

Exodus 37:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he made his seven lamps, and his snuffers, and his snuffdishes, of pure gold.

Analysis

Seven lamps (שִׁבְעָה נֵרוֹתֶיהָ, shiv'ah neroteiha) represent perfect, complete illumination—the number seven symbolizing wholeness and divine completion throughout Scripture. These lamps, filled with pure beaten olive oil and tended daily, provided continuous light in the windowless Holy Place. The seven-fold light prefigures the seven Spirits of God (Revelation 1:4, 4:5), the complete work of the Holy Spirit illuminating God's people. The menorah's light is Christ; the oil is the Spirit; the trimming is daily devotion maintaining witness.

Historical Context

Each lamp was a small oil cup positioned at the end of a branch (six) and atop the central shaft (one), totaling seven. Priests trimmed wicks and replenished oil daily, ensuring continuous burning. The menorah provided the only illumination for priests serving in the Holy Place, making their ministry dependent on maintaining the light.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do the seven lamps illustrate the Holy Spirit's complete, perfect work of illumination in God's people?
2. What does the daily tending required to maintain the light teach about spiritual disciplines necessary for consistent witness?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעַשׂ	אֶת	נֵרוֹת יְהוָה	שִׁבְעָה	וּמִלְקָה יְהוָה	וּמִחֻתָּה יְהוָה
And he made	H853	lamps	his seven	and his snuffers	and his snuffdishes
H6213		H5216	H7651	H4457	H4289

בַּזָּהָב	טָהוֹר:
gold	of pure
H2091	H2889