

Exodus 25:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And in the candlestick shall be four bowls made like unto almonds, with their knops and their flowers.

Analysis

The central shaft contains four bowls, four knops, four flowers—more than the branches (which have three each). The central shaft, bearing the most ornamentation, represents Christ Himself, while the branches represent His people deriving light from Him. The shaft's greater complexity shows Christ's preeminence—He is the source of light; we merely reflect it. 'In Him was life, and the life was the light of men' (John 1:4).

Historical Context

The central shaft stood tallest and bore the middle lamp, with three branches extending from each side. Its four sets of decorations (versus three on each branch) distinguished it as primary, the source from which the branches drew their form and function.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the central shaft's preeminence illustrate Christ's role as the source of light?
2. In what ways do you 'branch from' Christ rather than generate your own light?

Interlinear Text

וְבִתְחַנֵּן הַ	אַרְבָּעָה	גְּבֻעָה	וְשָׁקֵד
And in the candlestick	shall be four	bowls	made like unto almonds
H4501	H702	H1375	H8246
וְכַפְתַּר יְ	כַּפְתַּרְתִּים		
with their knobs	and their flowers		
H3730	H6525		

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