

Exodus 40:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses reared up the tabernacle, and fastened his sockets, and set up the boards thereof, and put in the bars thereof, and reared up his pillars.

Analysis

Moses' erection of the tabernacle—'reared up' (וַיַּעֲשֶׂה, vayaqem, caused to stand)—emphasizes human agency under divine direction. Moses personally 'fastened' (נָתַן, natan, gave/set) sockets, 'set up' (מִשֵּׁה, sam, placed) boards, 'put in' (נָתַן, natan) bars, and 'reared up' (הִקִּים, heqim) pillars. The detailed verbs teach that God's work requires human action—divine sovereignty includes human responsibility. Moses' hands-on involvement, despite delegating construction (chs 35-39), models leadership's engagement. Christ 'pitched His tabernacle' among us (John 1:14, ἐσκήνωσεν, tabernacled), divine initiative with human participation.

Historical Context

Moses personally erected the tabernacle, though Bezalel and Oholiab's teams constructed components (chapters 35-39). This hands-on involvement by God's appointed leader ensured exact conformity to the heavenly pattern Moses saw on Sinai (Exodus 25:9, 40). The assembly's success vindicated the artisans' faithful craftsmanship.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does Moses personally erecting the tabernacle despite delegating construction teach balanced leadership engagement?
2. What does divine direction requiring human action reveal about God's ordinary means of working?

Interlinear Text

אָדָן יְהוָה	אָתָה מִשְׁחָה	הַמִּשְׁחָה	וְתַּחֲזֵק	אָתָה וְתַּחֲזֵק	אָתָה מִשְׁחָה	אָתָה מִשְׁחָה
reared up	And Moses	H853	the tabernacle	and fastened	H853	his sockets
H6965	H4872		H4908	H5414		H134
אָתָה מִשְׁחָה	וְתַּחֲזֵק	אָתָה מִשְׁחָה	וְתַּחֲזֵק	אָתָה מִשְׁחָה	וְתַּחֲזֵק	אָתָה מִשְׁחָה
בְּרִיכָה יְהוָה						
and set up	the boards	H853	and fastened	H853	in the bars	reared up
H7760	H7175		H5414		H1280	H6965
עַמּוֹדִים						
his pillars						
H5982						

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