

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, עֲצֵי שִׁטִּים, 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' (הֵבִיאוּ תְרוּמָה, hevi'u terumah) 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

כָּל	אֵשׁ	וְאִשָּׁה	אֲשֶׁר	נָדְבָה	לִבָּם	אֹתָם
H3605	every man	and woman	whose	made them willing	heart	H853
	H376	H802	H834	H5068	H3820	
וַיָּבִיאוּ	לְכָל	הַמְּלָאכָה	אֲשֶׁר	צִוָּה	לִיהוָה:	
brought	H3605	for all manner of work	whose	had commanded	unto the LORD	
H935		H4399	H834	H6680	H3068	
לַעֲשׂוֹת	בְּיַד	מֹשֶׁה	וַיָּבִיאוּ	בְּנֵי	יִשְׂרָאֵל	
to be made	by the hand	of Moses	brought	The children	of Israel	
H6213	H3027	H4872	H935	H1121	H3478	
וְנִדְבָה	לִיהוָה:					
a willing offering	unto the LORD					
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.