

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' (וַיָּקֶם אֶת־הַחֹצֵר, 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' (וַיַּכֵּל מֹשֶׁה אֶת־הַמְּלָאכָה, vayekhal Mosheh et-haMelakhah) echoes creation's completion (Genesis 2:1-2, וַיַּכְּלוּ, 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

וַיִּקָּם	אֶת	הַחֲצֵר	סָבִיב	לְמִשְׁכָּן	וְלַמִּזְבֵּחַ		
And he reared up	H853	of the court	round about	the tabernacle	and the altar		
H6965		H2691	H5439	H4908	H4196		
וַיִּתֵּן	אֶת	מָסַךְ	שַׁעַר	הַחֲצֵר	וַיֵּכֶל	מֹשֶׁה	אֶת
and set up	H853	the hanging	gate	of the court	finished	So Moses	H853
H5414		H4539	H8179	H2691	H3615	H4872	
הַמְּלָאכָה:							
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.