

ABC's of SALVATION

by

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CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO

VEILS

IT IS always interesting and profitable to take a good Bible concordance and study the use of words. Few such studies will be more interesting than the study of the word VEIL as found in the Word of God.

A veil serves a twofold purpose—it hides something on the inside, and keeps out something from the outside.

I. The Veil of Moses

Read Exodus 34:28-35.

In the third month of the journey of the children of Israel from Egypt to Canaan, the glory cloud of God led them to Mount Sinai. There, in the energy and boastfulness of the flesh, they said, **“All that the Lord hath spoken we will do”** (Exodus 19:8) *

* See *“Alphabet of Christian Experience”* same author.

Moses went to the top of the mountain and continued there for forty days where he was instructed by God in the things pertaining to the new dispensation. Forty days in the Scriptures are always a period of testing. When Moses came down, he found that the children of Israel had made and were worshipping a golden calf—thus breaking the first two commandments on the tables of stone which he carried in his hands. Moses threw the tables to the ground and broke them to pieces. For their sin three thousand of the Israelites fell.

Moses went to the top of the mountain for another forty days. Now the test was how could God live amongst such a sinful people, execute His justice, maintain His holiness, yet show mercy and love to the people He had brought out of Egypt? The answer was simple yet sublime. The second tables of stone were put in the Ark of the Covenant and covered by the mercy seat upon which blood was sprinkled. When God looked upon the demands of His Law, He saw them through the blood on the mercy seat. Second Corinthians 3:1-16 is the divine commentary. The Law was a ministration of death, yet if this simple arrangement **“for the time then present”** made Moses' face shine until it was necessary to cover it with a veil (remember there is no record of his face shining on the first trip down).

How much more should we appreciate our position in grace, as we “**with open face behold . . . the glory of the Lord**” (II Corinthians 3:18). Our glorious salvation should give us “shining” faces.

II. The Veil of the Tabernacle

Read Exodus 36:35, 36.

This veil divided the tabernacle into two rooms, the first was called the holy place, the second the most holy place. In the most holy place stood the Ark of the Covenant, in which the tables of law were put, covered over by the mercy seat of pure gold. Between the cherubim of the mercy seat stood the glory cloud of God. Behind this veil no one ever entered, save the high priest, and he entered only once a year on the Day of Atonement. No word was ever uttered, so far as recorded, of what he saw or heard. It was there he sprinkled blood for himself and his family and for the children of Israel. This act, performed every year in the seclusion behind the veil, spoke volumes. Two things were apparent—first, the blood of bulls and goats did not take away sins; second, the way into the most holy was not yet open (Hebrews 9:1-15).

III. The Veil of the Temple

When Solomon built the Temple, tradition says that the veil of the Tabernacle was transferred to the temple. Solomon’s Temple stood for about five hundred years, then was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar. The second Temple was built by Zerubbabel and others and stood for nearly the same length of time before being destroyed. The third Temple was built by Herod, took his name, and was standing in the time of Christ.

One day strange things were taking place in and around Jerusalem. A so-called criminal was being executed on a hill outside the city. For three hours God had opened the door of night in midday. During this time rocks had left their beds of the millenniums by a mighty earthquake. Yet in spite of all this supernatural manifestation, wicked priests —priests who had been instrumental in getting this Man executed—were ministering in the Temple. All at once there was probably a flash, a weird sound and “**Behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom**” (Matthew 27:51) “**in the midst**” (Luke 23:45). The death of the Man outside the city had something to do with this strange phenomenon.

IV. The Veil of Christ’s Flesh

“**Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh**” (Hebrews 10:19, 20).

Immediately the veils of Tabernacle and Temples take on added significance—they are typical of Christ. The material, the colors, the cunning work, all speak of Him. The veil was rent when Christ died, showing that through the rent body of Him we have a way unto God.

There is a teaching that all we need to do is to follow in His steps to get to God.

