

The Doctrine of the Veil

1. The veil (also written as vail) of the temple was a thick curtain which separated the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place in both the tabernacle and later the temple.

Exo 26:31 And thou shalt make a vail of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen of cunning work: with cherubims shall it be made:

Exo 26:32 And thou shalt hang it upon four pillars of shittim wood overlaid with gold: their hooks shall be of gold, upon the four sockets of silver.

Exo 26:33 And thou shalt hang up the vail under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the vail the ark of the testimony: and the vail shall divide unto you between the holy place and the most holy.

2. The veil was 60 feet high, 30 feet wide and 12 inches thick. It was made in 72 squares by 72 different people. It took 300 priests to carry it and no one else could touch it. It was tensile tested by using two teams of oxen attached at each end; they would pull against the finished product in an effort to tear it. Its tensile strength was described as unrippable. At the Lord's "death" when He said, "it is finished," the unrippable was torn into two pieces.

Mat 27:50 Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.

Mat 27:51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;

Mat 27:52 And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,

Mat 27:53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

Mat 27:54 Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.

Luk 23:44 It was now 12:00 noon, and darkness came over the whole land until 3:00 P.M.

Luk 23:45 for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.

Luk 23:46 Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

Luk 23:47 The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man."

Luk 23:48 When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away.

49 But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

3. This veil was made of blue, purple, and scarlet material, embroidered with figures of cherubim, representative of the angelic beings around God's throne.

2Ch 3:14 And he made the veil of blue, and purple, and crimson, and fine linen, and wrought cherubims thereon.

4. It veiled the immediate presence of God from the officiating priest who daily burned incense and ministered in other ways in the holy place.

Exo 40:19 And the priest spread abroad the tent over the tabernacle, and put the covering of the tent above upon it; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Exo 40:20 And he took and put the testimony into the ark, and set the staves on the ark, and put the mercy seat above upon the ark:

Exo 40:21 And he brought the ark into the tabernacle, and set up the veil of the covering, and covered the ark of the testimony; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Exo 40:22 And he put the table in the tent of the congregation, upon the side of the tabernacle northward, without the veil.

5. Only on the annual Day of Atonement could the high priest enter within the veil to bring incense and to sprinkle blood on the mercy seat.

Lev 16:12 And he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before the LORD, and his hands full of sweet incense beaten small, and bring it within the veil:

Lev 16:13 And he shall put the incense upon the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is upon the testimony, that he die not:

Lev 16:14 And he shall take of the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it with his finger upon the mercy seat eastward; and before the mercy seat shall he sprinkle of the blood with his finger seven times.

Lev 16:15 Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the veil, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat:

Lev 16:16 And he shall make an atonement for the holy place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness.

Lev 16:17 And there shall be no man in the tabernacle of the congregation when he goeth in to make an atonement in the holy place, until he come out, and have made an atonement for himself, and for his household, and for all the congregation of Israel.

6. When the tabernacle was transported from one place to another the veil was taken down and used to drape the Ark of the Covenant.

Num 4:5 And when the camp setteth forward, Aaron shall come, and his sons, and they shall take down the covering veil, and cover the ark of testimony with it:

Num 4:6 And shall put thereon the covering of badgers' skins, and shall spread over it a cloth wholly of blue, and shall put in the staves thereof.

7. The veil is called the second veil in Heb 9:3 to distinguish it from the veil that separated the outer court from the Holy Place.

Heb 9:3 Behind the **second curtain** was a room called the Most Holy Place,
Heb 9:4 which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant.
This ark contained the gold jar of manna, Aaron's staff that had budded, and the stone
tablets of the covenant.

8. At the time of Christ's death the veil of Herod's temple was rent from top to bottom,
thus exposing the most holy place to view.

Mar 15:37 And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost.

Mar 15:38 And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom.

Mar 15:39 And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried
out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God.

9. As our High Priest the ascended Christ had entered "within the veil" into the very
presence of God in our behalf. He is there now making intercession for all believers and
for "national Israel."

Heb 6:19 Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and
which entereth into that within the veil;

Heb 6:20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for
ever after the order of Melchisedec.

10. We also may now enter that holy place by virtue of the blood of Jesus, "by a new and
living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh."

NASB

Heb 10:20 As [Christ's] body was torn on the cross, so the veil between God and men
was torn, giving immediate access to God."