

Exodus 35:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses gathered all the congregation of the children of Israel together, and said unto them, These are the words which the LORD hath commanded, that ye should do them.

Analysis

Moses assembles the entire congregation before beginning tabernacle construction, emphasizing that sacred work requires communal participation. The phrase 'these are the words which the LORD hath commanded' (אֵלֶּה הַדְּבָרִים, *eleh ha-devarim*) mirrors the introduction to the Ten Commandments (20:1), signaling the gravity of what follows. This gathering precedes construction to ensure all Israel understands the divine blueprint and participates with willing hearts.

Historical Context

Spoken after Moses' second forty-day meeting with God (34:28-35), this assembly marks the transition from receiving instructions (chs 25-31) to implementing them. The entire camp gathers at the base of Sinai to hear God's commands communally.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does gathering the entire community before beginning sacred work demonstrate the importance of shared understanding and commitment?
2. In what ways does Moses' role as mediator of God's commands prefigure Christ's role as the ultimate mediator?

Interlinear Text

וָקָה ל	מֹשֶׁה	אֶת	כָּל	עַד ת	בְּנֵי י	יִשְׂרָאֵל ל
gathered	And Moses	H853	H3605	all the congregation	of the children	of Israel
H6950	H4872			H5712	H1121	H3478
וַיֹּאמֶר	אֵלָהֶם	אֵלָהֶם	הַדְּבָרִים	אֲשֶׁר		
and said	H413	H428	unto them These are the words	H834		
H559			H1697			
צִוָּה	יְהוָה	לַעֲשׂוֹת	אַתֶּם:			
hath commanded	which the LORD	that ye should do	H853			
H6680	H3068	H6213				

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 34:32 (Word): And afterward all the children of Israel came nigh: and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him in mount Sinai.