

File under: καταπέτασμα or Katapetasma
English: "veil"

This neuter noun only occurs 6x in the NT; only referring to the veil between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. The veil in Herod's Temple, or the 2nd temple was "split" at the time Jesus died. This fact is recorded 3x; and it would seem in reading KJ that Matt. and Mark record the death of Jesus before the veil split while Luke records Jesus dying after the veil split. Note the comment on Luke 23:44-46 in Alford's Greek Testament. Is this a mistake? Certainly not. Then

Luke 23 Alford

44-46.] Our account is very short and epitomizing—containing however, peculiar to itself, the last word of our Lord on the cross. The impression conveyed by this account, if we had no other, would be that the veil was rent before the death of Jesus;—but the more detailed account of Matthew corrects this,

καταπέτασμα KJ

Mat.27:51. behold, the veil of the temple was rent
Mar 15:38. And the veil of the temple was rent
Lu. 23:45. and the veil of the temple was rent
Heb. 6:19. into that within the veil;
9: 3. And after the second veil,
10:20. through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

Why does Luke record the death of Jesus in past time, but after recording the splitting of the veil? I believe this is important so that no one fails to connect the death of Jesus with the splitting exactly. Further, Luke had to first finish explaining the cause of the darkness.

MATTHEW 27 CT

50 But the Jesus having-cried again with-a-great voice he-let-go the spirit.
51 And behold the veil of-the sanctuary was-split into two, from from-above till below; and the earth was-caused-to-quake, and the rocks were-split,

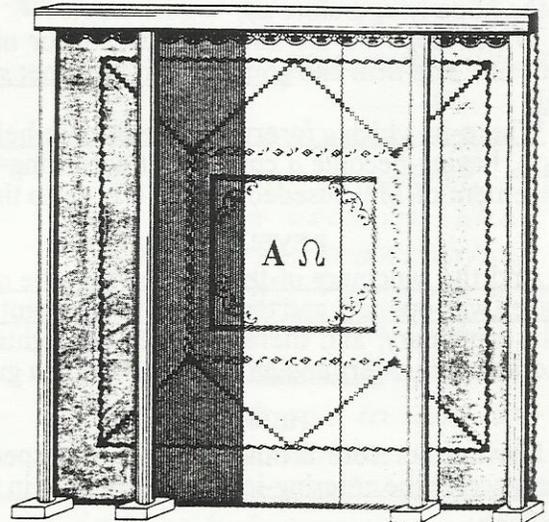
MARK 15 CT

37 But the Jesus having-let-go a great voice he-blew-out.
38 And the veil of-the sanctuary was-split into two from from-above till below.

why this seeming problem? First, read the 3 passages from the Consistent Translation as arranged in the diagram. Matt. and Mark place the splitting of the veil at the time Jesus died. Note the past time in Luke: "having-hollered"; "having-said"; "he-blew-out".

LUKE 23 CT

44 But it-was about the sixth hour, and darkness came-to-pass over the total land till the ninth hour;
45 And the sun was-made-dark, and the veil of-the sanctuary was-split-in midst.
46 And the Jesus having-hollered with-a-great voice said: Father, into your hands I-shall-commit my spirit. And having-said these-things he-blew-out.



Now note the explanation in Hebrews.

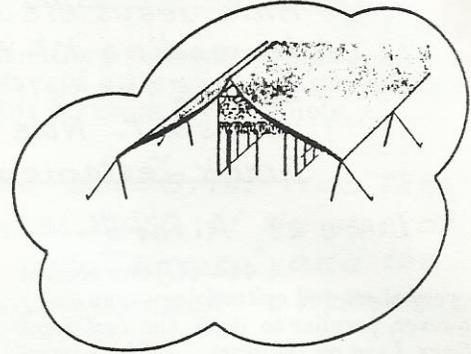
καταπέτασμα-p.2

While the veil that was split was indeed the one in the 2nd. temple; the first veil between the Holy Place and Holy of Holies was the one in the tabernacle. The earthly tabernacle was a "copy" of the tabernacle in the heavens.

The wilderness tabernacle is called a "copy" (κ.ε. example) and a "shadow"; as well as a "parable" in Heb. 9:9 (κ.ε. "figure")

Hebrews 8 KJ

5 Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.



HEBREWS 9 CT

1 On-the-one-hand therefore the first covenant was-having both the worldly holy-place and just-acts of-service.
 2 For a booth was-constructed, the first, in which were both the lampstand and the table and the plan of-the loaves, one-booth-which is-being-said, Holy-place;
 3 But after the second veil a booth, the one being-said Holies of-Holies,

HEBREWS 6 CT

17 In which the God purposing to-show more-exceedingly to-the heirs of-the promise the unchangeableness of his purpose he-mediated by an oath.
 18 In-order-that through two unchangeable things, in which it-is impossible for God to-lie, we-might-be-having strong comfort, the ones having-fled-for-refuge to-retain of-the hope lying-before us;
 19 Which hope we-are-having as an anchor of-the soul both sure and firm and going-in into the inner side of-the veil,
 20 Where-in-which a forerunner went-in, in-behalf-of us, Jesus, having-become a chief-priest according-to the arrangement of-Melchisedec with-reference-to the age.

REVELATION 11 CT

19 And the sanctuary of-the God namely-the one in the heaven was-opened, and the ark of-his covenant was-seen in-his sanctuary, and there-came-to-pass lightnings and voices and thunders and an earthquake and a great hail.

HEBREWS 10 CT

19 Having therefore brothers, boldness-of-speech with-reference-to the entering-in of-the holy-ones in the blood of-Jesus,
 20 Which entering-in he-dedicated for-us a way recently-slain and living, through the veil, this is his flesh,
 21 And having a great priest upon the household of-the God,

All 3 uses of "veil" on this page are in the book "To Hebrews", NOT Christians in general. The first use in Heb. 9:3 is in the NT description of the tabernacle.

Jesus "went-in" to the inner (side) of-the veil, (a) forerunner, first in-behalf-of Israel. Jesus is Israel's hope and anchor. Did Jesus split the veil? In Rev. 11:19 the heavenly sanctuary is opened, and since the ark was-seen the veil was gone. The veil was his flesh. (Heb. 10:20)

Pseudepigrapha of the O.T.
 R.H. Charles, Testament of Levi, p.310, dated between 137 and 107 B.C.
 "... the veil of the temple shall be rent, so as not to cover your shame. And ye shall be scattered as captives among the Gentiles, and shall be for a reproach and for a curse there."

See, The Arrest, Trial, and Death of Jesus the Messiah, also Hebrews Commentary, by R.H. Mount.