

# The Sanctuary – Holy Place - Four Coverings

## ST Series 18

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### The Roof of the Sanctuary (Ex. 36-8-19)

The covering over the sanctuary was formed in four layers, or four coverings. The inner most covering was “of fine-twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet; with cherubims of cunning work.” Over this was a white covering of woven goats’ hair. Next was a covering of rams’ skins dyed red; and outside of all a covering of badgers’ skins.

### The Covering of Badgers’ Skins (Ex. 26:14)

The badger is supposed by some to be like the seal. It was a marine animal found in the Red Sea. Its dark brown or black skin was tough and durable, and often used for show leather and soles. This outer layer covering would “afford complete protection,” {PP.347.1}, not protection from rain and storm, for the cloud did that, but being inconspicuous in color, it was well adapted to shield the sanctuary from the evil eye of Arab marauders who roamed the desert.

This covering of “show leather” fittingly represents Christ’s humanity as He walked among men during His life on earth. As He walks with us in the dust of earth’s wilderness, that we may walk with Him on the streets of gold. It is also a symbol of His \_\_\_\_\_:

*“Being in the form of God,” he “made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men” and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself.” (Phil.2:6-8)*

As this covering had no outward beauty, so of Christ it is written, “He hath no form or comeliness; and when we shall see Him, there is \_\_\_\_\_ that we should desire of Him.” (Isa.53:1) Christ had not outward beauty, as men reckon, but He measured up to God’s standard of beauty, for “the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.” (1 Sam.16:7)

Beneath the lowly guise of Jesus” was “the presence of Divinity.” {DA 43.1; 63.2}

*The Take Away: Passing down through these coverings toward that which represents heaven itself, the badgers’ skin covering suggests that we should approach God with sincerity, simplicity, and humility.*

### The Covering of Red Ram’s Skins (Ex. 26:14)

The covering of rams’ skins dyed red fittingly illustrates the next step in the work of Christ for our salvation, and also in Christian experience. Red being a symbol of sacrifice and suffering, this covering signifies Christ who “became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” (Phil.2:8)

**Red Ram’s Skins:** symbolizes Blood of Christ shed for you and me.

The following texts indicate the importance of the blood of Jesus for us mortals. However, this may be surprising to you. The majority of these text are indicative of which compartments of the sanctuary?

- 1 Peter 1:19 says we were “\_\_\_\_\_ by the **precious blood** of Christ.”
- John 6:53 - “Except you eat the flesh and \_\_\_\_\_ the **blood** of Christ...”
- Eph.2:13 – “But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made \_\_\_\_\_ by the **blood** of Christ.”
- Heb. 9:14 – “How much more shall the **blood** of Christ ...purge your \_\_\_\_\_ from dead works to serve the living God.”
- Heb.10:19 - “Having boldness to enter into the \_\_\_\_\_ (hagion) by the **blood** of Jesus.
- Heb. 13:20 – “Now the God of peace that brought again from the \_\_\_\_\_ our Lord Jesus, that great \_\_\_\_\_ of the sheep, through the **blood** of the everlasting \_\_\_\_\_.”
- Rev.1:5,6 – “And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness...unto Him that \_\_\_\_\_ us and \_\_\_\_\_ us from our sins in His own **blood**...”

**Red Ram's Skins** also symbolized the covenant the Christian makes with God by sacrifice. (Ps.50.5)

The various offerings which the ram was used as—Burnt offering, Peace offering, Wave offering, were to be as “sweet savor” offerings” (Lev 8:21; Eph.5:2). How **pleasing** it would be to Him if all our offerings were “**sweet savor!**” (cf.Ps.51:17)

*The Take Away: The covering of rams' skins dyed red represents the sacrifice of Christ not only when He poured out His blood on Calvary, but the entire experience of His sacrifice to the very end of His redemptive work. What a picture this gives of the sanctuary covering of rams' skins dyed red!*

### Goats' Hair Covering

Going still deeper, still closer to “heaven itself”, what do we find? A pure white covering of woven goats' hair. Inspiration does not mention the color. So, looking elsewhere, to a standard reference encyclopedia, we find that the hair of the Cashmere goat of Kashmir, India, is white and the hair of the angora goat is long, white, and silky. From the hair of both these goats cloth is woven.

