

1. A Curtain that says "No Entry"

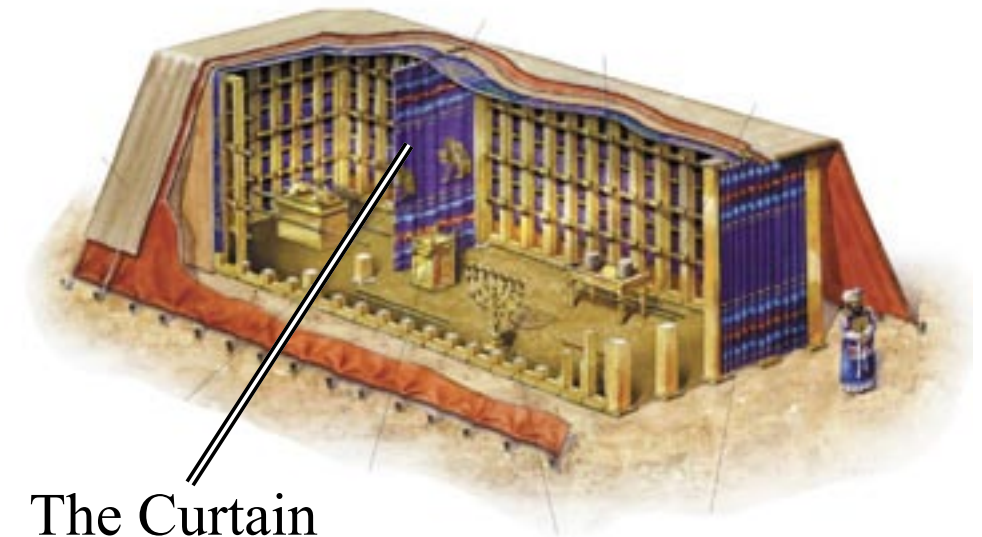
- The Most Holy Place – closed off by a curtain from the Holy Place
- Curtain embroidered with Cherubim – guardians of the way to God (Gen 3:24)
- The way to God is closed:
 - a) **Because of Sin**
 - Sin is ignoring God and his instructions for life. It excludes us from God's presence.
 - God won't let us pretend that sin isn't serious – it excludes us permanently
 - b) **Because of Imperfect Sacrifices**
 - The way not completely closed – opened temporarily on the Day of Atonement for the High Priest (Lev. 16). But not for all the people.
 - Entrance only by blood of a sacrifice. Old Testament sacrifices were not sufficiently valuable.
 - There is a level of closeness and intimacy that is not available to OT believers
 - Left waiting for a better sacrifice that will open the way permanently

2. A Curtain that says "Come in"

- The curtain was made to be ripped – Mark 15:37-38, Luke 23:45
- A way has been opened – Heb 10:19-20, Rom 5:2, Eph 2:18
- The barrier has become a gateway
 - a) **The Price of Access**
 - As Christ dies the curtain is torn – the perfect sacrifice that deals with sin finally
 - Parallel between Christ and the curtain – both torn at same time, both torn by God
 - The way is opened by his blood (Heb 10:19)
 - It is the only way to come into God's presence – through Jesus' sacrifice at the cross
 - Have you forgotten the price paid for your entrance?
 - b) **The Fullness of Access**
 - Not pulled back – but torn wide open for the greatest of sinners to come in
 - Not in a corner – but in the middle, opening right on to the throne of God
 - Not for the High Priest only – but for us all (Heb 10:19-24)
 - Not for a single day – but 24/7/52
 - Full unfettered access to **God** himself, not just forgiveness – why do we stand back?
 - c) **The Finality of Access**
 - Not folded, but torn. Not for re-use
 - "we have access" (Rom 5:2) – perfect tense: 'do have and will continue to have'
 - Nothing can put an excluding barrier between the Christian and their God
 - Not Satan, not sin, not sickness, not depression, not death – Rom 8:35-39
 - (Sin will ruin the Christian's enjoyment of the relationship, but not cause the curtain to be re-instated)

Notices

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| Sunday | Rev Jon Maginn speaking at evening meeting @ Loughridge's | 8pm |
| Tuesday | Proverbs Study - The Art of Living (Ch 5 & first part 6) | 8pm |



The Curtain