

Exodus 35:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The children of Israel brought a willing offering unto the LORD, every man and woman, whose heart made them willing to bring for all manner of work, which the LORD had commanded to be made by the hand of Moses.

Analysis

Shittim wood (acacia, עץ שיטים, atzei shittim) brought by the people would form the structural framework overlaid with gold—combining human (wood) with divine (gold) in the furnishings. The participatory phrase 'offered an offering' (הביאו תרומה) emphasizes the active presenting of gifts, not passive compliance. Bringing structural materials demonstrates understanding that God's house requires both beauty (precious metals, fine fabrics) and strength (durable wood)—form and function united in holy purpose.

Historical Context

Acacia trees grew in the Sinai wilderness, providing locally available material. However, acquiring sufficient quantity required effort—cutting, transporting, and delivering to the construction site. This accessible yet valuable wood democratized participation.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What spiritual principle is illustrated by the combination of common wood overlaid with precious gold?
2. How does the offering of structural materials alongside precious materials teach that all gifts, regardless of apparent value, are necessary for God's purposes?

Interlinear Text

אַתֶּם לְבָם נָזְבֵּן בְּנֵי אָשָׁר וְאֶשְׁר הַיְלָדָה לְבָם
every man and woman whose made them willing heart H853
H3605 H376 H802 H834 H5068 H3820

לִיהְיוֹה: לְכָל הַמְּלָאָכָה הַבְּיֹתְרָה אֲשֶׁר צָוָה הַבְּנִים
brought for all manner of work whose had commanded unto the LORD H3068
H3605 H4399 H834 H6680 H3068

וְשִׁבְאָה לְבָנֵי בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִשְׁנָה בְּיַד הַבְּנִים יְהוָה
to be made by the hand of Moses brought The children of Israel H3478
H6213 H3027 H4872 H935 H1121 H3478

לִיהְיוֹה: נָזְבֵּן הַבְּנִים
a willing offering unto the LORD H3068
H5071 H3068

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 35:4 (References Lord): And Moses spake unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, This is the thing which the LORD commanded, saying,

2 Corinthians 9:7 (Parallel theme): Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

Isaiah 8:20 (Parallel theme): To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

2 Peter 1:19 (Parallel theme): We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

Exodus 36:3 (Sacrifice): And they received of Moses all the offering, which the children of Israel had brought for the work of the service of the sanctuary, to make it withal. And they brought yet unto him free offerings every morning.

1 Corinthians 3:5 (References Lord): Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?

1 Corinthians 9:17 (Parallel theme): For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me.

1 Chronicles 29:6 (References Israel): Then the chief of the fathers and princes of the tribes of Israel, and the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the rulers of the king's work, offered willingly,

1 Chronicles 29:3 (Parallel theme): Moreover, because I have set my affection to the house of my God, I have of mine own proper good, of gold and silver, which I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house,

1 Chronicles 29:14 (Parallel theme): But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.