

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

בְּנֵי
עַד ת
כָּל אֶל
מֹשֶׁה ה
לֵאמֹר:
saying H559 **And Moses** H4872 H413 H3605 **unto all the congregation** H5712 **of the children** H1121

יְהוָה ה
צִוָּה
אֲשֶׁר
הַדָּבָר
זֶה ה
לֵאמֹר:
יִשְׂרָאֵל ל
of Israel H3478 **saying** H559 H2088 **This is the thing** H1697 H834 **commanded** H6680 **which the LORD** H3068

לֵאמֹר:
saying H559