

# Exodus 38:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the hanging for the gate of the court was needlework, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen: and twenty cubits was the length, and the height in the breadth was five cubits, answerable to the hangings of the court.

## Analysis

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The courtyard's total dimensions—hundred cubits by fifty cubits (approximately 150' × 75'), enclosed by five-cubit-high hangings (7.5 feet) of fine linen with bronze sockets—creates substantial but not overwhelming boundaries. The relatively low height (five cubits) allows seeing over curtains, teaching that holiness boundaries separate without completely isolating God's dwelling from the world. The visibility of tabernacle top and smoke from sacrifices maintained witness to surrounding peoples while protecting sacred space from intrusion. The size (larger than most ancient temples' courtyards) demonstrates God's generous provision of access space.

## Historical Context

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The 7,500 square-foot courtyard provided ample room for the bronze altar, laver, and worshiper traffic. The five-cubit height protected privacy for sacrificial rituals while allowing tabernacle visibility above curtains. Bronze sockets throughout (versus silver in tabernacle proper) demonstrated the courtyard's intermediate holiness—separated from common space but not equal to tabernacle interior.

## Related Passages

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

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. What does the relatively low curtain height (allowing visibility above) teach about separation without isolation in God's witness?
2. How does the generous courtyard size illustrate God's desire for accessible worship space?

## Interlinear Text

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וְיָמָסָהּ	לְשַׁעַר	הַחֲצֵרָה:	מַעֲשֵׂהָ	רִקְמָה	תָּכָה לָתֵת
And the hanging	for the gate	of the court	H4639	was needlework	of blue
H4539	H8179	H2691		H7551	H8504
וְאֶרְגָּמָהּ	וְתוֹלַעַת	שָׁנִי	וְשֵׁשׁ	מִשְׁזָר	וְעֶשְׂרִים
and purple	H8438	and scarlet	linen	and fine twined	and twenty
H713		H8144	H8336	H7806	H6242
אַמּוֹת	אֶרְבֶּה	וְקוֹמָהּ	בְּרֶחֶב	חֲמִישֶׁה	אַמּוֹת
cubits	was the length	and the height	in the breadth	was five	cubits
H520	H753	H6967	H7341	H2568	H520
לְעֹמֶת	קִלְעֵי	הַחֲצֵרָה:			
answerable	to the hangings	of the court			
H5980	H7050	H2691			