

Exodus 35:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And oil for the light, and spices for anointing oil, and for the sweet incense,

Analysis

Acacia wood (shittim wood, אֶצֵי שִׁטִּים, atzei shittim) was the primary structural material, valued for its durability, hardness, and resistance to decay—fitting for furniture representing eternal truths. Though desert-grown and thorny, when overlaid with gold it pictures humanity (wood) united with divinity (gold), foreshadowing the incarnation. Only imperishable materials could represent the eternal covenant.

Historical Context

Acacia trees grew abundantly in the Sinai wilderness, providing accessible building material for the nomadic Israelites. Its extremely dense, hard wood resisted insect damage and warping—essential for furniture that would be assembled, disassembled, and transported repeatedly.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does acacia wood overlaid with gold illustrate the union of humanity and divinity in Christ?
2. What does God's use of locally available materials teach about His accessibility and provision?

Interlinear Text

וְלִקְטָה	הַמִּשְׁחָה	וְלִשָּׁה	וּבְשָׂמִים	לְמָא	וְלִשָּׁה
incense	for anointing	And oil	and spices	for the light	And oil
H7004	H4888	H8081	H1314	H3974	H8081

הַטָּמִים:
and for the sweet
H5561