

Exodus 35:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And spice, and oil for the light, and for the anointing oil, and for the sweet incense.

Analysis

Animal skins—rams' skins dyed red (עורת אילים מִזְבְּחִים, orot eilim me'addamim) and badgers' skins (עורת תְּחִשִּׁים, orot techashim)—provided durable, protective coverings. Red-dyed rams' skins evoke sacrifice and substitution, while the outer skins' plain appearance concealed inner glory, paralleling Isaiah 53:2's description of the Suffering Servant with 'no beauty that we should desire him.' These humble materials protecting sacred space teach that spiritual realities often hide behind ordinary appearances.

Historical Context

Acquiring and processing animal skins required significant labor: slaughtering, skinning, treating, and dyeing. The red dye for rams' skins added cost and time. The willingness to bring processed skins, not just raw hides, shows dedicated effort.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do the plain outer coverings concealing inner glory illustrate Christ's incarnation and humble appearance?
2. What does the use of animal skins in God's dwelling teach about the necessity of death and covering for approaching God?

Interlinear Text

וְלֹא וְרַם אֶת שְׁם בְּבָבָן	לְמַא וְרַם מִן וְלֹא שְׁמָן
H853 And spice H1314	H853 and oil H8081
and for the anointing	for the light and oil

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