His life is like a mirror—the more we look into a mirror the more defects we see in ourselves. A sinner is never told to walk in Christ steps—for he is unable to walk at all, he is dead in trespasses and sins. What the Sinner needs is life, and only God can give life to lost sinners. It was Christ’s death that opened the way to God. **“God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself”** (II Corinthians 5:19). **“By his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us”** (Hebrews 9:12).

V. The Veil of Unbelief Over Israel

“But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart” (II Corinthians 3:15).

The antecedent for the pronoun *their* in the above verse is the children of Israel in verse 7 of the same chapter. The instructed Christian sees Christ on almost every page of the Old Testament. The Jewish people are exceptionally shrewd and keen in the business world. They are always among the leaders in the educational and professional world. Yet they will read such portions of the Old Testament as Psalms 22; Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 53; Micah 5:2; Zechariah 9:9 and scores of other portions of the Old Testament and fail utterly to see the Lord Jesus Christ. Why so blind on this and at the same time so brilliant in other fields of learning? There is but one answer—the veil is over their heart. One day that veil will be removed (Romans 11:25). That will be the day of salvation to Israel nationally.

VI. The Veil of Satan

“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them” (II Corinthians 4:3-4).

Men cross continents and oceans to find help for physical ailments, but will not cross a street sometimes to hear the glorious news of salvation. They will train, toil, and sacrifice “to lay up something for a rainy day” yet never take a thought as to where they will spend eternity. There is no accounting for this strange, seeming abdication on the part of man’s mind on the subject of his eternal salvation apart from the veil of Satan. How does the devil use this veil? He does this by blinding men’s eyes to the glorious gospel. It may be an unsaved teacher in a school or a modernistic preacher in a pulpit. Almost every place we teach in Bible conferences, we have dear young people come and tell us what some teacher said about the “mistakes” of the Bible, how it is “unscientific,” etc., etc. We feel so sorry for these poor, blind leaders in the educational world. Satan has a veil over their minds. This would be sad enough, but he is using them to veil the minds of precious young people to the glorious gospel of salvation.

VII. The Universal Veil

“And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations” (Isaiah 25:7).

What a pall is hanging over the nations! How they are groping in the gross darkness!

The whole world is agog over the plans of the UNO to end all wars. We have listened and read in vain for one word quoted from the Word of God on the subject. We never hear of a meeting being opened by prayer.

After the terrible World War I, when men thought the “world safe for democracy,” there were a few years of unprecedented prosperity, but with it sin was rampant as always. At the very peak of this false prosperity there came a crash. What a crash it was! With bulging granaries, there were millions without bread. Then it was that some crack-brained philosopher conceived the idea that the way to feed the starving and bring back prosperity was to kill off most of the little pigs and to plow under part of the cotton and wheat. In other words, destroy that which a loving God had given to an undeserving world. Four thousand years ago, down in Egypt, Joseph knew better than to destroy that which a beneficent God had given. His order was “**store up the food against the years of famine.**” Suppose we had had a man with the simple foresight of Joseph a few years ago. We would probably not be clamoring about ration points now. Then another brilliant (?) idea hit still another so-called philosopher (or politician) “We will bring back liquor and balance the budget.” A person prominent in public life said recently: “The average girl of today faces the problem of learning very young how much she can drink of such things as whisky and gin and sticking to the proper quantity.” If God Almighty was ever defied, He was defied by those two statements! Centuries ago, speaking through His prophet, God said, “**Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink, and putteth thy bottle to him, and maketh him drunken also**” (Habakkuk 2:15). This law of God has never been abrogated.

But why go on with this bungling of these blind leaders of the blind! One day the veil will be removed and “**In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; We have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks. Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in**” (Isaiah 26:1, 2).

May God turn the hearts of America back to Himself through godly leaders, that America may be one of these righteous nations in that day when the Lord Jesus Christ, in His glorious second advent, removes this universal veil from the nations.

The Lord shall come again!
The Conqueror must reign!
No tongue but shall confess Him then,
The Lamb once slain:
Jesus is worthy NOW
All homage to receive;
O sinner, to the Saviour bow,
The truth believe.

~ end of chapter 22 ~

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