

Exodus 37:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he overlaid it with pure gold within and without, and made a crown of gold to it round about.

Analysis

The ark's construction—shittim wood overlaid with pure gold within and without (זָהָב טָהוֹר, zahav tahor)—pictures perfect union of humanity (wood) and divinity (gold), with gold both inside and outside. This speaks of Christ's perfect integration of divine and human natures—not merely divine overlaying human, but divine permeating human throughout. The purity of the gold (tahor) emphasizes Christ's sinlessness and the perfection required to contain God's holy presence.

Historical Context

The ark measured approximately 3.75' × 2.25' × 2.25' (2.5 × 1.5 × 1.5 cubits), small enough to be carried on poles by four men but substantial enough to contain the stone tablets. Pure gold inside and out made it extraordinarily valuable—the most expensive tabernacle item.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does the ark's construction (gold within and without overlaying wood) illustrate Christ's divine and human natures?
2. What does the purity of the gold teach about the holiness required to contain and represent God's presence?

Interlinear Text

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org