

Exodus 25:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt make staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold.

Analysis

Staves (poles) of acacia wood overlaid with gold—like the Ark itself, combining wood (humanity) with gold (divinity). These staves enable the Ark to be transported without direct human contact, maintaining holiness. They prefigure Christ as the mediator: His humanity (wood) makes God accessible, while His divinity (gold) preserves God's holiness. We approach God through Christ, never around Him.

Historical Context

The poles were substantial enough to bear the Ark's weight across desert terrain. Their gold overlay ensured they matched the Ark's glory, teaching that even the means of approach must be consecrated.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Christ serve as the 'stave' by which we approach God's holiness?

2. Why must even our means of approach be 'gold-covered' (made holy through Christ)?

Interlinear Text

וַעֲשֵׂה יָתֶּ	בַּיָּד י	עֵצִי	שִׁטִּים	וְצִפִּיתָ	אֹתָם
And thou shalt make	staves	wood	of shittim	and overlay	H853
H6213	H905	H6086	H7848	H6823	
וְצִפִּיתָ:					
them with gold					
H2091					

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