

The Construction of the Tabernacle: Curtains, Coverings, Boards, and the Vail

In chapter twenty-five we learned about the materials God requested Israel *willingly* give to Him, which were to be used in the Construction of a Tabernacle in which He would live in. So far, He had been dwelling in the cloud that covered Israel during the day, and night, as well as on Mount Sinai; but He wanted a Tabernacle built so He could dwell *among* (not above) His people, Israel. And He was very particular about the items He wanted used in the Tabernacle. We learned this is because they *all* have great spiritual significance, for they explain the *spiritual* Tabernacle He wants to dwell in, *which is our very soul*. He requested precious metals, dyes, skins, goat's hair, olive oil, spices, precious stones and shittim (acacia) wood to be willingly offered from the children of Israel. These were items that they either spoiled from the Egyptians (Ex 3:21-22, 12:36) or that they had access to in the wilderness.

God also began to give Moses the pattern for the Tabernacle and items that would go into it. And He started with the innermost item, which is the Ark of the Covenant. This symbolizes how we are to make Him a tabernacle to dwell in our soul by *starting from within*. We must *first* clean our heart and mind so His Word and Holy Spirit can dwell within the innermost part of our soul (Mk 7:20-23, Mth 15:13-20), just as the Ark of the Covenant was in the innermost part of the Tabernacle. Further, we learned that all the items in the Tabernacle were 'patterned' after the true Temple of God, which is in heaven (Heb 8:5). This means that all the items in the Tabernacle *lead us to Jesus Christ* for He is head (High Priest) of the *true* priesthood. They look forward to how Jesus would pay for our sins *with His own blood* (which He has already done now, Heb 10:10). But too, the items of the Tabernacle also teach us how God's Holy Spirit (given to us *after* Jesus paid the price for our sins) helps us to clean our heart and mind to make Him a spiritual Temple in our soul (1 Cor 3:16, 6:19, 2 Cor 6:16). Thus, while merely reading about the items is rather dry, *the Words come to life* when we 'search the Scriptures' and find that, truly, they DO testify of Jesus Christ (John 5:37).

Let us remember that the Tabernacle is a mobile tent, in which God would meet with His children. It was a place that He could commune with them. God knows that, many times, in order for us to understand spiritual truths, we often need to see a physical example. Rom 1:20 says that *the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead*. Therefore, He gives us many examples (1 Cor 10:11) in which to teach us spiritual truths. It is hard for people to go by faith alone; so, God wanted us to have the physical tabernacle so we have a visual of the method for approaching Him. It's kind of an object lesson teaching method... like you would teach children.

So, we have previously learned about the inner items in the Temple, but we are not done learning about this great type for our Savior Jesus Christ. We now come to a chapter which will explain the forming of the Tabernacle's 'walls', so to speak. The 'walls' of the mobile Tabernacle were to be made of boards but also curtains and this is where we pick up with this next chapter...

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.

The word for ‘**curtains**’ is #3407 and simply means: *a hanging*. These curtains essentially formed a wall but one that could be moved, for the Tabernacle of God (YHVH) would move throughout the wilderness and into the Promise Land because YHVH wanted to be with His chosen people, Israel. The curtains were to be made of items we’ve learned about previously: fine linen and thread of blue, purple and scarlet. They would also have pictures of the cherubims skillfully embroidered on them with the blue, purple and scarlet threads. This took people who were very skilled at weaving and begins to show us just how important every part of the Body of Christ is. Just as it took many people who were skilled, at many different things, to make the physical Tabernacle, likewise it takes people who have different skills to make up the spiritual Temple (the Body of Christ) which is the eternal government of Jesus Christ. 1 Cor 12 explains the necessity of even the ‘smallest’ or ‘most comely’ members of the Body of Christ. Truly, we all support each other, just as in the physical Tabernacle’s different parts did. And, just as the fine linen, blue, purple and scarlet threads had spiritual meaning (of righteousness, royalty, majesty, the Blood of Jesus Christ and service and obedience to God’s Word) so too are we to keep these spiritual characteristics in our heart and mind. Essentially, it’s putting on the spiritual armor that Paul speaks of in Ephesians 6. Peter tells us that Christians *are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light* (1 Peter 2:9).

