

Exodus 35:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The ark, and the staves thereof, with the mercy seat, and the vail of the covering,

Analysis

The tabernacle itself (מִשְׁכָּן, ha-mishkan, 'dwelling place') heads the construction list, emphasizing God's primary purpose: dwelling with His people (25:8). The tent (אֹהֶל, ohel) and covering (מִיֻּהָה, mikhsehu) distinguish the inner dwelling from outer protective layers. This structure—sacred space surrounded by successive coverings—illustrates degrees of holiness and progressive revelation, ultimately fulfilled when God tabernacles among us in Christ (John 1:14, σκηνοῶ, skenoo, 'to tabernacle').

Historical Context

The mishkan was a portable sanctuary designed for a nomadic people, measuring 30 cubits long by 10 cubits wide by 10 cubits high (approximately 45' × 15' × 15'). Unlike permanent temples, it could be assembled, disassembled, and transported throughout wilderness wanderings.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the portable nature of the tabernacle reflect Israel's pilgrim status and God's accompaniment through their journey?
2. In what ways does the tabernacle's progressive layers of holiness prepare us to understand Christ as the ultimate meeting place between God and humanity?

Interlinear Text

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|---------------------|------------------------|-------|-----------------------|------|------------------------------------|-------|
| אֶת | הָאֹרֶן | וְאֶת | בַּדֵּי יוֹ | אֶת | הַכִּפֹּרֶת | וְאֶת |
| H853 | The ark | H853 | and the staves | H853 | thereof with the mercy seat | H853 |
| | H727 | | H905 | | H3727 | |
| | | | | | | |
| וְכִתְּ | הַמָּסָךְ: | | | | | |
| and the vail | of the covering | | | | | |
| H6532 | H4539 | | | | | |