

Exodus 40:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt set up the court round about, and hang up the hanging at the court gate.

Analysis

The courtyard hangings 'round about' with its gate hanging establish sacred boundaries. The white linen curtains separated holy space from common camp, teaching that God's dwelling requires separation from profanity. The courtyard's enclosure, surrounding tabernacle and altar, defined where sacrifice and worship occurred. This prefigures the church's call to be 'separate' (2 Corinthians 6:17) while existing in the world. The gate—singular entry point—prefigures Christ, the only door to the Father (John 10:9; 14:6).

Historical Context

The courtyard's 150 feet by 75 feet dimensions created substantial sacred space accessible to all Israel (not just priests). The white linen hangings' height (7.5 feet) prevented casual observation of tabernacle activities from outside while allowing smoke from the bronze altar to ascend visibly.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do the courtyard boundaries teach the church's call to be separate yet accessible?
2. What does the single gate entrance teach about Christ's exclusive claim to be the way to God?

Interlinear Text

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|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------|
| וְשִׁתְתַּחַת | אַתָּה | בַּחֲצֹרָה | סְבִיבָה | בְּנֵתֶן | אַתָּה |
| And thou shalt set up | H853 | at the court | round about | and hang up | H853 |
| H7760 | | H2691 | H5439 | H5414 | |
| גַּם־שְׁעֵר | בַּחֲצֹרָה | | | | |
| the hanging gate | at the court | | | | |
| H4539 | H8179 | H2691 | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 40:33 (Parallel theme): 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.

1 Corinthians 12:28 (Parallel theme): And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

Matthew 16:18 (Parallel theme): And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.