

Exodus 37:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And in the candlestick were four bowls made like almonds, his knops, and his flowers:

Analysis

The central shaft also decorated with four bowls like almond blossoms (אַרְבָּעָה כְּפִי תְּאֵנִים, arba'ah gevi'im meshukadim), with knops and flowers, demonstrates that the primary light source also displays beauty and life. Four (number representing earth/universality) versus three (on branches) suggests the central shaft's greater completeness or fullness. Christ, the true light, combines perfect illumination with perfect beauty—'altogether lovely' (Song of Solomon 5:16), 'full of grace and truth' (John 1:14).

Historical Context

The central shaft bore more decorative elements (four sets of almond-bowls versus three on branches), emphasizing its primary role. This shaft supported the six branches structurally while also bearing its own lamp at the top, making it both foundation and participant in the seven-fold light.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What does the central shaft bearing more decorative elements (four versus three) teach about Christ's fuller display of divine glory?
2. How does the combination of structural support and light-bearing in the central shaft illustrate Christ's dual role as foundation and illumination?

Interlinear Text

וּבִמְנַחֵה	אַרְבַּע ה	גִּבְעֵי ים	מִשְׁקָלָם ים	כַּפֹּתָיו יָהּ
And in the candlestick	were four	bowls	made like almonds	his knops
H4501	H702	H1375	H8246	H3730
וּפְרָחָיוּ:				
and his flowers				
H6525				

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