

Exodus 37:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he made staves of shittim wood, and overlaid them with gold.

Analysis

Staves (poles, מִדְּבָרִים, baddim) of shittim wood overlaid with gold enabled transporting the ark—again combining humanity (wood) with divinity (gold). These staves remained permanently in the rings (1 Kings 8:8), signifying perpetual readiness for God to move. The church must maintain similar readiness—not settling into comfortable institutionalism but remaining available for God's leading. The staves overlaid with gold teach that even means of carrying God's presence must reflect His glory.

Historical Context

The staves were approximately 15 feet long (allowing two men per pole to carry the ark), made from lightweight yet strong acacia and overlaid with gold. They remained permanently inserted, even when the ark rested, symbolizing Israel's pilgrim status.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does the permanent presence of staves in the ark's rings teach about maintaining readiness to follow God's leading?
2. How does overlaying even the carrying poles with gold illustrate that all aspects of God's work deserve excellence?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעַשׂ	בַּדֵּי י	עֵצֵי י	שִׁטִּים ים	וַיַּצֵּר	אֹתָם	זָהָב:
And he made	staves	wood	of shittim	and overlaid	H853	them with gold
H6213	H905	H6086	H7848	H6823		H2091

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org