

Exodus 37:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Bezaleel made the ark of shittim wood: two cubits and a half was the length of it, and a cubit and a half the breadth of it, and a cubit and a half the height of it:

Analysis

Bezaleel personally constructs the ark (אָרוֹן, aron)—the most sacred object mentioned first, emphasizing proper priorities. The ark represented God's throne, His presence, and His covenant—the foundation of Israel's worship. Beginning with the ark teaches that constructing God's house must start with God Himself, not peripheral elements. The ark contained the law tablets, showing that God's word is central to His dwelling. Christ is our ark—containing divine truth, our mercy seat (Romans 3:25), the meeting place of God and humanity.

Historical Context

Bezaleel's personal construction of the ark (while delegating other tasks) demonstrates the ark's supreme importance. The ark was Israel's most sacred object, representing God's throne on earth. It would eventually rest in the temple's Most Holy Place (1 Kings 8:6-9).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What does beginning tabernacle construction with the ark teach about proper priorities in building God's house?
2. How does the ark, containing God's law and serving as His throne, prefigure Christ as the fulfillment of the law and Lord of all?

Interlinear Text

אָתָּה שְׁתִּים יָמִים בְּאָרֶב נָאָר בְּצַלָּאָל וְיַעֲשֶׂה
made And Bezaleel the ark wood of shittim of it and a cubit
H6213 H1212 H853 H727 H6086 H7848 H520

אָתָּה רְחֵב יָמִים אָרֶב וְיַעֲשֶׂה יְנֵצִים
and a half was the length of it and a cubit and a half the breadth of it and a cubit
H2677 H753 H520 H2677 H7341 H520

יְנֵצִים הַמִּתְוָה
and a half the height
H2677 H6967

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 26:33 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt hang up the vail under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the vail the ark of the testimony: and the vail shall divide unto you between the holy place and the most holy.