

Exodus 36:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he overlaid the boards with gold, and made their rings of gold to be places for the bars, and overlaid the bars with gold.

Analysis

Overlaying the boards with gold (וַאֲתֵּי־הַקֶּרָשִׁים צָפָה זָהָב, ve'et-hakerashim tzippah zahav) transformed humble desert wood into reflections of divine glory. Gold represents divinity, purity, and royalty—covering wood demonstrates how God clothes His people in righteousness not their own. The boards' identity didn't change (still acacia), but their appearance and function transformed through covering with precious metal. Similarly, believers retain humanity while being clothed in Christ's righteousness (Galatians 3:27).

Historical Context

Overlaying involved beating thin sheets of gold to cover the entire surface of each board, a labor-intensive process requiring skilled metalwork. The gold overlay made the interior of the tabernacle radiant, reflecting lamp light and creating a glorious environment.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does overlaying desert wood with gold illustrate justification—being clothed in Christ's righteousness while retaining our humanity?
2. What does the transformation of boards through gold overlay teach about the relationship between our earthly origin and heavenly identity?

Interlinear Text

וְעָשָׂה	טְבַעְתֵּם	וְאֵת	זָהָב:	וַיִּצַּף	הַקִּרְשֵׁי יָם	וְאֵת
H853	H2885	H853	H2091	H6823	H7175	H853
and made	their rings	of gold	And he overlaid	the boards	of gold	the boards
H6213						
וְאֵת	הַבָּרִיחַ מִ	אֵת	וַיִּצַּף	הַבָּרִיחַ מִ	בָּתַיִם יָם	זָהָב:
H853	H1280	H853	H6823	H1280	H1004	H2091
of gold	for the bars	And he overlaid	for the bars	to be places	of gold	of gold

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