

Exodus 26:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt couple five curtains by themselves, and six curtains by themselves, and shalt double the sixth curtain in the forefront of the tabernacle.

Analysis

Five goats' hair curtains coupled together and six curtains coupled separately, with the sixth curtain doubled at the tent's front. This creates a flap or 'portico' that could be raised for entry. The asymmetrical arrangement (5 + 6 instead of matching 5 + 5) shows functional design—there must be an entrance. Christ declares, 'I am the door' (John 10:9)—access to God requires His provision, not human ingenuity.

Historical Context

The doubled sixth curtain at the tent's entrance created a flexible doorway, allowing priests to enter while maintaining the structure's integrity. This design combined accessibility with protection, keeping out wind and sand while permitting authorized entry.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Why must there be a God-provided 'entrance' rather than human-chosen access points?
2. How does Christ as 'the door' combine accessibility (anyone may enter) with exclusivity (only through Him)?

Interlinear Text

וְחִבַּרְתָּ	וְאֵת	לָבַד	הַזִּירְעָה	חֲמִשָּׁה	אֵת
And thou shalt couple			curtain	five	
H2266			H3407	H2568	H853
שֵׁשׁ	שֵׁשׁ	לָבַד	הַזִּירְעָה	וְכַפַּלְתָּ	אֵת
by themselves and six			curtain	by themselves and shalt double	
H8337			H3407	H3717	H853
הַזִּירְעָה	הַשֵּׁשִׁית	אֶל	מִוֶּלֶד	פְּנֵי	הָאֹהֶל:
curtain	the sixth		in the forefront		of the tabernacle
H3407	H8345	H413	H4136	H6440	H168