

The Purple Pulpit

Installment # 1

The Incarnational Purple

Purple banners, purple chairs, purple garments, purple tablecloths....and now a purple pulpit! What's the deal with the fascination with the colour purple at Lord Jesus Christ Assembly? Put simply, we recognize it as the colour employed by the Holy Spirit to symbolize the incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ in the types seen in Exodus through Numbers. In the realm of colour it is the foreshadowing figure used to bespeak the inhumanated Son of God in the Old Testament shadows, of which "the body is of Christ." (Col. 2:17). Further, our enamourment with the hue is like the sentiment observed in the doodling of teenage girls who take pleasure in decoratively writing the names of the objects of their infatuation on everything; it's the love-inspired zeal of an enthralled devotee to Jesus Christ who has learned of this typical significance of purple in the Law of God. Our subjective appreciation of pleasure in the colour has been taught by the objective knowledge of He of Whom it speaks.

But what is that objective knowledge? Blue, being the colour of the heavens in their brilliance, was utilized by God to represent His Deity in the blue tassels which would remind the Israelites of the commandments of their God (Numbers 15:38). Red, in Hebrew, is literally the same consonantal spelling as the

word for humanity and its racial father (Adam), therefore it more than represents humanity in the Scripture. A word for a deep red, which we will translate as "crimson" in upcoming studies, when mixed with the blue would create a red-heavy purple, interestingly the colour with which the Lord Jesus was mockingly arrayed by Pilate's soldiers (John 19:2; 5). Since this colour was so hard to come by because of its labor-intensive acquisition (which we will teach on in-depth in future studies) it was only able to be afforded by the very rich, and therefore became the colour worn by kings. When we put all of this together, the royal Messiah, in His Person, being the combination of the blue of Deity and the red of humanity, is pointed to in this most precious of colours!

Speaking of the unalterable order in which these three colours are found in the tabernacle instructions, Henry Soltau has written, "If we were to place the blue and the scarlet side by side, without the intervention of some other colour, the eye would be offended with the violent contrast; for though each is beautiful in itself, and suitable to its own sphere, yet there is such a distinction, we might almost say opposition, in their hues, as to render them inharmonious if seen in immediate contact. The purple interposed, remedies this unpleasing effect: the eye passes with ease from the blue to the scarlet, and vice versa, by the aid of this blended colour, the purple." (Soltau, "The Tabernacle, the Priesthood, and the Offerings") I trust that the connections won't be missed by the reader!

Every pulpit in the world ought be purple (not literally, but dedicated to the Person of the incarnate Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ)! Indefinitely, we will provide "Purple Pulpit" teachings in written form each Lord's Day. We will be dealing with deeper subjects relative to the Deity, humanity, and incarnation of our glorious Lord Jesus Christ.