

Exodus 35:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Take ye from among you an offering unto the LORD: whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the LORD; gold, and silver, and brass,

Analysis

The call for offerings specifically targets those whose heart makes them willing (אֲשֶׁר יִדְבְּרוּ לְבָבוֹ, *asher yidvenu libbo*—'whose heart makes him willing'). The Hebrew emphasizes internal motivation—the heart 'impels' or 'volunteers' the person. This principle establishes that God desires gifts flowing from love, not obligation. The extensive list that follows (gold, silver, bronze, fine linens, oils, spices, stones) represents the best of Egypt's plunder, now consecrated for divine purposes.

Historical Context

The materials requested were precisely those Israel plundered from Egypt (12:35-36), demonstrating how God transforms spoils of deliverance into instruments of worship. These were costly materials requiring genuine sacrifice from the community.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does God's emphasis on willing hearts teach about the nature of acceptable worship and giving?
2. How did Egypt's wealth, given to Israel at the Exodus, find its ultimate purpose in building God's dwelling?

Interlinear Text

לְבָבֶךָ	וְנִזְקַדְמָה	יְהִי	כִּי	לְבָבֶךָ	וְנִזְקַדְמָה
Take	H853	it an offering	of the LORD	whosoever	is of a willing
H3947		H8641	H3068	H3605	H5081
let him bring	H853	it an offering	of the LORD	gold	and silver
H935		H8641	H3068	H2091	H3701
				וְנִחְשַׁתְ	וְנִחְשַׁתְ
				זָהָב	זָהָב
				וְנִזְהָב	וְנִזְהָב

Additional Cross-References

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.

Psalms 110:3 (Parallel theme): Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth.