

# Exodus 38:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And for the west side were hangings of fifty cubits, their pillars ten, and their sockets ten; the hooks of the pillars and their fillets of silver.

## Analysis

The west side (פֶּתֶן, pe'at-yam, literally 'seaward side') at fifty cubits (approximately 75 feet) with ten pillars and ten sockets demonstrates proportional design—half the length of north/south sides creates rectangular courtyard. This western wall backed the tabernacle itself, forming solid boundary beyond which was wilderness, teaching that behind God's dwelling is nothing but His sovereign choice to dwell among His people. The west faced away from sunrise (east), away from pagan sun-worship, teaching that God's presence definitively opposes idolatry.

## Historical Context

The western wall backed the tabernacle structure (which faced east), creating enclosed courtyard with entrance on east side. The fifty-cubit width accommodated the tabernacle's dimensions plus working space for priests. This westward orientation meant the Most Holy Place occupied the farthest point from the entrance—requiring progression through degrees of holiness.

## Related Passages

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

1. What does the westward orientation (away from sun-worship) teach about God's opposition to idolatry?
2. How does the progressive distance (entrance to altar to laver to Holy Place to Most Holy Place) illustrate degrees of intimacy in approaching God?

## Interlinear Text

וְلֹפֶת	בְּעַמְדָּה	בְּאַפְתָּה	בְּעַמְדָּה	בְּעַמְדָּה	בְּעַמְדָּה
<b>side</b> H6285	<b>And for the west</b> H3220	<b>were hangings</b> H7050	<b>of fifty</b> H2572	<b>cubits</b> H520	<b>of the pillars</b> H5982
ten	and their sockets	ten	the hooks	ten	and their fillets
H6235	H134	H6235	H2053	H5982	H2838
כֹּסֶף:					
<b>of silver</b>					
H3701					

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