

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

וְאַתָּה לְבָבְךָ כִּירְאֵשׁ הַסְמֵן שׁ אַתָּה וְחִבְרָתָךְ	H853	five	curtain	H905	H853
And thou shalt couple	H2266				
by themselves and six	H8337	curtain	H905	by themselves and shalt double	H853
	H3407			H3717	
curtain	H3407	the sixth	H413	in the forefront	H6440
מִלְּאָלָּה		פָּנִים		כְּאֹבֶל	
curtain	H3407	the sixth	H8345	in the forefront	H4136
אֶל		מִלְּאָלָּה		פָּנִים	
וְאַתָּה יְתַהַרְאֵשׁ כִּירְאֵשׁ הַסְמֵן		וְאַתָּה לְבָבְךָ כִּירְאֵשׁ הַסְמֵן שׁ אַתָּה וְחִבְרָתָךְ			

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