

EPISODE 13: THE STRUCTURE

THE RAM SKINS DYED RED & THE OUTERMOST COVERINGS

"DRAWING" ON YOUR IDEAS



QUESTION:

Compare and contrast the tabernacle from the **inside** and from the **outside** vantage points.

WATCH & FILL-IN-THE-BLANKS

1. Of the two outer protective coverings of the tabernacle, we read only this: "You shall also make a covering of ram skins dyed ______ for the tent, and a covering of ______ skins above that" (Ex 26:14).

2. Only ______ saw the covering of ram skins dyed red. God saw His ______ consecrated heart, His willingness to become a Man in order to die for humanity.

3. The word used here for **red** is "_____"! Yet the word for **ram** means "_____" and points to our Savior's suitability and availability in providing a covering of salvation for us.

4. No sacrifice made on Jewish altars ever ______ consecrated itself to God. But Christ said, "Behold, I have come ______, O God"" (Heb 10:8-9).

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5. The Son of God loved and gave Himself for: _____, the _____, the _____, and as an offering unto ______.

6. Whatever animal it was that provided the outermost covering, it would have looked _______! Isaiah writes prophetically of the Lord Jesus that: "He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no ______ that we should desire Him" (53:2). **Principle:** You only see the beauty when you're "_____ Him."

7. The people donated this ______ for the tabernacle, yet God says 40 years later, "your ______ have not worn out on your feet" (Deut 29:5). **Principle:** If we take care of God's business, He'll look after _____!

GOD IN

HEAVEN

READ & REFLECT ON: Heb 9:11-28; Isa 53:1-12

ACTIVITY: THINKING IT THROUGH

The priests would view the linen covering inside the holy place, the people would see the goats' hair covering where it was folded over at the front, and the outer covering was seen by all in the courtyard.

However, none saw the rams' skin covering. Explain the significance of the "hidden" covering, the part of the sacrificial ram to satisfy the heart of God. THE OUTER COVERING ("Badger" Skin)

SOME HELPFUL QUOTES

"The people stumbled; a lovely character, yes, but they said, 'Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother Mary?"...And they were offended in Him. They stumbled: He was to them a wonderful character, but He was just the son of Joseph and Mary; they would not accept Him as the Son of the Living God... the outside Covering of Seals' skins...What Christ was to man: His humiliation...In every detail of His life and work He was a sweet savour to God. He Himself said, 'I do always those things that please the Father.' And the Father testified saying, 'This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.' So the inner covering would bring before us the thought — What Christ was to God: His consecration."

- J.H. Brown (The Sanctuary, p 185)

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"He was esteemed to be stricken of God and afflicted, Isa. 54:4. Such was the estimation in which the Lord was held by those who ignorantly gazed upon Him when hanging on the tree; not understanding that the object, for which He hung there, was that He might bear our sorrows and carry our griefs; and not recognizing that God was there bruising Him for our iniquities, and that, with His stripes, we are healed. Men could not fail to perceive the coverings of rams' skins dyed red-the sorrow and death, in which the blessed Lord was steeped. But they saw not the precious goats' hair curtains beneath. They estimated not the unspeakable value of His...death upon the cross for sin. And so it is still...They picture the blessed Lord on the cross as a hero, bearing sufferings and indignities from the hands of men; they know Him not as the sin-offering, of unspeakable value to the sinner, and to God." - Henry W. Soltau (An Exposition of the Tabernacle, pp 64-65)

"The word 'consecrate' comes from a word which means 'to fill the hands.' Thus, when Aaron and his sons were put into the priesthood, Moses cut the ram of consecration into pieces, and they held out their hands, and he placed upon their hands those pieces to present to God...That was the secret of His wondrous life of consecration...There was constant occupation with God. His hands were filled. He was the Consecrated One. And it [were] good for His people if they see, in some degree, that these Coverings of the Tabernacle speak, too, of what they ought to be, as separated unto God, and set apart from all that is opposed to Him. All separation that is worth the name, or that gives joy to the heart of God, is separation that grows from occupation with Christ Himself." - W.J. McClure (Lectures on the Tabernacle, p 67)

"God seems to say, Give me your shoe leather, and I will take care of your feet from here on in." Israel trusted God, and was not disappointed, for the Israelites went for forty years, while their clothes waxed not old and their shoes did not wear out. Oh, for a faith like that in these days, as we pass through the wilderness of this world, filled with animosity and resistance to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is the path of victory. If we are willing to turn over everything to His care, and trust Him completely, He will never fail us, but be with us according to His promise, 'even unto the end of the age.'"

- M.R. DeHaan (The Tabernacle, p 62)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

I. Identify and explain the idea that was most profound or most helpful to you in this thirteenth lesson. What questions do you have from this lesson?

2. Discuss the idea of consecration as discussed about the Lord Jesus through this lesson. How does this apply to believers? Read Matthew 6:1-18 and discuss the connection between consecration and the "secret place."

3. Henry Soltau describes the danger of looking at Jesus merely as a heroic figure that suffered, and not as the sin-offering. Explain why Christ offering Himself to God is essential. How would you explain this to someone who had never considered it before?

4. Further to the question above: Think of a person who carelessly spends on a credit card. Imagine that person, after racking up severe debt, calling the card company with a repayment plan that the debtor likes. How does this illustrate the faulty thinking many have towards their responsibility towards God? (Hint: Consider who needs to be satisfied in the deal).

5. What practical applications can you make from the donations of shoe leather in the wilderness? What would that look like for you today?