

Exodus 26:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt make a covering for the tent of rams' skins dyed red, and a covering above of badgers' skins.

Analysis

Two additional coverings: rams' skins dyed red and badgers'/dugongs' skins. The rams' skins dyed red clearly suggest substitutionary sacrifice (rams sacrificed throughout the tabernacle system). Red points to blood atonement. The outer covering of badger/dugong skins—tough, waterproof, and unbeautiful—recalls Isaiah 53:2, 'no beauty that we should desire him.' Christ appeared unremarkable outwardly, His glory hidden, yet provided complete protection.

Historical Context

Ram leather, tanned and dyed red, was strong and water-resistant. The outermost covering of dugong (or possibly badger) skin was extremely durable marine mammal hide from the Red Sea, providing maximum weather protection for the tabernacle interior.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do the red rams' skins symbolize Christ's substitutionary sacrifice covering you?
2. Why did God design Christ's outward appearance to be unremarkable (Isaiah 53:2)?

Interlinear Text

וְעָשִׂיתָ יֵת	וּמָכֹסֶה	לְאֵלֵהָ	עֹרֹת	אֵילִם	מְאֻדָּמִים
And thou shalt make	a covering	for the tent	skins	of rams	dyed red
H6213	H4372	H168	H5785	H352	H119
מִלְמַעְלָהּ: תְּחָשִׁים יֵת וּמָכֹסֶה עֹרֹת					
a covering	skins	of badgers	above		
H4372	H5785	H8476	H4605		

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 36:19 (Parallel theme): And he made a covering for the tent of rams' skins dyed red, and a covering of badgers' skins above that.

Exodus 25:5 (Parallel theme): And rams' skins dyed red, and badgers' skins, and shittim wood,