonement (1 John 1:6-7).
- ❑ We are bought with a price (1 Cor 6:18-20).
- ❑ He gave His life as a ransom for us (Mark 10:45).
- ❑ The foundation of the Tabernacle was redemption silver. The foundation of the Church is the Redeemer (1 Cor 3:10-11).

### **The Walls-**

*The walls of the Tabernacle were made up of 46 flat boards 1½ cubits wide by 10 cubits high. They were of acacia wood covered in gold. Each board had two tenons or pegs on the bottom which fit into the silver bases. Gold covered bars of acacia wood were slipped through rings to reinforce the walls and posts formed the framework for the door and the veil.*

Insights from the walls:

- ❑ The wood speaks to us of the root out of dry ground (Is 53:1-2).
- ❑ The gold speaks of the divine nature and the glory of God. We have been redeemed from wasted, dry, desert lives and have been planed and shaped by God to be fitted into His habitation. He makes us partakers of the divine nature (2 Pet 1:4).
- ❑ Each board had two *tenons* (KJV – Ex 26:17) which fit into the silver bases. The word in the Hebrew is *yad*, which means hand. We are to hold onto our redemption with both hands!
- ❑ The boards were set up vertically, not horizontally (Ex 26:15). We are commanded to stand (Eph 6:13; Gal 5:1). The upright dwell in His presence (Ps 140:13).
- ❑ The Church is now God's habitation (Eph 2:22), as the Tabernacle was in the Old Testament. In the Old Testament economy, the Levites were given 48 cities for priestly ministry (Josh 21:41) We are king-priests unto our God (1 Pet 2:9). 48 is the product of 4 (the biblical number of the world) and 12 (the number of apostolic fullness). We are to take the apostle's doctrine to the four corners of the world.
- ❑ Each boarded side (West, South, and North) had five stabilizing bars. We have the five-fold ministry (Eph 4:11) which helps stabilize the universal church.
- ❑ Five pillars stood at the entrance of the holy place and four stood at the entrance of the holy of holies. The pillars not only helped to uphold the structure, they also acted as guardians to the entryways. The Church of Jesus Christ has pillars that do the same (Gal 2:9; Rev 3:12; 1 Tim 3:15).
- ❑ The tabernacle also had ropes and tent pegs (Ex 35:18). The Body of Christ is held together by every supporting ligament (Eph 4:16 NIV).

### **The Coverings-**

Ex 26:1-14

1 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.

- 2 The length of one curtain shall be eight and twenty cubits, and the breadth of one curtain four cubits: and every one of the curtains shall have one measure.
- 3 The five curtains shall be coupled together one to another; and other five curtains shall be coupled one to another.
- 4 And thou shalt make loops of blue upon the edge of the one curtain from the selvedge in the coupling; and likewise shalt thou make in the uttermost edge of another curtain, in the coupling of the second.
- 5 Fifty loops shalt thou make in the one curtain, and fifty loops shalt thou make in the edge of the curtain that is in the coupling of the second; that the loops may take hold one of another.
- 6 And thou shalt make fifty taches of gold, and couple the curtains together with the taches: and it shall be one tabernacle.
- 7 And thou shalt make curtains of goats' hair to be a covering upon the tabernacle: eleven curtains shalt thou make.
- 8 The length of one curtain shall be thirty cubits, and the breadth of one curtain four cubits: and the eleven curtains shall be all of one measure.
- 9 And thou shalt couple five curtains by themselves, and six curtains by themselves, and shalt double the sixth curtain in the forefront of the tabernacle.
- 10 And thou shalt make fifty loops on the edge of the one curtain that is outmost in the coupling, and fifty loops in the edge of the curtain which coupleth the second.
- 11 And thou shalt make fifty taches of brass, and put the taches into the loops, and couple the tent together, that it may be one.
- 12 And the remnant that remaineth of the curtains of the tent, the half curtain that remaineth, shall hang over the backside of the tabernacle.
- 13 And a cubit on the one side, and a cubit on the other side of that which remaineth in the length of the curtains of the tent, it shall hang over the sides of the tabernacle on this side and on that side, to cover it.
- 14 And thou shalt make a covering for the tent of rams' skins dyed red, and a covering above of badgers' skins. KJV

Insights on the coverings:

1. 1<sup>st</sup> Curtain – verses 1-6
  - A. Ten curtains speak of the Ten Commandments. Ten is the number of law and order.
  - B. They had four colors: white (righteousness), blue (heaven), purple (royalty), and scarlet (sacrifice). These colors tell redemption's story, *the righteousness of Heaven's King sacrificed*. The scarlet dye came from the worm *coccus ilicis*. When the female of the species is ready to give birth, she affixes herself to a trunk of a tree permanently, thus protecting the larvae that will hatch beneath her. When she dies, a scarlet fluid stains her body and the surrounding wood. Christ shed His blood on the tree in order for us to be born into the family of God (Ps 22:6; Is 1:18).
  - C. There were fifty loops and fifty clasps. Fifty is the number of Jubilee (freedom) and Pentecost (outpouring of the Holy Spirit).
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Curtain – goat's hair – verses 7-13
  - A. Eleven curtains – eleven is the number of lawlessness and disorder and is associated with sin and rebellion. It is one more than ten, one less than twelve.
  - B. Brass clasps represent judgment.

- C. Goats were used for sin sacrifice and on the Day of Atonement (Lev. 16). More than likely, this cover was black because black goats were the most common breeds. Black speaks of sin and death. Christ was the sin offering (Heb 9:28) and He became sin for us (2 Cor 5:21).
3. 3<sup>rd</sup> – a Covering – rams’ skin dyed red – vs. 14
- A. Rams were used for the trespass offering (Lev 5:15), the burnt offering (Lev 8:18), and the peace offering (Lev 9:4).
  - B. Rams were used to consecrate (ordain) Aaron and his sons (Ex 29:15-22).
  - C. The first two instances in the Bible of rams being sacrificed are in Gen 15:9 when God covenanted with Himself in regard to Abraham and Gen 22:8-13 when the Lord supplied a ram in the place of Isaac.
4. 4<sup>th</sup> – a Covering – hides of sea cows (porpoises) – vs. 16
- A. The Septuagint has it as “hides of a blue color.” Blue is the color of heaven.
  - B. The sea cows were native to the Red Sea, which they crossed to be free of Egypt.
  - C. It was the visible covering and protection of the Tabernacle, making the habitation of God nondescript with not much beauty for the eye to behold. Even so the Lord Jesus when the Word became flesh (John 1:14; Is 53:1-2).

*In the four layers that covered the Tabernacle we see His righteousness, the offering of Himself for our sins, His sacrifice, and His protection of the saints.*