

**PROPHETIC PALETTE**  
**The Colors of the Tabernacle**  
**Doctoral Thesis**

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## **PROPHETIC PALETTE**

### **The Colors of the Tabernacle**

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**Palette** (pal'it) *n.* **2** the colors used by a particular artist or for a particular painting.<sup>1</sup>

### **INTRODUCTION**

I had a revelation after going to two storefront churches one Sunday. Both churches had women pastors. They were the two most beautiful churches I had ever seen. One church had sky blue walls, a window in the shape of a cross that stretched from the floor to the ceiling. The sanctuary was lit with gothic chandeliers and ornate alter furniture for the clergy. The second church had fluffy purple carpet, marigold yellow walls, purple batik veils, and pictures of angels everywhere. The decorative atmosphere these women had created in their churches was ministry in itself. I immediately went home and began to redecorate my apartment. I wanted my home to be a sanctuary.

I framed scriptures and put them on my walls and made other minor adjustments. People began to comment that they felt comfortable and at peace in my home. I had blue tiled floors. Most of my furniture was black, but I used red as an accent color, initially to represent the Blood of Jesus.

I studied fine art in college and learned color theory. Color is powerful and using certain colors creates certain atmospheres. I wanted to know what colors would create a Holy Ghost filled atmosphere. I thought about the colors of the tabernacle in the center of the ancient Israelite campsite in the wilderness. The tabernacle was the Israelite's place of worship, the place where the presence of the Lord resided in their midst. God Himself

designed the tabernacle and gave the blueprint to their leader Moses. God was very specific about the measurements, materials and the color scheme. Exodus 25:1-8:

The Lord said to Moses, “Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from each man whose heart prompts him to give. These are the offerings you are to receive from them: **gold, silver and bronze; blue, purple and scarlet** yarn and **fine linen [white]**; goat hair; ram skins dyed red and hides of sea cows; acacia wood; olive oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense; and onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastpiece. Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you. (NIV)

Everything part of the tabernacle, had the same color scheme.

**The tent cloth:** Exodus 26: 1 “Make the tabernacle with ten curtains of finely twisted **linen [white]** and **blue, purple and scarlet** yarn, with cherubim worked into them by a skilled craftsman.”

**The veil to the Most Holy Place:** Exodus 26:31 “Make a curtain of **blue, purple and scarlet** yarn and finely twisted linen, with cherubim worked into it by a skilled craftsman”

#### **The Priestly Garb:**

Exodus 28:3-8 Tell all the skilled men to whom I have given wisdom in such matters that they are to make garments for Aaron, for his consecration, so he may serve me as priest. These are the garments they are to make: a breastpiece, an ephod, a robe, a woven tunic, a turban and a sash. They are to make the sacred garments for your brother Aaron and his sons, so they may serve me as priests. Have them use **gold**, and **blue, purple and scarlet** yarn, and fine **linen [white]**.

**Because God was so specific about the colors of the Tabernacle where He was to dwell, there is a prophetic anointing in this color scheme and when used in**

**decorating, art or any creative endeavor, these colors will produce a spirit-filled atmosphere.**

### **THE DEVIL'S HAND IN DECORATING**

How we decorate our environment indicatives what kind of spirit we entertain in our living space. Everything that surrounds us in the earth realm is only a manifestation of the unseen spirit realm. Sadly, the devil has made his way into the homes of millions of people through interior decorating. God warns us not to bring any abomination into our household dwellings. Deuteronomy 7: 26 "Neither shall you bring an abomination (an idol) into your house, lest you become an accursed thing like it; but you shall utterly detest and abhor it, for it is an accursed thing." **(KJV)**

The scripture above clearly warns us to be careful what we bring into our homes especially idols such as Buddha figurines, Native American dream-catchers, voodoo dolls and tribal witchcraft masks. Those who fear the Lord do make a conscious effort to avoid such things. However, the bible states in Genesis 3: 1. Now the serpent [devil Revelations 12:9] was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. **(KJV)**

The devil has become so subtle in his approach that most of us live in homes that are filled with abominations and we don't even know it. We just suffer through demonic attacks twenty four hours around the clock. The prophet Hosea said that God's people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6). Unfortunately, many people have met terrible destruction that could have been avoided by spiritual housecleaning and redecorating. In her book, *The Shifting Shadows of Supernatural Power*, Julia Lauren tells the story of a normal, happy family of six who moved into a house in a wealthy

neighborhood. Left in the attic was a collection of Theosophical Society booklets. These booklets alone became a portal for evil and ruined the lives of the children in that home:

Two brothers and two sisters: Two chose God who is light and love. Two bound themselves to the dark lord on his dark throne. Karl and Rick have not found total release from the oppressive spirits of the occult. Although they have backed away from overt evil, evil still controls their lives. They are shells of the men they could have become. Their minds, souls, and spirits are whispers of what they had once been. Now well into their 40s, their prognosis for recovery, even with extensive deliverance and psychotherapy, is not good. They have gone too far. Yet they may, one day, turn toward the Father of Light and receive a measure of joy and peace and love that they have never known and the quality of their lives will increase dramatically and eternally.

