

Exodus 37:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he overlaid it with pure gold, both the top of it, and the sides thereof round about, and the horns of it: also he made unto it a crown of gold round about.

Analysis

Overlaying the altar with pure gold (זָהָב טָהוֹר, zahav tahor)—its top, sides, and horns—demonstrates that every aspect of prayer must be purified through divine righteousness. The horns (קַרְנוֹתָיו, karnotav) represent power and authority; golden horns teach that effective prayer draws power from God's character, not human eloquence. The crown of gold round about emphasizes that prayer is royal privilege, not beggarly petition—believers approach as children of the King, clothed in Christ's righteousness.

Historical Context

The incense altar measured approximately 1.5' × 1.5' × 3' high (1 × 1 × 2 cubits), smaller in base but taller than the bronze altar. Its horns (projections at four corners) were places where blood was applied on the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16:18), connecting prayer with atonement.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does overlaying all parts of the altar with gold teach about prayer requiring complete purification through divine righteousness?
2. How do golden horns (symbolizing power) illustrate that effective prayer draws authority from God's character, not human ability?

Interlinear Text

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|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|---------------------|-----|
| וַיִּצֹף | אֶת | זָהָב | טָהוֹר | אֶת | גַּגּוֹ | אֶת |
| And he overlaid | | gold | it with pure | | both the top | |
| H6823 | | H2091 | H2889 | | H1406 | |
| לָּו | וַיַּעַשׂ | קַרְנוֹתָיו | אֶת | סָבִיב: | קִירָתוֹ | וּ |
| | of it also he made | and the horns | | round about | of it and the sides | |
| | H6213 | H7161 | | H5439 | H7023 | |
| | | | סָבִיב: | זָהָב | וְ | |
| | | | round about | gold | unto it a crown | |
| | | | H5439 | H2091 | H2213 | |