

Exodus 36:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he coupled five curtains by themselves, and six curtains by themselves.

Analysis

The identical phrase 'one measure was to all the curtains' (מִדָּה אַחַת לְכֹל, middah achat lekhol) appearing again emphasizes consistency even in outer coverings. Whether visible (inner curtains) or hidden (outer coverings), God's standard of excellence remains constant. This teaches that we should work with equal diligence in public ministry and private service, in visible leadership and hidden prayer, because God sees and values all work done according to His pattern.

Historical Context

Maintaining uniform measurements in hand-woven goat-hair curtains required significant skill and attention, as natural fibers could vary in thickness and tension. The craftsmen's ability to produce eleven identical curtains demonstrated Spirit-given competence (35:31).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Why does God require the same standard of excellence for hidden outer coverings as for visible inner curtains?
2. How does consistent quality in both seen and unseen work challenge contemporary ministry that prioritizes visible results?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּחַבֵּר אֶת חָמֵשׁ הַקִּרְיֹעַ לָבַד וְאֶת שֵׁשׁ
And he coupled H853 **five** **curtains** H905 H853 **by themselves and six**
H2266 H2568 H3407 H8337

לָבַד: הַקִּרְיֹעַ ת
curtains H905
H3407