Exodus 26

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.

This is a bit difficult to dissect but, basically, what we’re being told is that ten curtain were to be made for the inner covering. Their size was 4 by 28 cubits making them around six foot high and 42 feet long. Significantly, four in Biblical Numerics means *the world* and *creation* while twenty-eight means *eternal life*. These ten curtains were then to be united into two sets of five and linked together again to form one complete covering. Though we’re not specifically told how they would be linked together, it’s likely they simply were sewn together. However, directions for hanging the two sets are very clear because we are told that fifty loops of blue were made in the edge of each curtain and fifty gold clasps (taches) attached to the loops in the curtain.

Exodus 26

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.

Now we're being given details on the next set of curtains which would form the outer covering of the tent. This time eleven curtains were to be made, each one 30 by 4 cubits. Again, four in Biblical numerics stands for the *world* and *creation* while thirty stands for *the Blood of Christ* and *Dedication* – both quite appropriate for the physical Temple of God Himself, which points to the great sacrifice He would make years later when He came to earth, incarnated into a flesh body as Jesus Christ (John 1:1, 14, Heb 1:3, 10:10). These curtains would have been 6 ft high and about 45 feet long. They were longer than the first curtains mentioned because they were to be on the outside of the inner most curtains. They too were to have fifty loops made in the top of each curtain and fifty gold clasps (taches) attached to the loops in the curtain.

Now, we learned earlier that goats' hair is symbolic of being separated from the world, for hair is the outermost covering of the animal and thus the point of contact between the animal and outside world. The hair shields the animal from the rain, and protects it from extremes of cold and heat. It would do the same for the Tabernacle. We also learned this hair was woven (Ex 35:26) and likely woven into a coarse, dark-colored cloth, quite common to this day in the East for making tents and for sackcloth (Song of Solomon 1:5, 6:5, Rev 6:12). Remember, what we are learning of in these verses is what protects the inside of the Tabernacle. Why is this important to us? Because ***these 'walls' (curtains) signify (teach us) how we are to protect our heart***. And this is very important. In Deuteronomy, Moses warned Israel...

*Only **take heed** to thyself, and **keep** thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;*

Deut 4:9

The words 'take heed' and 'keep' are both a Hebrew word we have learned about before. They are *shamar* (pronounced as: shaw-mar'), a primitive root that means: **to hedge about** (as with thorns), i.e. **guard**; generally, **to protect, attend to**, etc. (#8104). Moses warned Israel to protect their soul by putting a hedge about their mind and heart *to protect them from forgetting the truth and departing from it*. He knew that, while in this flesh body, it's easy to allow our heart to be

hardened through the deceitfulness of sin (Heb 3:13). Therefore, we must protect it *diligently* – this means *with fervor*. And we’re given these layers of protection in the Tabernacle as examples that visually teach us just how to do that. Let’s remember this as we move on...

Exodus 26

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.

Earlier, we were told there were to be made 11 of the goat hair curtains, instead of ten. Now we find out the reason: one extra would be to cover the backside of the tabernacle. It’s always important to have your ‘backside’ covered! Never forget that it is our Heavenly Father, and His Son, Jesus Christ, who ‘has your back’... IF you remain loyal to Him (Rev 2:10).

Exodus 26

14 And thou shalt make a covering for the tent of rams' skins dyed red, and a covering above of badgers' skins.

Another covering was to be made for the Tabernacle and that was the skins. The rams’ skins dyed red were to go on first and then be ‘topped off’ with the ‘badgers’ skins. Remember that badger was a mistranslation. The word actually means *a (clean) animal with fur, probably a species of antelope* (#8476). These skins provided an impervious covering, which would not be penetrated by the elements. We learned that the rams’ skins (dyed red) were symbolic, of course, of the precious blood our dear Savior, Jesus Christ, shed for us because He was the Great Sacrificial Lamb of all times (Heb 10:10).

