

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 (וְאַתְּ פָקַד כָּשִׁים צְפָה 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

וְאֵת	בְּקָרְשׁ	יָמָן	וְאֵת	וְיָצָר	וְאֵת	זָקָבָן	וְאֵת	טְבֻעָתָם	וְאֵת	הַשְׁלָמָה
H853	the boards	And he overlaid	of gold	H853	their rings	and made				
H7175		H6823	H2091	H2885		H6213				
זָקָבָן	פֶּבֶרְיִם	מִן	וְאֵת	וְיָצָר	וְאֵת	זָקָבָן	זָקָבָן	פֶּבֶרְיִם	מִן	זָקָבָן
of gold	to be places	for the bars	And he overlaid	H853	for the bars	of gold	H2091	H1280	H1280	H2091
H2091	H1004	H1280	H6823	H853						

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