

Exodus 40:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass in the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, that the tabernacle was reared up.

Analysis

The tabernacle's erection 'on the first day of the first month in the second year' marks a new epoch. The specific date (בְּחֹדֶשׁ שְׁנִי הָרִישׁוֹן, yom hachodesh harishon) nearly one year after Sinai (Exodus 19:1) teaches that God's dwelling among His people follows redemption (Passover, first month) and revelation (law giving). The timing demonstrates divine patience—after the golden calf interruption (ch 32), grace restored covenant relationship. This 'first day' inauguration prefigures Christ's resurrection inaugurating the new covenant on 'the first day of the week' (John 20:1).

Historical Context

The date's precision (first day of first month, second year) demonstrates God's sovereignty over redemptive history's timeline. The first month (Abib/Nisan) remained Israel's sacred calendar beginning, commemorating Exodus. The tabernacle's completion within one year showed remarkable diligence despite the golden calf interruption.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does God specifying the exact date for tabernacle erection teach about His sovereignty over history?
2. How does the 'first day' dedication parallel Christ's resurrection inauguration of the new covenant era?

Interlinear Text

בְּשָׁנָה יְהִי לְחֵגֶת יְלִי
H1961 day of the month And it came to pass in the first year
H2320 H7223 H8141 H8145

בְּמָשָׁךְ: בְּאַחֲת הַיּוֹם לְחֵגֶת
on the first day of the month was reared up that the tabernacle
H259 H2320 H6965 H4908

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 7:1 (Temple): And it came to pass on the day that Moses had fully set up the tabernacle, and had anointed it, and sanctified it, and all the instruments thereof, both the altar and all the vessels thereof, and had anointed them, and sanctified them;