

Exodus 37:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And six branches going out of the sides thereof; three branches of the candlestick out of the one side thereof, and three branches of the candlestick out of the other side thereof:

Analysis

Six branches extending from the menorah's sides (שְׁשָׁה קָנִים יְצָאִים מִצְדֵּה) (shishah kanim yots'im mi-tziddeha), three per side, with the central shaft making seven total—the number of completion and perfection. The central shaft represents God/Christ as the primary light source, with six branches representing God's people reflecting His light. This design teaches that believers are not independent light sources but reflectors of the true Light (Matthew 5:14-16)—we shine only as we remain connected to Christ, the vine (John 15:5).

Historical Context

The six branches arched out from the central shaft at regular intervals, likely forming a semi-circular pattern. Each branch held a lamp cup at its end, creating seven lamps total. This seven-fold light symbolized perfect illumination, God's complete witness in the Holy Place.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do the six branches extending from one central shaft illustrate believers deriving light from Christ, not generating their own?
2. What does the number seven (central shaft plus six branches) teach about completeness and perfection in God's witness?

Interlinear Text

וְשֶׁשׁ	הַ	לְ	וְאַ	יְמִ	מִצְבֵּת	וְשֶׁלֶשׁ	הַ	לְ
And six	branches	going out	of the sides	thereof and three	branches	וְשֶׁלֶשׁ	הַ	לְ
H8337	H7070	H3318	H6654	H7969	H7070	וְשֶׁלֶשׁ	הַ	לְ
מִנְבָּר	הַ	מִצְבֵּת	מִצְבֵּת	בְּאַחֲרֵי	וְשֶׁלֶשׁ	הַ	לְ	וְשֶׁלֶשׁ
of the candlestick	of the sides	out of the one	thereof and three	branches	וְשֶׁלֶשׁ	הַ	לְ	וְשֶׁלֶשׁ
H4501	H6654	H259	H7969	H7070	וְשֶׁלֶשׁ	הַ	לְ	וְשֶׁלֶשׁ
מִנְבָּר	הַ	מִצְבֵּת	בְּשַׁנְיִם					
of the candlestick	of the sides	out of the other						
H4501	H6654	H8145						

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