

Exodus 37:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he cast for it four rings of gold, to be set by the four corners of it; even two rings upon the one side of it, and two rings upon the other side of it.

Analysis

Four rings of gold (אַרְבַּע טַבָּעוֹת זָהָב, arba tabba'ot zahav) in the ark's four corners enable carrying without touching it directly—teaching that God's holiness requires reverential distance. The number four (representing earth's four corners) suggests universal reach of God's covenant. These rings made the ark portable, demonstrating that God's presence accompanies His people through their journeys—He is not confined to one location. The rings picture how Christ is accessible (can be approached) yet holy (must be approached properly).

Historical Context

The four rings (two per side) received poles for carrying. Later, touching the ark directly resulted in death (Uzzah, 2 Samuel 6:6-7), demonstrating the serious holiness it represented. The rings and poles allowed Levites to transport the ark without direct contact.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What do the rings enabling non-direct carrying teach about approaching God's holiness with reverence?
2. How does the ark's portability illustrate God's accompaniment of His people through their journeys?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּצֵק	וְ	אַרְבַּע	טִבְעֹת	זָהָב	עַל	אַרְבַּע	פְּעֻמֹּתָיו
And he cast	H0	for it four	rings	of gold	H5921	for it four	corners
H3332		H702	H2885	H2091		H702	H6471
וּשְׁתֵּי	עַל	טִבְעֹת	צִלְעֹ	הָאֶחָד	וּשְׁתֵּי	טִבְעֹת	
of it and two	rings	H5921	side	upon the one	of it and two	rings	
H8147	H2885		H6763	H259	H8147	H2885	
עַל	צִלְעֹ	הַשְּׂנִית:					
H5921	side	upon the other					
	H6763	H8145					