

Why did God put a veil in the Old Testament temple?



From the very beginning, God made separations: light from darkness, land from sea, heavens from earth. When Adam and Eve sinned, they were separated from God's holy presence and driven from Eden. Guarding cherubim, angels with flaming swords, stood at the entrance, blocking the way back to the tree of life.

When God told Israel to build the tabernacle, he placed another separation between himself and his people—a massive curtain (veil) adorned with cherubim. The message was clear:

Because of your sin, you can't come in.

Once a year, on the Day of Atonement, the high priest could pass through the veil—but never empty-handed. He carried the blood of an unblemished animal, given as a life in place of the sinner, and sprinkled it on the ark of the covenant. This blood—life given for sin—was the only acceptable payment, covering guilt so God's holy presence would not consume the people.

GENESIS 3:24 He placed...cherubim and a flaming sword...to guard the way to the tree of life.

ISAIAH 59:2 Your iniquities have separated you from your God...

EXODUS 26:33 ...the curtain will separate the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place.

LEVITICUS 16:15-16 ...he shall sprinkle [the goat's blood] on the atonement cover and...In this way he will make atonement...

What keeps you out of God's presence?

Your sin—every thought, word, and action that falls short of his holiness.

Why did the temple veil tear in two?



On the day Jesus died, something extraordinary happened:

“The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.” –Matthew 27:51

The blood sprinkled on the ark of the covenant had always pointed forward to a greater sacrifice—the **perfect life given for sinners**. On the cross, Jesus offered his own blood, not for his sins, but for ours. His blood didn't just cover sin temporarily—it removed it forever.

The torn curtain was God's declaration:

Because of Jesus, you are welcomed in.

Now, through trust in the person and work of Jesus, the holiness required to enter God's presence is given freely to you. There is no more separation. You have direct access to God—not through more temples and ordinances, but through the crucified and risen Savior.

HEBREWS 9:12 He entered once for all into the holy places...by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

HEBREWS 9:19-20 ...we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body.

HEBREWS 4:16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence...

Why can we enter God's presence confidently?

The blood of Jesus—his perfect life and sacrifice given for you.

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