

Exodus 36:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he made boards for the tabernacle; twenty boards for the south side southward:

Analysis

Twenty boards for the south side (פֶּאֶת־נֶגְבָּה תֵּימָנָה, pe'at-negbah teimanah, 'corner of the south, southward') begin the framework, with specific attention to orientation and placement. The south side, facing the desert's heat, required the same careful construction as other sides—teaching that all parts of God's house deserve equal attention regardless of external conditions or visibility. No shortcuts are permitted in constructing God's dwelling; every side must be equally well-built.

Historical Context

The south side faced the wilderness of Paran, receiving intense desert sun. Beginning construction with the south side may have been strategic (starting with the most challenging orientation) or simply following the systematic pattern for describing the structure.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does the equal attention to all sides of the tabernacle (including the south facing harsh sun) teach about consistency in building God's house?
2. How does the systematic description of construction demonstrate God's orderliness and attention to detail?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעַשׂ	אֶת	קִרְיַת יִם	לְמִשְׁכַּן	עֲשָׂרִי יָם	קִרְיַת יִם
And he made	H853	boards	for the tabernacle	twenty	boards
H6213		H7175	H4908	H6242	H7175
לְפָאֵת	נֶגֶב	תִּימָנָה:			
side	for the south	southward			
H6285	H5045	H8486			

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