

Exodus 36:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he made boards for the tabernacle of shittim wood, standing up.

Analysis

The boards (כֶּרֶשִׁים, kerashim) of shittim wood (acacia) overlaid with gold form the tabernacle's structural frame—humanity (wood) clothed in divinity (gold). Standing upright (עֹמֵדִים, omedim), these boards represent believers standing firm in God's house, rooted in divine strength. The dual nature (wood and gold) prefigures Christ's two natures (human and divine) and believers' identity (earthly origin, heavenly standing)—'you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God' (Colossians 3:3).

Historical Context

Each board was approximately 15 feet tall by 2.25 feet wide (10 cubits × 1.5 cubits), made from acacia wood completely overlaid with gold. These boards, fitted into silver sockets, formed three sides of the rectangular tabernacle structure (back and two sides), with curtains forming the entrance.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do the boards (wood overlaid with gold) standing upright illustrate believers' identity in Christ?
2. What does the transformation of desert-grown acacia into gold-covered boards teach about redemption and sanctification?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעַשׂ	אֶת	הַקִּרְשִׁים	לְמִשְׁכָּן	עֵץ	שִׁטִּים
And he made	H853	boards	for the tabernacle	wood	of shittim
H6213		H7175	H4908	H6086	H7848

עֹמְדִים:
standing up
H5975

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 25:5 (Parallel theme): And rams' skins dyed red, and badgers' skins, and shittim wood,