The shifting shadows of their childhood house by the sea brought all four of them into contact with great evil power and devious spiritual experiences. Had they only known that a little dabbling in the occult – reading about spiritualism, taking mind-expanding drugs, contacting mediums and tarot cards, flirting with the devil, playing with white magic and casting spells, attempting astral travel, and willingly praying for spirit guides to come in and take them on spiritual adventures- would lead to oppression in every area of their lives, I doubt they would have chosen that path.<sup>2</sup>

This tragic story clearly illustrates why God warns us in Deuteronomy 7:26 not to bring any abomination into our homes. Had their parents done a better job cleaning their home before they moved in, this could have been avoided.

Sometimes people clean their homes of obvious abominations only to replace them with things more subtle and diabolical because of a lack of knowledge. The following is from the [www.demonbuster.com](http://www.demonbuster.com) archives.

**You do not have to worship any item for it to be idolatry. Just having these things in your home give demons legal right to be in your home...**

In a little booklet by Mitsi Burton called  
IDOLS AND IMAGES (The Second Commandment)

"You would do well to read the old classic, THE TWO BABYLONS by HISLOP. On page 102, is a picture of a saucy

little GOOSE. There is an ornament around his neck and a little cupid is riding it. Hislop identifies it, not only as a Babylonian god, but also as the Egyptian Seb and the Indian brahmany goose. Today these attractive little ceramic geese are sold for home decorations. They are everywhere, on cookie jars, kitchen towels, etc." -- usually with a blue ribbon around the neck.<sup>3</sup>

Most people wouldn't think twice about buying a cookie jar with a cute goose with a blue ribbon around its neck. The devil has made his way into the very fabric of interior decorating, and the result of this infiltration is just as destructive as overt idolatry.

When we decorate or create, we must remain biblically correct. The problem is, most people don't understand biblical colors and patterns and therefore are limited to merely putting a cross on the wall. Moses could not have come up with the blueprint for the tabernacle without instructions from God.

### **A REFLECTION OF THE THRONE**

So far, it seems simple. Just decorate with white, blue, purple and scarlet, put a few cherubim the wall and avoid anything that might be an abomination. But what's to be gained from this if we don't have understanding?

The inner most part of the tabernacle is called The Most Holy Place. This is where the presence of the Lord was to dwell. It was a type of throne room. Only the priests were allowed in The Most Holy Place. When the Spirit of the Lord came down from heaven to rest in The Most Holy Place, He was behind a multicolored veil of blue, purple and scarlet:

Exodus 26:31-33. Make a curtain of **blue, purple and scarlet** yarn and finely twisted **linen [white]**, with cherubim worked into it by a skilled craftsman. Hang it with gold hooks on four posts of acacia wood overlaid with gold and standing on four silver bases. Hang the curtain from the clasps and place the ark of the Testimony

behind the curtain. The curtain will separate the Holy Place from The Most Holy Place. (NIV)

Psalms 11:4 says that the Lord's throne is in heaven. The tabernacle was built so the Lord could dwell among His people here on earth. When Jesus gave us the Lord's Prayer, He told us to pray, Luke 11:2 "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth". (KJV) Earth was to be a colony of heaven and this was the situation until the fall of man in the Garden of Eden. Dr. Myles Monroe wrote in his book, *Rediscovering the Kingdom*:

Therefore, the foundation for appreciating God's creative motivation is to understand that His intent was to share His governing authority with His spirit children by extending His invisible heavenly Kingdom to a visible earthly realm for the purpose of colonizing that domain to be like heaven. Genesis 1:1 says, "*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth*" (the physical universe). God ruled as King over a spacious and spectacular spiritual realm that He had already created. It was a world filled with angels who were there to serve Him and worship Him.<sup>4</sup>

Therefore the tabernacle was a reflection of God's throne in heavenly realm. These colors, blue, purple, and scarlet, are colors in God's throne.

