

Exodus 37:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he made the candlestick of pure gold: of beaten work made he the candlestick; his shaft, and his branch, his bowls, his knops, and his flowers, were of the same:

Analysis

Bezaleel makes the candlestick (menorah, מְנוֹרָה) of pure gold—beaten work (מִקְשָׁה, mikshah), hammered from one piece (approximately 75 pounds). This unity (one piece, seven branches) represents God as the singular source of light radiating through His people (Israel as seven branches, completeness). Beaten work implies suffering in formation—Christ, the Light of the World (John 8:12), was 'beaten' (Isaiah 53:5) to provide light to all. The menorah's unified construction teaches that genuine illumination flows from singular divine source, not multiple competing lights.

Historical Context

The menorah stood approximately 5 feet tall, weighing about 75 pounds of pure gold—the heaviest single gold item in the tabernacle. It stood in the Holy Place opposite the showbread table, providing the only light in the windowless sanctuary. Priests tended it daily with pure beaten olive oil.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What does the menorah's beaten work (hammered from one piece) teach about Christ's suffering producing light for all?
2. How does the menorah's design (one piece, seven branches) illustrate God as singular light source radiating through His people?

Interlinear Text

מְקֹשֶׁת הַמְּנֻחָה וְזַהֲבָה
And he made **אָתָה** **עַשׂ** הַמְּנֻחָה **בְּמִזְבֵּחַ** **זָהָב**
H853 H4501 H2091 H2889 H4749

גְּבִיעַ יְבָשָׁה וְזַהֲבָה
And he made **אָתָה** **עַשׂ** הַמְּנֻחָה **יְרָכָה** **יְרָכָה** **וְזַהֲבָה** **גְּבִיעַ**
H853 H4501 H3409 H7070 H1375

בְּפִתְּחָה יְבָשָׁה וְפִתְּחָה
his knobs **מְעֻמָּדָה** **וְפִתְּחָה** **יְבָשָׁה** **בְּפִתְּחָה**
H3730 H4480 H1961

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 9:2 (Creation): For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary.

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