

The Covering of Goats' Hair

The covering underneath the rams' skin was made of goats' hair (see Ex. 26:7). In the Bible, a goat is frequently used as a symbol of sin. This covering was immediately on top of the beautiful linen covering that could be seen from within the tabernacle.

The covering made of goats' hair represents Christ as the sin offering. It is significant to understand how Christ was represented in each of the coverings. The outer covering of badgers', or porpoises', skins represented Christ as the despised One. The second covering of rams' skins represented Christ as the substitute through death. The third covering of goats' hair represented Christ as the sin offering. And the fourth, or inner, covering represented the beauty of Christ's perfect life seen in all of His positional functions as king, servant, perfect man and perfect God. Later, the inner covering will be discussed in detail.

In considering the third covering of goats' hair, we are reminded that Christ is our sin-bearer, even as two goats were used on the Day of Atonement to reveal this.

Leviticus 16 tells of the use of two goats on the Day of Atonement. One goat was slain at the altar, and his blood was poured out there (v. 15). This goat symbolized the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Then the priest placed his hands on the living goat and confessed over it the sins of Israel. He then sent it into the wilderness, never to return. This goat symbolized the fact that Jesus Christ has removed our sins as far as the east is from the west...

(Portraits of Christ in the Tabernacle by Theodore H. Epp, Lincoln, Nebraska: A Back to the Bible Publication, 1976, 94)