

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 (קְפֹת שְׁנֵי בְּקָנִים, kaphtar 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

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