

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 (פָּאָת־נֶגְבָּה תַּימְנָה, 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

וְיָשַׁבְתָּ	יְמִינְךָ	לְמִינְךָ	וְעַשְׂתָּ	אֶת	קָרְבָּנֶת	יְמִינְךָ	לְמִינְךָ	וְעַשְׂתָּ	יְמִינְךָ
And he made	H853	boards		for the tabernacle	H4908	twenty		boards	H7175
H6213		H7175			H4908	H6242		H7175	
תִּמְנָהָה	לְפָאָת	לְגָבָה	לְמִינְךָ						
side		for the south		southward					
H6285		H5045		H8486					

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