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Bible House of Grace.**



God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

**The Veil
And
The Scarlet Worm.
(2013)**

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises
But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

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Veil and the Scarlet Worm.

INTRODUCTION: the following article begins by showing the glorious symbolisms between Christ and the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place of the temple and the veil that divided them. It then shines a spotlight on the brilliance of Scripture by showing that there is a most majestic and wonderful message of the sacrifice of Jesus in the Hebrew word scarlet.

Exodus 26:31-33 ---- ³¹"You shall make a veil of blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen. It shall be made with cherubim skillfully worked into it. ³²And you shall hang it on four pillars of acacia overlaid with gold, with hooks of gold, on four bases of silver. ³³And you shall hang the veil from the clasps, and bring the ark of the testimony in there within the veil. And the veil shall separate for you the Holy Place from the Most Holy.

Scarlet: comes from the Hebrew word (shaniy) and means crimson (red), properly the insect or its colour, also to stuff dyed with it (i.e., crimson, scarlet thread).

The veil was put in place as a division between the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place it served to separate the daily activities from the annual activities on the Day of Atonement. Because of this it shows a distinction between the normal Levites and the High Priest. But its purpose was not to just separate physical things. The true separation that the veil represented was between the flesh and the Spirit and between the sinfulness of man and the righteousness of God.

Once the Israelites had entered into their own land and were no longer at war with the nations round about them Solomon built a magnificent Temple. It was constructed out of high quality stone and wood and though it was very different in size to the Tabernacle, the basic design principles remained the same. On the inside the Holy Place was still separated from the Most Holy Place by a veil. The veil was made of blue and purple and scarlet fabrics and fine linen, and images of cherubim were woven into it (2 Chron. 3:14). Everything under the law represents something spiritual, but it's not until the death of Jesus that the full extent of their meaning is revealed.

This is true with the veil. When Jesus breathed his last breath the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom (Mark 15:37-38). It was not torn from bottom to top or left to right, but from the top to the bottom. The word top comes from the Greek word (anōthen) and can mean from above; from the very first; from the beginning and by implication new. The tearing of the curtain from top to bottom symbolised the beginning of the New Covenant of grace and that God was granting access into the Most Holy Place to all who come to Him through the Lord Jesus Christ the true veil of God.

It also highlights the truth that from the very beginning of the foundations of the world Jesus was not only the central focus of God's eternal mind and of His eternal plans and purposes for mankind's salvation and for eternity, but also the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8) (KJV). Jesus cleansing blood shed on the cross of Calvary does not cleanse only those who believe after his death and resurrection it flows all the way back to Adam and Eve like a spiritual river cleansing all the faithful who by faith looked to the appearing of the promised Messiah the Christ to come.

Peter wrote: -

- You were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you (1 Peter 1:18-20).

Although Matthew, Mark and Luke record that at the precise moment of Jesus' death the veil of the Temple was torn in two, it is only when we come to the letter to the Hebrews that we can see what this means on a spiritual level and what it

means to us. Hebrews ten is the key that unlocks the spiritual aspects of the law. It explains to us that Jesus was of far more importance than the entire Law of Moses. After all, the law was only a shadow or an outline of the blessings to come through the Lord Jesus Christ. In Hebrews ten we read the following about the veil: -

- Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which he consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, 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 (Heb. 10:19-22).

These verses make it clear that the veil represents the flesh of Jesus it was this nature of the flesh that prevented atonement between God and man. The flesh (the sinful nature) was the boundary between the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place (the righteousness of God). In order for us to have reconciliation with God, He required the sacrifice of the flesh. The flesh represents all sin and had to be put away because it separates humans from their heavenly Father.

Complete obedience to God's will, was the only way that the punishment of sin could be overcome. It was in the Garden of Gethsemane that Jesus endured one of his most difficult and trying moments. It was here where, mentally and emotionally the strength of the flesh was met and defeated by Jesus words, "Not my will but thine be done," In this act of love and obedience Jesus self-will was sacrificed to God's will.

It is interesting to note that Gethsemane means oil press and, just as the children of Israel were commanded to bring pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to make the lamps burn continually (Lev. 24:2) It was in the garden of Gethsemane that the pure life of Jesus was crushed to enable the light of God's love to shine for all people to see and to respond to (John 1:4). The colours used in the veil are also very significant since all three colours (blue, purple and scarlet (red) (also crimson) all represent a certain characteristic of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blue: is closely associated with sky and water, it represents spiritual things and with regard to Jesus it shows him as the Son of God.

Scarlet: (red) is naturally associated with blood and as such represents mortality and the sinful nature of mankind and of course Jesus blood shed on the cross.

Purple: is a mixture of blue and red and therefore represents a combination of two opposites. It is a unification of the Spirit and the flesh and shows the perfect character of Jesus in his mortal body as the Son of God and the Son of Man.

The following shows that there is a most majestic and wonderful message of the sacrifice of Jesus in the Hebrew word scarlet.

The Hebrew word for scarlet in in the following verse, "Thou shalt make a veil of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen (Exod. 26:31) is (towlah). The word towlah is a homonym, in other words, it is a word that has the same pronunciation and spelling as another word, but a different meaning. Just as in English the word orange is both a fruit and a colour, so in Hebrew towlah (scarlet) is both a colour and a worm.

The symbolism of Scarlet

- You shall make a veil woven of blue, purple, and scarlet (towla/shaniy) thread, and fine woven linen. It shall be woven with an artistic design of cherubim. You shall hang it upon the four pillars of acacia wood overlaid with gold. Their hooks shall be gold, upon four sockets of silver and you shall hang the veil from the clasps. Then you shall bring the ark of the Testimony in there, behind the veil. The veil shall be a divider for you between the holy place and the Most Holy (Exod. 26:31-33).

Scarlet in these verses come from the Hebrew words (towla/shaniy) and can refer to the colour scarlet or to the worm or maggot (a scarlet grub) that the red dye comes from.

The scarlet worm was from a worm that the colourant was extracted to dye the thread that made the veil. It is for this reason that the word (towla) is translated sometimes as scarlet, and sometimes as worm.

The interesting thing about the female of this species is that, when it is ready to give birth to her young, it attaches its body to the trunk of a tree. It fastens itself so firmly that it never leaves that place again. The eggs are deposited beneath its body and are protected by it until the larvae hatch and are able to enter their own life cycle.

As the mother dies, the scarlet fluid stains her body and the surrounding wood. It is from the dead bodies of these female scarlet worms that the commercial scarlet dyes were extracted (Ungers Bible Dictionary). This gives us a very clear image of Jesus dying on the tree and shedding his blood that we may have life eternal.

The following Psalm of David is a psalm that reflects the thoughts, emotions and the words of Jesus during his trial and crucifixion, while he bled and died on the tree at Golgotha.

- My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest. Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame, but I am a worm (towlah) and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people (Psalms 22:1-6)

The Hebrew word for worm, here is (towlah) which is the same word translated as scarlet in the veil, so we can see that it was from our Saviour's body that the scarlet blood poured out onto the tree was so that life could be given to those who believe on him.

The prophet Isaiah wrote: -

- Come now, and let us reason together, "Says the Lord, "Though your sins are like scarlet, (towla/shaniy) They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like scarlet, They shall be as wool" (Isaiah 1:18).
