

## The Veil Removed

*Isa 25:7 And He will destroy on this mountain the surface of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations.*

This is a key verse in Isaiah for it speaks of a change that will take place in the relationship of God toward mankind. As we had pointed out last Sunday God had not revealed Himself to any other people but the descendants of Abraham. Now Isaiah proclaims that God will at this mountain remove the covering that has been cast over all people. This removing of the veil will affect both Jew and Gentile in that it will bring in a new covenant for it speaks of the fulfilling of the old and the establishing of a new covenant with mankind. I find myself in agreement with John Calvin when he says that "the true meaning is, that the Lord promises that he will take away the veil by which they were kept in blindness and ignorance; and therefore it was by the light of the gospel that this darkness was dispelled. He says that this will be in mount Zion, from which also the light of the Lord shone on the whole world, This passage, therefore, must unavoidably be referred to the kingdom of Christ; for the light did not shine on all men till Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, arose, who took away all the veils, wrappings, and coverings. In a sense there is a twofold meaning here. For the Jew the shadows of the old covenant are going to be done away and the fullness will be brought to pass. As for the Gentile now God is going to open to the hope of salvation.

First I want to consider the natural state of man and what this promise implies. Secondly I want us to consider how this will affect the thinking of the Jewish believers and the blinded Gentiles. And finally what Christ did at Calvary, that is how did Christ fulfill all the Old Testament shadows by His life, death and resurrection.

A. The natural state of man and the promise now given to all men.

1. In Adam all men died, that is, mankind in his fallen state has no ability to understand the things of God  
*1 Cor 2:14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

- a. Men by nature have no understanding of things spiritual
- b. He has an awareness of God for creation proclaims that God is (cf. Rom 1:19,20)
- c. By nature he will suppress that knowledge and choose the creature over the creator

2. Thus natural man is spoken of as being in darkness and yet to him he will be made able to see the light of the gospel

- a. Isaiah speaks of it more clearly in *Isa 9:1-2 - By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, in Galilee of the Gentiles. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.*
- b. Matthew quotes this verse as Jesus began His ministry in Capernaum
- c. We understand then that light of the gospel was to come to all men was clearly in the eternal plan of God

B. Secondly I want us to consider how this will affect the thinking of the Jewish believers

1. Up to this time the Jews have had in mind only a secular kingdom

- a. The very Jews that rejected Christ were willing to make Him their king

*John 6:15 Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.*

- b. They could not see beyond an earthly kingdom

*Acts 1:6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"*

- c. Even Peter took Jesus aside and rebuke Him when He spoke of His upcoming death

C. Now you can understanding the meaning that the veil, the covering, the darkness had to be removed

1. To the Jew first they must come to an understanding that this Messiah would come as the Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world.
  - a. He would establish a spiritual kingdom, a means whereby the sin issue would be met
  - b. This was clearly the proclamation of the forerunner

*John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"*

- c. This is the veil that is taken away from the eyes of the Jewish believer when he is converted

*2 Cor 3:12-18 Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech — unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away. But their minds were blinded. **For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ.** But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. **Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.***

2. For the Gentile he had to be brought to an understanding of who God because of the blindness of their heart
  - a. Having been alienated from God by the fall

*Eph 4:17-18 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, **having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;** who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.*

- b. Having been blinded by the god of this age

*2 Cor 4:3-6 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.*

CONCLUSION: All the Old Testament shadows have been fulfilled in Christ

Circumcision was just a proclamation of the need for cleansing that could only be provided by the shed blood of Christ

The blood of bulls and goats could not save

In this verse is a hint at what would take place when our Savior gave Himself on the cross

*Mark 15:37-38 And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and breathed His last. Then the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.*

All the earthly temple ritual and worship was but a shadow of the heavenly

*Heb 9:23-28 Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. **For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;** not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another — He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of*

*Heb 9:11-12 But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.*

The veil, the covering has been removed for now we see clearly and fully the person and work of Christ