So, we see then, the ‘walls’ of this mobile Tabernacle had three parts to them. The inner curtains made of fine linen with blue, scarlet and purple thread. Then there was another layer of curtains made of goat hair then there were the skins of rams and likely an antelope of some sort. What this explains to us is that, spiritually, we are to have two un-penetrable layers of protection upon our heart (the skins of rams and then ‘badgers’) which is the Word of God and His Holy Spirit. But, even underneath that, we need to put on the ‘curtains’ for protection, which is what the Spiritual armor is all about...

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

*14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with **truth**, and having on the breastplate of **righteousness**;*

*15 And your feet shod with the **preparation of the gospel of peace**;*

*16 Above all, taking the shield of **faith**, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.*

*17 And take the helmet of **salvation**, and the sword of the Spirit, which is **the word of God**;*

*18 Praying always with all **prayer and supplication in the Spirit**, and watching thereunto with all **perseverance** and supplication for all saints;*

Eph 6:10-18

When we study God's Word (which is our only offensive weapon; it's our spiritual sword that we are to use to cut down lies) *we learn what the truth is* (loins girded), which *teaches us how to do what is right* (breastplate of righteousness). From this we learn that true peace only comes from the Gospel of Jesus Christ which is based upon righteousness, justice and good judgment. Our entire life should, therefore, be devoted to helping bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ (feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace) to fruition by *helping people accept Jesus Christ*. And, as we continue to study God's Word and learn how to obey it, our faith (shield of faith) increases so we can *learn how to block out the lies and temptations that come our way*. The knowledge and belief in Jesus Christ *protects our mind from lies* (helmet of salvation). And persevering, day in and day out, to learn God's Word *and obey it* (perseverance) is what makes the spiritual armor of God effective. Paul explains the effects of having on the armor of God...

4 But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,

5 In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings;

6 By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,

7 By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

2 Cor 6:4-7

Even though Paul was greatly persecuted for teaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ, he was not deterred. Having the Gospel Amor on protected Him from falling away (defecting) from the truth (as 2 Thess 2 warns us of) in spite of the fierce persecutions he endured. We must learn to put on the Gospel Amor, for the same purpose, and that's what the curtains and skins of the Tabernacle teach us. ***We must protect our heart and mind from deception*** because Satan is very subtle and wise to do evil (Gen 3:1-13, 1 Cor 11:3, 13-15).

9 But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.

10 For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

11 And we desire that every one of you do **shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:**

12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who **through faith and patience** inherit the promises.

13 For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself,

14 Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee.

15 And so, **after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.**

Heb 6:9-16

When our mind (thought process) and heart (intentions, feelings, emotions) are set firmly on the Word of God we are protected by His Holy Spirit. This takes perseverance in study God's Word and determination not to allow anyone or anything to change your focus from your mission in life of serving Jesus Christ. Ps 112:7 declares that, when we are founded upon Jesus Christ, that we shall *not be afraid of evil tidings: our heart will be fixed, trusting in the LORD*. No amount of spiritual storms (from evil spirits or pressures from man [i.e., guilt trips, emotional trips, peer pressure, etc.]) can make us fall from the rock which we have put our moral compass on: Jesus Christ. It does not matter what is said or done to us, we won't move from the rock (Jesus Christ) when the rain, wind and other stormy elements (symbolic of spiritual warfare) are thrust at us. It's important we have these two un-penetrable elements covering our heart and mind so our soul is protected from evil. The Gospel Armor that Jesus Christ gives us (through consistent study and learning how to obey His Word from our heart) protects us from deception and being habitual sinners (rebelliously following Satan's ways). Thus, the great example these curtains and skins teach us is simply how to protect our heart and mind from deception!

Exodus 26

15 And thou shalt make boards for the tabernacle of shittim wood standing up.

16 Ten cubits shall be the length of a board, and a cubit and a half shall be the breadth of one board.

We're now going to be given details of the framework for the tabernacle. Remember, it's mobile so the foundation and framework must also be mobile. We're first told that the boards are to be 10 by 1.5 cubits which would be roughly fifteen feet tall and two and a half feet around.

