

# 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

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The west side (עַתְּיָם, 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

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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

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

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

## Study Questions

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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

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וּלְפָאֵת	מִן	קִלְעִים	חֲמִשָּׁה יָם	בָּאַמָּה ה	הָעֶמֶד יָם
side	And for the west	were hangings	of fifty	cubits	of the pillars
H6285	H3220	H7050	H2572	H520	H5982
עֶשְׂרֵה ה	וְאֲדָנֶיהָ מ	עֶשְׂרֵה ה	וּ	הָעֶמֶד יָם	וְחִשּׁוֹקֶיהָ מ
ten	and their sockets	ten	the hooks	of the pillars	and their fillets
H6235	H134	H6235	H2053	H5982	H2838
כֶּסֶף:					
of silver					
H3701					

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