

Exodus 35:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses spake unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, This is the thing which the LORD commanded, saying,

Analysis

Moses transitions from Sabbath law to the freewill offering (תְּרוּמָה, terumah), setting the pattern for all tabernacle construction: willing hearts, not coercion. The phrase 'this is the thing which the LORD commanded' introduces not a demand but an invitation. God's dwelling among His people will be built entirely through voluntary offerings, demonstrating that true worship springs from desire, not duty alone.

Historical Context

This marked a radical departure from ancient temple construction, which typically relied on forced labor and mandatory taxation. Israel's tabernacle would be built through joyful generosity, reflecting covenant relationship rather than mere religious obligation.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Why does God choose voluntary offerings rather than mandatory contributions for building His dwelling?
2. How does the principle of freewill giving in tabernacle construction inform New Testament teaching on generous, cheerful giving?

Interlinear Text

לֹאמֶר:	מַשְׁהַ	אֶל	כָּל	עַד	תְּ	בָּנִי
saying	And Moses	H413	H3605	unto all the congregation	of the children	
H559	H4872			H5712		H1121
לֹאמֶר:	מַשְׁהַ	אֶל	כָּל	פִּתְבְּחַ	אֲשֶׁר	יְהִי הַ
of Israel	saying	H2088	This is the thing	H1697	H834	commanded
H3478	H559				H6680	H3068

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org