Exodus 26

17 Two tenons shall there be in one board, set in order one against another: thus shalt thou make for all the boards of the tabernacle.

18 And thou shalt make the boards for the tabernacle, twenty boards on the south side southward.

19 And thou shalt make forty sockets of silver under the twenty boards; two sockets under one board for his two tenons, and two sockets under another board for his two tenons.

20 And for the second side of the tabernacle on the north side there shall be twenty boards:

- 21 And their forty sockets of silver; two sockets under one board, and two sockets under another board.*
- 22 And for the sides of the tabernacle westward thou shalt make six boards.*
- 23 And two boards shalt thou make for the corners of the tabernacle in the two sides.*
- 24 And they shall be coupled together beneath, and they shall be coupled together above the head of it unto one ring: thus shall it be for them both; they shall be for the two corners.*
- 25 And they shall be eight boards, and their sockets of silver, sixteen sockets; two sockets under one board, and two sockets under another board.*
- 26 And thou shalt make bars of shittim wood; five for the boards of the one side of the tabernacle,*
- 27 And five bars for the boards of the other side of the tabernacle, and five bars for the boards of the side of the tabernacle, for the two sides westward.*
- 28 And the middle bar in the midst of the boards shall reach from end to end.*
- 29 And thou shalt overlay the boards with gold, and make their rings of gold for places for the bars: and thou shalt overlay the bars with gold.*

All these verses describe how the boards were to be put together. Each board rested upon two sockets (foundations) of silver of one talent each, cast from the silver of the redemption money which each man of responsible age had to pay for his ransom, half a shekel or ten gerahs (Ex 38:25-27). Thus, standing side by side these boards not only rested securely upon their foundation, but were held firmly together by the three bars passed through the golden rings on the boards all around. At the corners, extra boards were to be put for strength and to prevent any separation, where it would be most likely to occur. Forty-eight boards in all formed the tabernacle - twenty for each side, six at the rear, and two at the corners. The front was open, save for the hanging and the five pillars from which it was suspended. There were also four pillars within the tabernacle, to support the veil which divided the Most Holy from the Holy place; each of the four pillars resting upon a silver socket. Additionally, these boards were also to be overlaid with gold and gold is symbolic of our Heavenly Father and His eternal wisdom...

How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!

Prov 16:16

- 11 My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction:*
- 12 For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.*
- 13 Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.*
- 14 For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.*
- 15 She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her:*
- Prov 3:11-15

Prov 8:5-19 echo's the scriptures above. The truth, knowledge, understanding and wisdom that our Heavenly Father's Words give us (in the Bible) are far beyond any earthly riches. The Psalmist (likely king Hezekiah) of Psalms 119 well understand the great price of God's wisdom when he said...

The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver.
Ps 119:72

127 Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold.
128 Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way.
129 Thy testimonies are wonderful: therefore doth my soul keep them.
130 The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.
131 I opened my mouth, and panted: for I longed for thy commandments.
Ps 119:127-131

So, the fact that gold overlays wood in the Tabernacle (from its inward parts to the very structure of it) symbolizes how the framework (thought process) of our heart should be overlaid with God's wisdom, found only in His Word for *the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly* (Prov 2:6-7). Prov 2:10-11 goes on to explain that, *when wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee*. The proverb goes on to say that we are protected from evil people when we embrace God's wisdom and knowledge. Why is this? Because our heart is 'set' on things above (on our Heavenly Father and His kingdom, not the kingdom on earth (Col 3). If we set our heart on earthly riches and pleasures, we will become *morally* (spiritually) *corrupted*, and *that* is what we must be diligent to guard our heart from (Deut 4:9).

So, we see that the Tabernacle had a very solid foundation. This is, as it should be yet today. Since we are the true Temple of God (1 Cor 3:16, 6:19, 2 Cor 6:16), we should have our mind (thought process) and heart (desires, feelings, emotions, intentions) set upon the only true solid foundation in life: the Word of God (Jesus Christ). The Scriptures make this explicitly clear...

