

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

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

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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

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

וְאַתָּה	בָּנָה	אֶת	בְּבֶן-יִם	תְּבֻנֵּת	בְּטַבּוּת	עַל	צָלָעָת	בְּאַרְנוֹן	בְּאַרְנוֹן:
And he put	H853	the staves	H905	into the rings	H2885	on	by the sides	H6763	of the ark
	H935								H727
to bear	H853	of the ark	H727						
	H5375								

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