

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' (וַיִּפְרֹשׂ אֶת־הָאֹהֶל, 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 פָּרַשׂ (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

וַיִּפְרֹשׂ שׁ	אֶת	הָאֹהֶל	עַל	הַמִּשְׁכָּן	וַיִּשָּׂם	אֶת
And he spread abroad	H853	of the tent	H5921	over the tabernacle	and put	H853
H6566		H168		H4908	H7760	
מִכְסֵּה	הָאֹהֶל	עַל	מִלְּמַעְלָה	בָּאֵשׁ	צִוָּה	
the covering	of the tent	H5921	above	H834	commanded	
H4372	H168		H4605		H6680	
יְהוָה	אֶת	מֹשֶׁה:				
upon it as the LORD	H853	Moses				
H3068		H4872				

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