

Exodus 37:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And a knop under two branches of the same, and a knop under two branches of the same, and a knop under two branches of the same, according to the six branches going out of it.

Analysis

Knops under two branches (כַּפְתֹּר תַּחַת שְׁנֵי הַקָּנִים, kaphtor tachat shenei hakanim) where they emerge from the central shaft demonstrate the organic connection—branches don't merely attach but grow from knops, suggesting living union. This teaches that genuine Christian witness flows from organic connection to Christ, not mechanical attachment. Believers bear fruit because they're vitally joined to the vine (John 15:5), not because they've been wired to a power source. The three sets of knops (for six branches) emphasize this living connection.

Historical Context

The knops (bulbs or knobs) served as both decorative elements and structural transition points where branches emerged from the central shaft. This design created visual impression of organic growth—branches appearing to sprout from the shaft like living tree limbs, not welded attachments.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does branches growing from knops (organic connection) rather than being attached (mechanical connection) teach about abiding in Christ?
2. How does the living-tree appearance of the menorah challenge mechanical approaches to Christian living and witness?

Interlinear Text

וְכִפְתֹּר רַ	תַּחַת	שְׁנֵי י	הַקֵּנִי ים	מִמֶּנָּה	וְכִפְתֹּר רַ	תַּחַת
And a knop	H8478	under two	branches	H4480	And a knop	H8478
H3730		H8147	H7070		H3730	
שְׁנֵי י	הַקֵּנִי ים	מִמֶּנָּה	וְכִפְתֹּר רַ	תַּחַת	שְׁנֵי י	הַקֵּנִי ים
under two	branches	H4480	And a knop	H8478	under two	branches
H8147	H7070		H3730		H8147	H7070
מִמֶּנָּה	לְשֵׁשׁ שֶׁת	הַקֵּנִי ים	הוֹצֵא ים	מִמֶּנָּה:		
H4480	of the same according to the six	branches	going out	H4480		
	H8337	H7070	H3318			