46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?
47 Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like:
48 He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock:
and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it:
for it was founded upon a rock.
49 But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.
Luke 6:46-49

1 Cor 10:4 tells us clearly that *our Rock is Jesus Christ*. This is who we must have our heart and mind 'set' upon...

1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

*2 **Set** your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*

Col 3:1-2

The word 'affections' is #5426 and it means: *to exercise the mind*, i.e. *entertain or have a sentiment or opinion*; by implication, *to be (mentally) disposed* (more or less earnestly in a certain direction); intensively, *to interest oneself in* (with concern or obedience). We are to be 'interested in' serving our Heavenly Father and helping His children return to Him, more than anything else. While we shouldn't be a fanatic (we don't need to go onto the street corner and hand out tracks to be effective for Him), our entire thought process and desires in life should be centered around, and built upon, the Word of God - and allowing it to truly mold who we are, from the inside out.

*9 For **we are labourers together with God**: ye are God's husbandry, **ye are God's building**.*

10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 3:9-11

*19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but **fellowcitizens** with the saints, and **of the household of God**;*

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Eph 2:19-22

We build up our heart and mind with the framework provided in the Bible. We've been study much of it in this great book of Exodus. Our Heavenly Father has given us His Commandments, of which there are Ten, and within them we're given the framework for the entire Law of God for they teach us how we are to individually conduct our lives. These ten Laws apply to everyone regardless of what their status is or how much money they have. And these Laws can only truly be kept from the heart. To try to keep them only in our actions results in self-righteous hypocrisy, something Jesus sternly warned us about (Lk 12:1). But we are given more 'framework' for the spiritual Temple through the Statutes and Judgments. The Statutes give us laws of national administration and the Judgments teach us how to judge in the courts and also how to have good judgment in our own personal lives. The prophets testify to the validity of the Law and how God

has promised IF we obey His Laws we will be blessed but IF we disobey them we'll be cursed. Secular history also continues to testify to the validity of the cursings verses the blessings of Lev 26 and Deut 28. To this day we can see how the modern-day Israelite nations (which are the Christian nations of the 'West') reaped the blessings when they were obeying God's Laws but are now reaping many cursings because they have been disobeying God's Laws. You can literally see how we're reaping each of the cursings, point by point, as you read through Lev 26 and Deut 28.

Moreover, Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone of the entire 'building' because He is the head of the Government – He is the King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev 19:16). He is also our High Priest and has fulfilled all the law of ordinances for us (Mth 5:17-20) - all those blood sacrifices and rituals looked forward to His great sacrifice on the Cross for our sins and they have now been fulfilled by Jesus so we don't do the ordinances anymore (Heb 10:10, Col 2:14, Eph 2:15). So, the precious framework of God's Word forms our character. It forms who we truly are inside, and we are to be *an habitation of God through the Spirit*. But, without God's Laws instructing our lives and His Holy Spirit to help us clean our heart, we are not truly building Him a Temple; we're simply building up our own pride and opening our soul up for another 'spirit' to inhabit... which is the essence of the Mark of the Beast...

*25 And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them,
26 If any man come to me, and hate [this actually means to 'love less'] not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.
27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.
28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?
29 Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him,
30 Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.*
Luke 14:25-30

We must prepare to handle the spiritual 'heat' or mental 'pressure' that comes from obeying God for *all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution*. If anything, or anyone, is more important to us than obeying God's Word, we'll fall to Satan's deception. It's just that simple. We must have our priorities in line. God must always be first in our heart. And while family can be a blessing (and we certainly should take care of our responsibilities) we must not let anyone influence us to *disobey* God. Deut 13 sternly warns against this. The reality is, you cannot truly love your family, friends or anyone else if you don't keep God's Laws in your heart first and foremost. And the reason Jesus warns us against family being more important to us than Him is because, Satan often uses those closest to us to try to morally corrupt us. Just look at Job (1 Cor 10:11). His own wife told him to '*curse God, and die*' (Job 2:9). While we should not become paranoid about it, we should learn to guard our heart from anyone turning us away from God's Word. We must find God's balanced way of thinking, which is the 'yoke' Jesus spoke of...