### **THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE COLORS**

We know there are angels and cherubim in God's throne. The prophet Ezekiel and John the Revelator both had visions of the throne. Both of these prophets saw four distinct spirits. Ezekiel describes the four spirits: Ezekiel 1:10. "Their faces looked like this: Each of the four had the face of a man, and on the right side each had the face of a lion, and on the left the face of an ox; each also had the face of an eagle". (NIV)

John the Revelator, describes the spirits he saw in Revelations 4:6-7 "...In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in

front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle”.

I mention these four spirits because they are important in understanding the significance of the colors of the tabernacle. In the New American Bible for Catholics, Exodus 26:36 says, “For the entrance of the tent make a **variegated** curtain of **violet, purple and scarlet** yarn and of fine linen twined. The footnote at the bottom the page says **this**; Variegated: without definite designs such as the cherubim on the inner wall.

Webster’s New World Dictionary defines variegated as **1.** marked with different colors in spots, etc.; parti-colored **2.** having variety in character, form, etc.; varied; diversified. <sup>1</sup>

The tabernacle is a reflection of the throne, but the four spirits Ezekiel and John both saw are not mentioned in the design. However, Dr. Juanita Bynum believes these spirits were woven into the variegated parts of the design. In her book, *The Threshing Floor*, she writes:

“The curtain had four, not five, threads that were woven together into an ornate pattern or cherubim, as well as the figures of the lion, eagle, and the ox, which could be seen on either side of the fabric.”

She believes that each one of these animal spirits corresponds to the colors of the tabernacle:

The image of the *lion* corresponds to purple in the workings of Christ. It speaks of *the righteousness that has been imputed to you as part of the royal priesthood*. The lion reminds you of your royal lineage and lets you know that you are now operating in the authority that transformed you in the outer court. Because of this, you can come boldly to the throne of grace.

The *eagle* corresponds with blue. It reminds you that God enables your spirit to touch Him in the heavenly realm. Blue

speaks of *operating in the supernatural*. When you see the eagle, you are assured that God will mount you up on His wings and show you mysteries of heaven so that you can bring His kingdom to the earthly realm.

The image of the ox (bull) corresponds to red. Bullocks were sacrificed for the sins of the high priest or the nation. This image represents that you are to remain broken before the Lord so that you can receive and carry His intercessory burdens for the church.<sup>5</sup>

This illustrates that there was prophetic significance to each color in the tabernacle palette in relation to the spirits in God's throne in heaven.

### **TABERNACLE COLORS IN THE FIRST HEAVEN**

***Isaiah 66: 1-2 "This is what the Lord says: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be? Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?" declares the Lord." (NIV)***

One time, I found myself caught up in the spirit as I observed the sun setting in the first heaven. The glory of God was spread across the sky. Psalms 19:1 says, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." (NIV) The sunset clouds were spread across the sky like an ethereal tapestry. I saw the colors of the tabernacle. The sky was shades of blue and there were purple and white clouds. The purple clouds turned a scarlet red over the golden sunset on the westward horizon. Jesus said to the Pharisees and the Sadducees, in Matthew 16:2... When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red"...Hallelujah!

The colors of the tabernacle can be seen in the skies usually in the evenings, thus the tabernacle is truly a reflection of heaven. When I'm outdoors and these four colors are present, it's an opportunity for me to hear prophetically from heaven because the glory of

God is hovering above the first heaven just as He dwelt behind the four colored veil in The Most Holy Place. This is the perfect time to listen for the Lord because in Genesis 3:8 says “And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden [on earth] *in the cool of the day:*”(KJV)

### DECORATING WITH THE TABERNACLE COLORS

When God gave Moses instructions for the Tabernacle, He also gave him a recipe for holy anointing oil. However, we are forbidden to use this oil for personal use.

Exodus 30: 32. This is to be my sacred anointing oil for the generations to come. Do not pour it on men’s bodies and do not make any oil with the same formula. It is sacred, and you are to consider it sacred. Whoever makes perfume like it and whoever puts in on anyone other than a priest must be cut off from his people. (NIV)

Unlike with the oil, there are no restrictions on using the tabernacle colors for personal decoration. It’s my theory that whenever these colors are used, they will create an anointed, prophetic atmosphere. The following is about a woman who made a stained glass Bible Wheel and used the tabernacle colors for the finishing touch.

“When Rose was designing these pieces, the only difficulty was the choice of colors. She made many drawings with all sorts of variations, but none seemed correct. Then she fell upon God’s instructions for the priest’s “holy garments” and had a strong witness in her spirit that these also were the proper colors for the Wheel.

And thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother *for glory and for beauty*. And thou shalt speak unto all that are wise hearted, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron’s garments to consecrate him, that he may minister unto me in the priest’s office. ...And they shall make the ephod of *gold*, of *blue*, and of *purple* and *scarlet*. Exodus 28:2ff

It was not until about a year after she completed these works that we realized that it was not merely the colors, but their placement,

that seemed so appropriate. The “heavenly” purples, like the evening sky, are at the top and the “earthly” reds are (in Hebrew, “adamah” means both “earth” and “red”) are on the bottom. Neither Rose nor I noticed this when she was making them; in all ways we are utterly indebted to the incomparable grace of God’s guidance. Neither of us feels that any of this really has anything to do with us personally. It is all the work of God. The one thing to remember when looking at these stained glass images is that they are artistic expressions of the innate structure of the Holy Bible. This is the overwhelming wonder of it all – the structure of Scripture unites with its content to reveal it all as a majestic Work of Divine Art that now looks like the **prophetic prototype** of the art God’s people have been producing throughout the last two millennia.<sup>6</sup>

This testimony is more edifying than the story of the children who lived in the house by the sea. The anointing is unlimited when we use the bible as the inspiration to decorate and beautify our surroundings.

We know that the presence of the Lord dwelt in the tabernacle and the color scheme reflects His throne in heaven. But what kind of atmosphere would these colors generate in a different setting?

When the Israelites settled into the land of Canaan, they no longer needed a portable tabernacle. It was time to build The Most High a temple and this assignment was given to King Solomon. When Solomon made plans for the temple, he stayed within the tabernacle color scheme. 2 Chronicles 2:1-7:

Solomon gave orders to build a temple for the Name of the Lord and a royal palace for himself. He conscripted seventy thousand men as carriers and eighty thousand as stonecutters in the hills and thirty-six hundred as foreman over them. Solomon sent this message to Hiram king of Tyre: “Send me cedar logs as you did for my father David when you sent him cedar to build a palace to live in. Now I am about to build a temple for the Name of the Lord my God and to dedicate it to him for burning fragrant incense before him, for setting out the consecrated bread regularly and for making burnt offerings every morning and evening and on the Sabbaths and New Moons and at the appointed feasts of the Lord

our God. This is a lasting ordinance for Israel. The temple I am going to build will be great, because our God is greater than all other gods. But who is able to build a temple for him since the heavens, even the highest heavens cannot contain him? Who then am I to build a temple for him, except as a place to burn sacrifices before him? Send me, therefore, a man skilled to work in **gold** and **silver, bronze** and iron, and in **purple, crimson** and **blue** yarn, and experienced in the art of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem with my skilled craftsmen, whom my father David provided. (NIV)

There is one variation in the color scheme. There's been a change from scarlet from crimson. Both colors are shades of red. Scarlet is a bright red with a tinge of orange while crimson is a deeper shade of red with a tinge of purple. Who knows if there is a significant difference between the reds? However Isaiah 1:18 uses both shades of red interchangeably to mean the same thing and therefore it can be assumed that King Solomon meant the same thing as well. "Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord. Though your sins are like **scarlet**, they shall be white as snow; though they are **red as crimson**, they shall be like wool." (NIV)

Despite the variation in the red hues, the palette remains the same. It can be argued that the temple was to serve the same purpose as the tabernacle so that it was common sense to keep the color scheme the same. But more than mere common sense, the palette, for the temple, remained the same because King Solomon wanted to ensure that the glory of God showed up. At the dedication ceremony there was an awesome display of the glory of the Lord.

1 Kings 8: 10 "When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the Lord. And the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud for the glory of the Lord filled his temple". (NIV)

This scripture proves that the color scheme given by God to Moses, the tabernacle palette, will create a glorious, Spirit-filled atmosphere.

King Solomon didn't receive specific instructions from God for building the temple as did Moses for the tabernacle. He already had knowledge about color theory and interior design because 1 Kings 4:29-31 says "God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore. Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the men of the East, and greater than all the men of the West, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt. He was wiser than any other man..."(NIV) King Solomon was strategic in choosing the colors for the temple because he knew the prophetic significance of those colors. He knew that color scheme would generate a glorified atmosphere.

### CONCLUSION

It's concluded that the decorative elements in our living space can be diabolical or edifying. To create an edifying atmosphere, remain biblically correct. The decorative colors of the tabernacle prophetically reflect God's throne in heaven. Those same colors are manifested in the first heaven, the sky and clouds we see above us. This color scheme is prophetic in that when is used in a decorative setting will created a Spirit-filled atmosphere just as was illustrated in the temple King Solomon built for the Lord.

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