THE STORY OF MOSES

Aunt Hattie's Bible Stories

by

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There is a free paraphrase of Scripture passages in use quite frequently throughout this book in the interest of youthful minds.

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CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX

THE PATTERNS OF THE TABERNACLE AND CURTAINS

The Bible story begins with a description of the furniture. But we build our houses first and then furnish them, so I think I'll begin with the house, too.

If we were to see the tabernacle today, we would think it a strange building. It had no roof and no floor but the ground. Then, too, it was made so that it could be taken down easily and moved.

The tabernacle was forty-five feet long, fifteen feet wide and fifteen feet high. It had three walls, north, south, and west, the east side was left open. The boards, of which there were forty-eight, twenty on each side and eight at the end, were covered with gold and rested in sockets of silver, two for each board. I suppose when the tabernacle was to be put up that a trench was dug and the sockets laid in side by side, then each board fitted into its two sockets.

The boards were coupled together and held in place by gold-covered wooden bars, which were run through gold-covered wooden rings, fastened to the outside of the boards.

The roof of the building consisted of four coverings.

First, there was the most beautiful covering of ten curtains, laced together to make one great covering. The women of Israel spun the linen for these curtains and embroidered them in colors of blue, purple and scarlet. I wonder if they learned to do needle work from the Egyptian women.

This curtain was placed over the tabernacle first. How lovely a ceiling it must have been. Over this was laid a curtain of goat's hair, white, soft and of very fine weave. The third covering was of rams' skins, dyed red and last of all, the top curtain which was of badgers' skins to protect the other coverings from the sun and rain.

All of these coverings hung down over the sides and back of the building.

Inside there were two rooms. The first one was called the "Holy Place" and the inner room the "Most Holy Place" or the "Holy of Holies." The rooms were separated by a drapery of embroidery called the inner veil. At the door or front of the tabernacle hung another piece of embroidery called the outer veil. It hung upon pillars erected for the purpose.

The first covering of the ceiling and these two veils, the inner and outer, were all embroidered in The same designs of angelic figures and in the same colors.

You are wondering how all of this could be a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is in many ways.

The acacia (a thorny, flowering tree) wood of which the tabernacle was made was very durable or as the ancient writers say, "It was incorruptible," (not subject to decay). So was Jesus Christ, we rejoice to say.

Gold is a symbol of Deity or God. Christ was truly God.

Silver is the emblem of redemption. As the silver sockets separated the tabernacle from the ground so Christ separates His children from the world.

The colors in the curtains also spoke of Jesus Christ.

- The white represented His righteousness or purity;
- The blue showed how He came from heaven;
- The purple illustrated His earthly royalty —He was born on earth into the family of David, King of Israel;
- In the scarlet was seen His blood, shed upon the cross for our sins.
- In the beautiful, white curtain of goats' hair again was seen His purity.
- The rams' skins, dyed red, told of His death and the last covering,
- The badgers' skins, spoke of His endurance and steadfastness.

~ end of chapter 26 ~

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