

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 (יֹם הַחֹדֶשׁ הָרִאשׁוֹן, 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

Psalms 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

וַיְהִי י'	לַח דָּשׁ	וְהָרָאשׁ וּן	בַּשָּׁנָה ה'	הַשָּׁנָה ית
H1961	day of the month	And it came to pass in the first	year	in the second
	H2320	H7223	H8141	H8145
בְּאֶחָד ד	לַח דָּשׁ	הוּקַם	הַמִּשְׁכָּן:	
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;