

# Exodus 36:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he made bars of shittim wood; five for the boards of the one side of the tabernacle,

## Analysis

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Bars of shittim wood (acacia, בְּרִיכִי עֵץ שְׂטִים, berichei atzei shittim) overlaid with gold bound the standing boards together horizontally, creating lateral strength. While boards stood individually on redemption-foundations, bars joined them corporately—illustrating that believers, though each individually redeemed, require mutual connection for stability. The bars represent fellowship, accountability, and shared purpose that bind God's people together. Without lateral support, individual boards could topple; without genuine community, individual believers become vulnerable.

## Historical Context

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Five bars ran horizontally across each side (north, south, west), fitting through rings attached to the boards. This system allowed the entire framework to function as a unified structure while still being disassemblable for transport.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How do the bars binding boards together illustrate the necessity of Christian community and mutual support?
2. What does the combination of individual standing (each board on its foundation) and corporate binding (bars joining boards) teach about personal and communal aspects of faith?

## Interlinear Text

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אֶלָע	לִקְרֵשׁ	וְקָמַשׁ	הַשְׁתִּים	עֵץ	בְּרִית	וְעֵשֶׂת
<b>And he made</b>	<b>bars</b>	<b>wood</b>	<b>of shittim</b>	<b>five</b>	<b>for the boards</b>	<b>side</b>
H6213	H1280	H6086	H7848	H2568	H7175	H6763
<b>of the tabernacle</b>	<b>of the one</b>					
H4908	H259					

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