28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.
30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matt 11:28-30

A yoke was used to join two animals together so they could work a field (plow, sow, harvest). Jesus used this analogy to explain how He wants us to join with Him by putting His Words inside our heart and mind and allowing His Holy Spirit to help us understand how to obey it in our everyday life. Why? Because the Word of God helps us find a balanced way of thinking, reasoning and understanding. It's a thought process based upon truth and righteousness, not on emotions. By taking God's Word into our thought process, and cleaning our heart, we learn how to have good judgment and how to control our carnal desires, thoughts, intentions, emotions and feelings... instead of them controlling us. This again is how we build Him a place to live in our heart and how He helps us to build the framework for eternal life inside our own soul: when we allow His Words and His Holy Spirit to permeate our mind and heart, He helps us overlay our inward parts with His 'golden' truth and firm it up with 'silver' of wisdom and understanding. But we must stay on guard against those who want to take us away from serving God (intentionally or unintentionally) because...

13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.
14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;
2 Tim 3:12-14

Exodus 26

30 And thou shalt rear up the tabernacle according to the fashion thereof which was shewed thee in the mount.

God stresses Moses was to put the tabernacle together according to the fashion that was showed him on Mount Sinai. Moses will spend forty days and nights getting instructions from God Himself on how to build the Tabernacle of God – it was *that* important.

Exodus 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:*
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.
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.
34 And thou shalt put the mercy seat upon the ark of the testimony in the most holy place.

35 And thou shalt set the table without the vail, and the candlestick over against the table on the side of the tabernacle toward the south: and thou shalt put the table on the north side.

36 And thou shalt make an hanging for the door of the tent, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, wrought with needlework.

37 And thou shalt make for the hanging five pillars of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold, and their hooks shall be of gold: and thou shalt cast five sockets of brass for them.

This chapter finishes off with our Heavenly Father (YHVH) giving instructions to Moses that he also needed to make a ‘vail’ that would separate the room where the Ark of the Covenant would be (which had the mercy seat on top of it and the law of God, manna and later Aaron’s rod inside, Heb 9:4-5). The vail was to be made of *blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen of cunning work: with cherubims shall it be made* and it would be hung in the same manner as the curtains. Notably, this veil was very thick and strong. It could not be torn easily. And it was set in place to separate God from His people. Herein we see a *very important spiritual truth*. God’s mercy, His Law, His spiritual food and the Branch of life were all separated from mankind. Even the priests were separated from God by this vail. And the High priest himself was only allowed to go into this room (called the Holy of Holies) *once* a year and he had to have blood shed from an appropriate animal in order to do so. In other words, the High priest could not approach God Himself without atoning blood. This teaches us that our sins separate us from God. Indeed, His Word tells us exactly that...

1 Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

3 For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness.

4 None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity.

Isa 59:1-4

The chapter goes on to explain Israel’s many transgressions. The point is, we are not separated from God because of anything He has done – the fault is ours alone. We have all (at one time or another in our life) decided to disobey His Laws. Even if we are ignorant of His Word, we still have a conscience built into our heart that tells us not to sin. So, admitting our sins is the first step to being united back to Him. But we must also be willing to put away our sins and strive to obey Him. This is the essence of what being a ‘righteous’ person is verse a habitual sinner. A ‘sinner’, in God’s eyes, is one that has a rebellious and stubborn heart and refuses to repent and change their ways. They habitually sin without caring that they are sinning. They willingly remain in Satan’s rebellion. But there are many of God’s children who are fence riders. They don’t really want to be habitual sinners but they also don’t have the integrity to stand up against the ‘status quo’ (i.e., Satan’s rebellion). They don’t like confrontation so they try to please both sides. Jesus makes it very clear in Mth 6:24 that we cannot please both God and Satan (James 4

does too). You have to choose sides and if you refuse to do so you, by default, have chosen to side with Satan's rebellion... which is a place you certainly don't want to be because those people will be getting the wrath of God come upon them.

