

Exodus 40:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he spread abroad the tent over the tabernacle, and put the covering of the tent above upon it; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Analysis

'He spread abroad the tent over the tabernacle' (וַיַּפְרֹשׁ אֶת-עֲמֹקֶל, vayifros et-ha'ohel)—the coverings protected the tabernacle structure. The layered coverings—linen (beauty), goats' hair (provision), rams' skins (sacrifice), seals' skins (protection)—taught diverse aspects of God's character. The verb פָּרַשׁ (paras, to spread/stretch) indicates complete covering; nothing remained exposed. This prefigures Christ's covering believers with His righteousness (Isaiah 61:10), comprehensive protection. The phrase 'as the LORD commanded Moses' (3rd of 8 times in ch 40) maintains emphasis on exact obedience.

Historical Context

The tent coverings' layered design provided weather protection for the tabernacle structure and symbolized graduated revelation—outer coverings showed durability, inner linings revealed beauty. Desert travelers seeing the drab outer covering wouldn't suspect the glory within, teaching that spiritual reality exceeds visible appearance.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do the layered coverings (beauty inside, durability outside) illustrate the church's nature?
2. What does comprehensive covering (nothing exposed) teach about Christ's complete righteousness clothing believers?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּפְרֵשׂ	אֶת	בְּאַפָּלָה	עַל	הַמִּשְׁכָּן	וְיִשְׁמַח	אֶת	בְּיַשְׁמָן
And he spread abroad	H853	of the tent	H5921	over the tabernacle	and put	H853	
H6566		H168		H4908		H7760	
צִוָּה	כֹּאשֶׁר	מִלְמָדָעָה	עַל	וְ	בְּאַפָּלָה	מִכְסֵה	ה
the covering	of the tent	H5921	above	H834	commanded	H6680	
H4372		H168	H4605				
מֹשֶׁה:							
upon it as the LORD	H853	Moses					
H3068		H4872					

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