When Israel brought their offerings for the construction of the sanctuary, among the gifts listed in Exodus 25:3-8, goats' hair is mentioned. Scripture goes on to state that

*“All the women whose hearts stirred them up in wisdom spun goats' hair.” (Ex.35:26)*

As white is a symbol of purity and perfection (Rev.19:8), and as the white goats hair covering follows the covering of rams skins dyed red, it seems safe to conclude that the white goats hair covering fitly illustrates the truth that

- Christ was made perfect *through suffering*.
- It also represents progressive Christian experience

For “though your sins be as scarlet, (represented in the red rams' skins) they shall be as white as snow.” (Isa.1:18,19). Remember, God considers us ‘perfect in Christ’ all through our development, even when we stumble. (Heb 10:14)

This covering was composed of eleven curtains, each four cubits wide and thirty cubits long. Just enough to cover the sanctuary. (Ex.26:13) The taches which coupled these curtains were made of \_\_\_\_\_, which as previously noted represented our earthly sufferings, our struggles, and our victories. Like the **brazen sockets** at the entrance of the holy place, they fittingly represent the last trace of earthly struggle before we enter the presence of the heavenly angels illustrated by the inner covering.

Why was this covering made of goats' hair? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (Lev.9:3) and was always used in connection with the **cleansing** of the sins of **repentant** Israel were in type **blotted out**.

Atonement = \_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ with God, perfect peace with Him.

It can be considered that as a flag of surrender is a white flag, so this white covering was an emblem of complete surrender to God.

Since white is also a symbol of purity and righteousness, the goats' hair covering was therefore a type of the **righteousness** which Christ **imputes** to all and which He **imparts** to those who **continue to come** to the **cross daily**, putting on the **mind of Jesus**.

*The Take Away: In the Lord's goat, the last offering of the typical year, the atonement was completed, and when the antitypical atonement is finished, a people are prepared who "have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." (Rev.7:14)*

### The Inner, or Royal Covering (Ex 26:1-6)

Deeper yet. We have passed the brass taches, past the last battle with sin, and a royal covering, woven in the loom of heaven, is ours. This covering was made of blue and purple and scarlet "yarn" Moffatt, which "wisehearted women did spin." (Ex. 35:25)

These colored threads were woven in \_\_\_\_\_ curtains or strips, each curtain being four cubits wide and twenty-eight cubits long (six ft wide, 42 feet long). On them, under the direction of Aholiab, who was not only the master weaver but also the master embroiderer, wise-hearted men embroidered with real **gold thread** "cherubim of cunning work." (Ex. 25:25; 36:8,14)

When these ten curtains were ready, five of them were coupled together, and the other five likewise coupled one to another, thus making two larger curtains. Fifty taches, or couplings, made of pure \_\_\_\_\_ were needed to join the two large curtains together. So, it became one covering, and it was called the "tabernacle." (Ex. 36:8-13) When placed over the building framework, the taches of this covering were exactly below the **brass taches** of the goats' hair covering. How significant that under these taches of **brass** and **gold** was hung the **inner veil**, Ex.26:33, symbol of the \_\_\_\_\_ (the humanity) of Christ! (Heb.10:20).

This covering woven of royal colored thread must have been very beautiful, similar to changeable silk, the different colors appearing according as the light shown upon it. And when on it figures of angels were embroidered in sparkling gold thread, Ex.39:3, the effect produced was surely gorgeous.

The beauty of this covering was surpassed only by that which it symbolized. The blue representing \_\_\_\_\_, woven with the Scarlet of \_\_\_\_\_, made a covering of royal purple, fit for those who \_\_\_\_\_ the companionship of ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands of angels symbolized by the gold embroidered cherubim. These royal colors are emblems not only of the character of heavenly beings, but they symbolize the qualities of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ which shape the characters of all who become members of the family above.

The inner covering (with its gold-embroidered angels) also represents **Christ in His exaltation**. (see Phil 2:9,10)

### The Four Coverings Complete

Summing up these four coverings which symbolize Christ in the four divisions of His redemptive work, we have:

**Badgers' Skins—A Lowly Saviour—**“humbled Himself”  
to walk among sinful men. (Phil 2:8)

**Rams' Skins dyed red—A sacrificial Saviour—**  
He “became obedient unto death,  
even the death of the cross.” Ibid

**Goats' Hair, white—A sinless Saviour—**  
He was made “perfect through sufferings  
(Heb.2:10)

**The Royal Covering—An exalted Saviour—**  
“Wherefore God hath highly exalted Him.”  
(Phil 2:9)

The coverings represent true beauty of character, not only of Christ, but of every true Christian: as the gold, the rich embroidery, and the royal colors within, are all beneath the plain outer covering, so “the King’s daughter is all glorious within.” Ps. 45:13