

Exodus 36:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he made fifty taches of brass to couple the tent together, that it might be one.

Analysis

Fifty clasps of brass (bronze, נְחֹשֶׁת, nechoshet) couple the goat-hair curtains, contrasting with gold clasps for inner curtains (v. 13). Bronze represents judgment and endurance (the bronze altar received sin-offerings), appropriate for outer protection facing harsh elements. The progression from gold within to bronze without teaches that God's dwelling requires both intrinsic glory (gold) and external strength (bronze)—beauty protected by durability, grace upheld by justice.

Historical Context

Bronze (copper-tin alloy) was more durable and weather-resistant than gold, making it practical for clasps exposed to wind and weather. Its use here demonstrates intentional material selection based on function—gold for sacred beauty, bronze for practical protection.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What is the theological significance of using gold clasps within and bronze clasps without?
2. How does the combination of gold (grace/glory) and bronze (judgment/endurance) illustrate the balance of divine attributes?

Interlinear Text

בָּאֵל אַת	לְמַבְרָךְ	נָחַשְׁת קְרָסִים	בְּמַשְׁעָת	וְעָשָׂה		
And he made	taches	of brass	fifty	to couple	H853	the tent
H6213	H7165	H5178	H2572	H2266		H168

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org