

Exodus 40:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he reared up the court round about the tabernacle and the altar, and set up the hanging of the court gate. So Moses finished the work.

Analysis

'He reared up the court round about the tabernacle and the altar' (וְקָרַם אֶת-חַטֵּר, vayaqem et-heChatser) establishes sacred boundaries. The courtyard's enclosure separated holy space from common camp, teaching that God's dwelling requires distinction from profanity. The phrase 'set up the hanging of the court gate' completes the boundary, creating one entry point—prefiguring Christ, the exclusive way to the Father (John 14:6). Moses' declaration 'So Moses finished the work' (וַיְכַל מֹשֶׁה אֶת-הַמְּלָאכָה, vayekhal Mosheh et-haMelakhah) echoes creation's completion (Genesis 2:1-2, וַיְכַלוּ, vayekhullu, were finished). Christ's 'It is finished' (John 19:30, Τετέλεσται) completes redemption.

Historical Context

The courtyard's substantial dimensions (150 feet by 75 feet) created sacred space accessible to all Israelites, not just priests. The single gate entrance controlled access, preventing casual or irreverent approach. The completion statement connects tabernacle (creation microcosm) to Genesis creation—both reflect God's ordered purpose.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How do sacred boundaries (courtyard walls) teach the church's call to be separate while remaining accessible?
2. What does 'Moses finished the work' paralleling creation's completion and Christ's 'finished' reveal about redemptive history's stages?

Interlinear Text

למִזְבֵּחַ	למִשְׁכָּנָה	סְבִיב	בְּחֵצֶר	אֶת	לְקַם
and the altar	the tabernacle	round about	of the court	the court	reared up
H4196	H4908	H5439	H2691	H853	H6965
מֵשֶׁה	וַיְכֹל	בְּשֵׁעָר	בְּחֵצֶר	אֶת	לְקַם
So Moses	finished	gate	the hanging	set up	and
H853	H3615	H8179	H4539	H5414	H853
המְלָאָכה	the work				
					H4399

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 40:8 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt set up the court round about, and hang up the hanging at the court gate.