

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 (שְׁלֹשָׁה גְּבֻעִים, sheloshah gevi'im meshukadim), with knobs 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, knob, 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

גַּבּוּ	יְמִ	וּשְׁלֵשׁ	הָ	מִשְׁקָד	יְמִ	מִשְׁקָד	יְמִ	בְּקָנִ	יְמִ	אֶת	דָּ
Three H7969	bowls H1375	made after the fashion of almonds		branch H7070	in another						
אַנְפָתָ	רָ	גַּבּוּ	יְמִ	וּשְׁלֵשׁ	הָ	יְפָתָ	רָ	מִשְׁקָד	יְמִ		
a knop H3730	and a flower H6525	Three H7969	bowls H1375	made after the fashion of almonds							
בְּקָנִ	יְמִ	אֶת	דָּ	גַּבּוּ	יְמִ	וּשְׁלֵשׁ	הָ	יְפָתָ	רָ	לְשָׁ	שָׁתָ
branch H7070	in another H259	a knop H3730	and a flower H6525		so throughout the six						
בְּקָנִ	יְמִ	מִ	תִּזְאָ	יְמִ	בְּמִנְחָה:						
branch H7070	going out H3318		H4480	of the candlestick							

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