

Exodus 38:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he made the court: on the south side southward the hangings of the court were of fine twined linen, an hundred cubits:

Analysis

The court of the tabernacle (חֲצֵר הַמִּשְׁכָּן, chatzer ha-mishkan) begins with the south side—fine twisted linen hangings (קְלָעִים שֶׁשׁ מִשְׁזָר, kela'im shesh mashzar) of hundred cubits (approximately 150 feet). White linen representing purity and righteousness creates visible boundary between holy space and common area, teaching that God's dwelling requires separation from the world. The extensive length (100 cubits) demonstrates that holiness boundaries are substantial, not token gestures. This enclosure anticipates believers as 'living stones' (1 Peter 2:5) forming walls around God's presence.

Historical Context

The courtyard measured 100 × 50 cubits (approximately 150' × 75'), enclosed by white linen curtains hanging from bronze pillars. This outdoor area contained the bronze altar and laver, while the tabernacle itself stood at the western end. The white curtains visible from outside proclaimed holiness and invited approach through the gate.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does the linen boundary (substantial yet permeable) teach about separation from the world while remaining accessible?
2. How do believers as 'living stones' forming walls around God's presence fulfill the courtyard's function today?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעַשׂ	אֶת	הַחֲצִיר	לְפָאֵ תֵן	נָ גֵב	יָתִימָ נָה	קָלַעַ י
And he made	H853	of the court	side	on the south	southward	the hangings
H6213		H2691	H6285	H5045	H8486	H7050
הַחֲצִיר	שֵׁשׁ	מִשְׁזָר	מֵאָה	בָּאַמָּה:		
of the court	linen	were of fine twined	an hundred	cubits		
H2691	H8336	H7806	H3967	H520		

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