

Exodus 27:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the staves shall be put into the rings, and the staves shall be upon the two sides of the altar, to bear it.

Analysis

The staves are inserted through rings on the altar's sides for carrying—maintaining the pattern seen with the ark and table. Holy things must not be touched directly; God provides the prescribed means of transport. The altar, though bronze (judgment) rather than gold (deity), still requires reverent handling. Even judgment's instrument, when consecrated for God's atoning purposes, demands holy approach. We approach the cross with reverence, not presumption.

Historical Context

The rings were attached to opposite sides of the altar, allowing the staves to pass through and distribute weight evenly. This design enabled four Levites (two on each side) to carry the substantial bronze altar during Israel's travels.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Why must even the 'altar of judgment' be approached with holy reverence?
2. How does approaching the cross require both gratitude and solemnity?

Interlinear Text

עַל הַבְּדִים בְּטַבּוּת הַיְמִינִית וְהַיְמִינִית אֲתָה יְבִדֵּן
shall be put H935 And the staves H905 into the rings H2885 And the staves H5921
H905

אֲתָה בְּשֵׂא תְּמִזְבֵּחַ צְלָעַת שְׂתִּים
shall be upon the two sides of the altar to bear H853
H8147 H6763 H4196 H5375

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