

Exodus 37:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Three bowls made after the fashion of almonds in one branch, a knop and a flower; and three bowls made like almonds in another branch, a knop and a flower: so throughout the six branches going out of the candlestick.

Analysis

Each branch decorated with three bowls shaped like almond blossoms (שְׁלוֹשָׁה גִבְעִים מְשֻׁקָּדִים, sheloshah gevi'im meshukadim), with knops and flowers, demonstrates that light-bearing includes beauty and life. Almond design recalls Aaron's rod that budded (Numbers 17:8), demonstrating divine authentication through resurrection life. The menorah wasn't merely functional (providing light) but beautiful (reflecting life)—teaching that Christian witness should combine illumination (truth) with beauty (grace), light (doctrine) with life (practice). Dead orthodoxy lacks the menorah's living beauty.

Historical Context

Almond trees bloomed early in spring, symbolizing watchfulness and new life. The three decorative elements per branch (bowl, knop, flower) added approximately seven feet of artistic detail to each branch. This extensive ornamentation made the menorah the most artistically elaborate tabernacle item.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does almond blossom decoration (symbol of resurrection life) teach about authentic Christian witness?
2. How does the combination of light and life-symbols challenge witness that emphasizes truth without grace, or doctrine without practice?

Interlinear Text

אֶחָד	הַקֵּנַיִם	מְשֻׁקָּדִים	גִּבְעֵי יָם	וּשְׁלֹשׁ הַ
	branch	made after the fashion of almonds	bowls	Three
	H7070	H8246	H1375	H7969
מְשֻׁקָּדִים	הַקֵּנַיִם	גִּבְעֵי יָם	וּשְׁלֹשׁ הַ	כֶּפֶת ר
	made after the fashion of almonds	bowls	Three	a knop
	H8246	H1375	H7969	H3730
לְשֵׁשׁ שֵׁשׁ	כֶּפֶת ר	וּשְׁלֹשׁ הַ	אֶחָד	הַקֵּנַיִם
	so throughout the six	and a flower	in another	branch
	H8337	H6525	H259	H7070
הַמִּנְכָּה:	מִן	הַיֵּצֵא יָם	הַקֵּנַיִם	
	of the candlestick	going out	branch	
	H4501	H3318	H7070	