

Exodus 36:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The length of one curtain was twenty and eight cubits, and the breadth of one curtain four cubits: the curtains were all of one size.

Analysis

The precise measurements—28 cubits length, 4 cubits width (approximately 42' × 6')—demonstrate that following God's pattern (25:9) requires exact obedience, not approximate compliance. The phrase 'one size for all the curtains' (מִדָּה אַחַת לְכָל־הַיּוֹת, middah achat lekhol-hayeri'ot) emphasizes uniformity and order in God's house. This consistency enables proper joining and structural integrity, illustrating that God's people must follow common standards to work together effectively in building His dwelling—diversity of function within unity of purpose.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern measurements varied by region, but Israel used standardized cubits based on the length from elbow to fingertip (approximately 18 inches). The specific dimensions allowed the ten curtains to join into two sets of five, creating a cohesive ceiling and wall structure.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does the requirement for exact, uniform measurements teach about precision in following God's instructions?
2. How does uniformity of basic elements (curtains) enabling diversity of function (different areas) illustrate unity and diversity in Christ's body?

Interlinear Text

אֶחָת	בְּאַמֶּת	וְעַשְׂרִים	שְׁמֹנֶה	אֶת	בִּירִיעָתָה	אֶת	מִבְּ
The length	curtain	of one	and eight	was twenty	cubits	and the breadth	
H753	H3407	H259	H8083	H6242	H520		H7341
four	cubits	curtain	of one	size	of one		curtain
H702	H520	H3407	H259	H4060	H259		H3407

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