

Exodus 36:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And for the sides of the tabernacle westward he made six boards.

Analysis

Six boards form the west side (וְרָאֵתִי הַמִּשְׁקָן, yarketei ha-mishkan, 'the rear/back of the tabernacle'), creating the back wall opposite the entrance. The tabernacle's orientation (entrance east, back west) meant worshipers faced west, moving away from the rising sun—a deliberate contrast with pagan sun-worship. Israel's God dwelt in the west, and His people approached Him moving away from sun-worship, demonstrating that true worship rejects created things for the Creator (Romans 1:25).

Historical Context

The western wall, solid and permanent, contrasted with the eastern entrance where curtains allowed access. This orientation positioned the tabernacle so priests facing the ark faced west, with their backs to the sun—explicitly avoiding solar worship common in Egypt and Canaan.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What is the theological significance of the tabernacle's westward orientation, requiring worshipers to turn from the rising sun?
2. How does the contrast between the solid western wall and the accessible eastern entrance illustrate God's holiness and accessibility?

Interlinear Text

וְכָרְשִׁים	שְׁשָׁה	עַשֵּׁה	הַמִּשְׁכָּן	בְּמִזְבֵּחַ	לִרְכַּת	וְ
And for the sides	of the tabernacle	westward	he made	six	boards	

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