

Exodus 35:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And rams' skins dyed red, and badgers' skins, and shittim wood,

Analysis

Rams' skins dyed red (עֹרֹת אֵילִם תְּאֲדָמִים, orot eilim me'addamim) and badgers' skins (עֹרֹת תְּחָשִׁים, orot techashim) provided protective coverings. The red-dyed rams' skins evoke substitutionary sacrifice—rams throughout Scripture symbolize sacrificial atonement (Genesis 22, Leviticus 16). The outer covering of badger/dugong skins was plain and protective, concealing the glory within, much as Christ's humanity veiled His divine glory (Isaiah 53:2).

Historical Context

The exact identity of techashim remains debated—possibly dugongs from the Red Sea, or a leather processed to be water-resistant. These durable outer coverings protected the tabernacle during desert wanderings, demonstrating practical design alongside symbolic meaning.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What does the progression from glorious inner materials to plain outer coverings teach about spiritual realities versus external appearances?
2. How does the use of animal skins in the tabernacle point to the necessity of substitutionary sacrifice?

Interlinear Text

שָׁטִיִּים:	וְעֵץ	וְתַחֲשֵׁי יָם	וְעֹרֹת	מְאֻדָּמִים	אֵילִם	וְעֹרֹת
and shittim	wood	and badgers	skins	dyed red	And rams	skins
H7848	H6086	H8476	H5785	H119	H352	H5785

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