

Exodus 26:1-6

<https://thebiblesays.com/commentary/exod/exod-26/exodus-261-6/>

The LORD gives instructions on how to build the tabernacle itself. The first item discussed was the making of the curtains that formed the walls and ceilings of the structure.

Having described how to make the most important items to be used for service within the tabernacle, the LORD now turned to tell Moses how to make the *tabernacle* itself. The first part of the instructions involved how to *make the tabernacle with ten curtains*. The word translated *curtains* is used elsewhere to describe panels that make up a tent dwelling ([Jeremiah 49:29](#)). The *ten curtains* would make up panels for a large tent, the *tabernacle*. The *tabernacle* was designed to be portable and suitable for its intended application while Israel was in the wilderness. It was also used for the same application once Israel reached the Promised Land, and was pitched in a permanent location at Shiloh ([Joshua 18:1](#)).

These *curtains* were to be made with the following specifications:

They were to be made with *fine twisted linen and blue and purple and scarlet material*, probably dyed wool(v. 1). These materials came from the “contribution” that was to be collected by Moses for the tabernacle’s construction in [Exodus 25:4](#).

The *curtains* were to be *made with cherubim* and must be *the work of a skillful workman*. The *curtains* would have been woven, and the *cherubim* likely would have been designs woven into the fabric. These works of art were to be made by Spirit-enabled master craftsmen ([Exodus 36:8](#)).

The length of each curtain shall be twenty-eight cubits, and the width of each curtain four cubits. This would make each *curtain* around 42 feet long (or about 13 meters) and 6 feet wide (or slightly less than 2 meters). Plus, *all the curtains shall have the same measurements*. Thus these tent panels would serve the specified dimensions for the *tabernacle*.

Also, *five curtains shall be joined to one another, and the other five curtains shall be joined to one another*. That is, they should be *joined* together with *clasps* to make two sets of five curtains each. Each set of *five curtains*,

when joined together, formed a single piece that measured 42 feet by 30 feet (5 panels, each 6 feet wide, making a 30 foot width).

To join the *curtains*, they were to *make loops of blue on the edge of the outermost curtain in the first set*. The other *set of curtains* were made *likewise*. They also had *loops of blue on the edge of the curtain that is outermost in the second set of curtains*. The craftsmen were to *make fifty loops in the one curtain, and fifty loops on the edge of the curtain that is in the second set*.

Further, *the loops shall be opposite each other* so they could be readily joined together with *clasps of gold*. To fasten the curtains together, they were instructed to *make fifty clasps of gold*, and with them they were to *join the curtains to one another with the clasps so that the tabernacle will be a unit* (v. 6).

Thus the *curtains* or panels were joined together but remained portable, so the tent could be taken down and relocated. These *curtains* must have been beautiful to behold. With *cherubim* sewn on, or woven into *twisted linen* and *blue, scarlet, and purple* wool, they must have been stunning to see. They were probably intended to represent the magnificent, royal presence of the LORD in His throne room surrounded by His cherubim.

It is unlikely these *curtains* were visible to the outside because of the coverings described in the next section. It is likely the *goats' hair* and other layers formed a protective exterior, and the *curtains* formed an inner decorative tent layer.

Biblical Text:

¹Moreover you shall make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine twisted linen and blue and purple and scarlet *material*; you shall make them with cherubim, the work of a skillful workman. ²The length of each curtain shall be twenty-eight cubits, and the width of each curtain four cubits; all the curtains shall have the same measurements. ³Five curtains shall be joined to one another, and *the other* five curtains *shall be* joined to one another. ⁴You shall make loops of blue on the edge of the outermost curtain in the *first set*, and likewise you shall make *them* on the edge of the curtain that is outermost in the second set. ⁵You shall make fifty loops in the one curtain, and you shall make fifty loops on the edge of the curtain that is in the second set; the loops shall be opposite each other. ⁶You shall make fifty clasps of gold, and

join the curtains to one another with the clasps so that the tabernacle will be a unit.