

Exodus 38:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he made all the vessels of the altar, the pots, and the shovels, and the basons, and the fleshhooks, and the firepans: all the vessels thereof made he of brass.

Analysis

Vessels for the altar—pots (סִירֹת, sirot) for ashes, shovels (יְעִימִים, ya'im), basins (מִזְרָקֹת, mizrakot), fleshhooks (מִזְלָגוֹת, mizlagot), and firepans (מַחְתָּתִים, machtot)—all made of bronze, demonstrate that every tool serving judgment must itself bear judgment's metal. These implements handled the results of sin (ashes), moved the sacrifice (fleshhooks), and managed the fire (firepans). Making them bronze rather than gold teaches that ministering to sin and judgment requires different character than ministering in God's holy presence (gold furnishings within).

Historical Context

These five types of vessels served specific functions: pots collected ashes from burned offerings, shovels moved coals, basins caught blood for sprinkling, fleshhooks turned meat on the fire, and firepans carried coals. All were bronze, matching the altar's metal and emphasizing their role in judgment.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does using bronze (judgment metal) for all altar vessels teach about the comprehensive nature of dealing with sin?
2. How does the distinction between bronze (exterior) and gold (interior) vessels illustrate different aspects of ministry?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵת הַסִּירֶת	עַשׂ הַכְּלִי	כָּל יְהוָה	כָּל יְהוָה	בְּמִזְבֵּחַ	אֵת בְּמִזְבֵּחַ	עַשׂ הַכְּלִי	וְאֵת הַכְּלִי
And he made		all the vessels		of the altar		the pots	
H6213	H3605	H3627		H4196		H5518	H853
וְאֵת הַמְלָגֶת	וְאