

Exodus 27:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt make staves for the altar, staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with brass.

Analysis

Staves for the altar—acacia wood overlaid with bronze. Again the pattern: wood (humanity) covered with bronze (judgment). The altar must be transportable, following God's people through wilderness wanderings. Sin's consequences travel with fallen humanity; we carry guilt wherever we go. But the altar (atonement provision) also travels with us—God's grace matches our need. The staves prefigure how Christ's atonement has historical particularity yet universal availability.

Historical Context

The Kohathite Levites carried the bronze altar using these staves during Israel's wilderness journeys (Numbers 4:13-14). Though massive and heavy, the altar's mobility ensured sacrificial worship could continue wherever Israel camped—God's provision followed His people.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does the altar's 'mobility' show that God's grace follows you wherever you wander?
2. What does bronze-covered (judgment-bearing) staves teach about approaching atonement?

Interlinear Text

וַעֲשֵׂה יָתֶּ	בַּדֹּ	לְמִזְבֵּחַ	בַּדֹּ	עֵץ י	שֵׁטִים	וַיַּצְפֵּה
And thou shalt make	staves	for the altar	staves	wood	of shittim	and overlay
H6213	H905	H4196	H905	H6086	H7848	H6823
אֹתָם	נְחֹשֶׁת:					
H853	them with brass					
	H5178					

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