Matthew 13 explains this well in the parable of the sower [learn more in the study on the **Parable of the Tares** <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/251>]. And we see within this the reason God sent us all here to live in these flesh bodies: it's all about the opportunity to find salvation through Jesus Christ. In other words, it's about *helping His children trust and believe in Him again. Satan's lies have stolen the faith and trust that all of God's children once had in Him. The plan of salvation is God's way of restoring that faith so He does not have to destroy nearly all of His children, for only a few remained loyal to Him at Satan's rebellion.* When Satan brought sin into the world (as Ezekiel 28 tells us he did), God's children willingly separated themselves from him through their disobedience.

It's no different today even though we're in flesh bodies. Our sins separate us from Him. But, our God (YHVH) has designed a way for us to return to Him but... why do we need this? - *because none of us can live without Him.* Just as our flesh bodies get sick, old and eventually die, likewise does our soul IF we do not have spiritual nourishment from our Heavenly Father, YHVH. This vital *fact* was stolen out of the hearts of His children in the first earth age due to Satan's lies. Satan has again deceived many with this same lie in this flesh earth age. Remember what Satan told Eve? *Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil* (Gen 3:4-5). Satan told Eve she didn't need to obey God (YHVH) to live forever (that was a blatant lie). And then, he twisted what God said to make her believe there was 'more to' what God had said than what she understood; he made her believe that her understanding of God's Word was wrong. Satan is still doing this to God's children today and in many ways. Two of the worst are through corrupt Bible translations (and commentaries) and through Pastors, Preachers, Teachers (etc.) who do not teach the truth but teach what they have been indoctrinated to believe in seminary.

For example: if you use a Scholfield's Bible, the commentary is very misleading. Research how this so called 'Bible' came to be and *who funded it*. It is no coincidence that new doctrines such as the Rapture Theory [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/334>], Zionism and evolution all 'developed' around the same time in the USA. These were not doctrines taught by Jesus Christ or His disciples. They were carefully crafted 'traditions' designed to twist God's Word and lead people straight to worshiping Satan, instead of Jesus Christ [learn more in the study: **Do Not Be Deceived** <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/235>].

The point is that, many people *willingly* keep the 'vail' that separates them from God in place, even though it was ripped in two by God Himself after Jesus died for our sins. This is why Paul said in 2 Cor 3:15-16: *even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away.* People still don't understand God's Word because *they allow themselves to be deceived by Satan.* Instead of

studying God's Word *for themselves* (as 2:15 instructs us to do) they prefer to listen to Pastors who lead them astray by traditions of man.

*1 Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying,
2 Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread.
3 But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?
4 For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.
5 But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me;
6 And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.
7 Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,
8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.
9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.*
Matt 15:1-9

Don't overlook verse 9 - those who prefer the traditions of man **worship God in vain**... this means your worshiping God is worthless. Jesus also said... *that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God* (Luke 16:14-15). All traditions of man, from the false religious doctrines to the fashionable thing to wear to the politically correct dogma - all traditions of man that make void God's Word and are an abomination to our Heavenly Father because *they cause His children to sin*... which is what separates them from Him. In other words, **it is our traditions we hold onto so tightly that are now the 'vail' that separates us from God**. Said another way: all the lies we love... are the vail that separates us from God.

You see, the physical vail was literally ripped apart when Jesus Christ died for us (Mth 27:51, Mk 15:38, Lk 15:38). And it was rent from the top down, which means that it was God Himself that ripped up that vail... our Heavenly Father destroyed the very thing that keeps us apart from Him – sin...

