

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

Bars of shittim wood (acacia, בְּרִיחֵי אֶזְעֵי שִׁטִּים, 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

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

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

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

וַיַּעַשׂ	בָּרִיחַ י	עֵץ י	שֵׁטִים	חֲמִשָּׁה	לְקִרְשֵׁי י	צֶלַע
And he made	bars	wood	of shittim	five	for the boards	side
H6213	H1280	H6086	H7848	H2568	H7175	H6763
הַמִּשְׁכָּה	הָאֶחָד:					
of the tabernacle	of the one					
H4908	H259					

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