

# Exodus 37:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he put the staves into the rings by the sides of the ark, to bear the ark.

## Analysis

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The repetition 'to bear the ark' emphasizes the staves' purpose—enabling movement without profaning holiness. Everything about the ark's construction considered both its sacred status and practical necessity of transport. This balance (holiness and function, glory and utility) teaches that genuine worship doesn't choose between transcendence and relevance—God's dwelling must be both holy and accessible, awesome and approachable. Christ perfectly embodies this: infinitely holy yet 'touched with the feeling of our infirmities' (Hebrews 4:15).

## Historical Context

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The Kohathites bore responsibility for carrying the ark during wilderness journeys (Numbers 4:15), using these permanent poles. The cloud of God's presence led them, and they followed, carrying the ark that represented His throne—a powerful image of God's people following His presence.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How does the ark's design (both sacred and transportable) challenge false dichotomies between holiness and accessibility?
2. What does the imagery of Levites carrying God's throne on their shoulders teach about the privilege and responsibility of ministry?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיִּבֶן אֶת הַבַּיִת	אֶת	הַבַּיִת	בַּטָּבַעַת	עַל	צִלְעֵי	הָאֹרֶן:
And he put	H853	the staves	into the rings	H5921	by the sides	of the ark
H935		H905	H2885		H6763	H727
לְשֵׁי אֶת	אֶת	הָאֹרֶן:				
to bear	H853	of the ark				
H5375		H727				

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