*14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;
15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.
16 For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.
17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.*

18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

Heb 2:14-18

So now, there is nothing (no physical veil) keeping us from being close to our Heavenly Father. The only thing that can (still) keep us from Him is *our own sins* - but that's only IF we refuse to repent for them. All we have to do is accept the price He paid for us on the cross. What this means, however, is that we must believe in Jesus Christ. And to truly believe in Jesus means we must seek His will *in His Word*, for that is how we develop a relationship with Him. You don't expect to get to know someone if you never speak to them, do you? Well, our Heavenly Father speaks to us through His Word (Heb 1:1-2) and we speak to Him in prayer. Therefore, without studying God's Word you are only having a one-sided conversation with Him. Your telling God that you don't really care what He has to say! And therefore, you cannot get to know Him... and consequently, you cannot possibly know *what* to believe in. Christian Pastors often say that all you have to do is to believe or have faith... in what? You must know **WHAT** to have faith in. If you do not study God's Word for yourself, you cannot possibly have faith or believe in it. Your faith is shallow; it's built upon sand and it will be swept away quickly when the antichrist (Satan) comes pretending to be the Messiah (Mth 7:22-27).

18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

19 If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

20 But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

Isa 1:18-20

21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

*22 That ye **put off concerning the former conversation the old man**, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;*

*23 And **be renewed in the spirit of your mind**;*

*24 And that ye **put on the new man**, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

*25 Wherefore **putting away lying**, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.*

*26 **Be ye angry, and sin not**: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:*

27 Neither give place to the devil.

*28 Let him that stole **steal no more**: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.*

*29 **Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth**, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.*

30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

*31 **Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:***

*32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another**, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

Eph 4:21-32

Putting away our sins is *always* connected with believing in, trusting in, having faith in and following Jesus Christ. Any so called 'Gospel' that does not teach people how study God's Word themselves so they can learn how to put off their sins (according to what the Bible actually teaches as sin) is not truly the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Gal 1:6-12). The traditions of man don't teach people how to put off their sins and build Jesus Christ a temple in their heart by building a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. They focus on fleshly 'works' (traditions) instead of cleaning the heart, which is where sins resides (Mth 15:13-20, Mk 7:20-23). So, ***while there is no longer a physical vail separating us from God, many people are still indeed separating from God spiritually because of the lies they willingly believe from false preachers.***

Now, the book of Hebrews does an excellent job explaining the spiritual Temple (our soul) we are to be building for God and how the physical Tabernacle was a type for it. Chapter 10 gives us more details on this 'vail' (also written as 'veil' in some places in the Bible) ...

*19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,
20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, **through the veil**, that is to say, **his flesh**;
21 And having an high priest over the house of God;
22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.
23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)
24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:*
Heb 10:19-24

Hebrews explains that the vail that keeps us from God is the flesh body. That's why, when Jesus' body was crucified, the vail was rent. Jesus's blood shed fulfilled all the blood sacrifices (Col 2:14, Eph 2:15) and opened the way for us to communicate directly to God, through Jesus Christ (and there is NO other way, John 14:6). Indeed, as He explains to Moses later on in Ex 33:20, *Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live. Now, Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth* (Num 12:3) and *the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend* (Ex 33:11). But Moses never could see God's face because it was hidden within a cloud which covered God's glory (like the veil in the Temple did). But, thanks to the great sacrifice by Jesus Christ, we have access to the throne of God through prayer and He can respond to us with His Holy Spirit. This gives us the ability to communicate with God Almighty when He is literally on the throne. We can begin to 'see Him' *by learning of Him through His Word and having His Holy Spirit help us learn of Him.* However, as Scriptures declare, when Jesus returns, those who remain faithful to Him will get to see Him face to face for it is written Rev 22:3-4 that *there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God*

and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

But, until that time, we see *through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known* (1 Cor 13:12). Though we long for the day when we can see Jesus Christ 'face to face' we must continue to...

24 Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.

25 When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets.

27 But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity.

28 There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.

29 And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God.

30 And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last.

Luke 13:24-30

So, it is our choice if we want to be separated from God or not. If you do not want to be separated by that vail anymore, then you must *come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues* (Rev 18:4) and...

14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

2 Cor 6:14-18

AMEN.