

Exodus 33:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses took the tabernacle, and pitched it without the camp, afar off from the camp, and called it the Tabernacle of the congregation. And it came to pass, that every one which sought the LORD went out unto the tabernacle of the congregation, which was without the camp.

Analysis

And Moses took the tabernacle, and pitched it without the camp, afar off— This is the 'tent of meeting' (תְּעִירָה לְמִזְבֵּחַ, ohel mo'ed), distinct from the later tabernacle (mishkan) not yet constructed. Moses establishes it outside the camp, symbolizing God's separation from sinful Israel. The distance emphasizes estrangement. Yet God still meets with those who seek Him—anyone could go out to the tent, showing that access remains through mediation. This temporary arrangement prefigures Christ outside the camp (Hebrews 13:11-13).

Historical Context

This tent of meeting preceded the elaborate tabernacle constructed in chapters 35-40. It served as a temporary meeting place during the crisis period after the golden calf incident and before reconciliation was fully established.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does this physical separation illustrate the spiritual reality of sin's effect on fellowship with God?
2. In what ways does Moses' tent of meeting point forward to Christ, who bore our separation outside the camp?

Interlinear Text

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 59:2 (Parallel theme): But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

Proverbs 15:29 (References Lord): The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.

Deuteronomy 4:29 (References Lord): But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.

2 Samuel 21:1 (References Lord): Then there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year; and David enquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, It is for Saul, and for his bloody house, because he slew the Gibeonites.

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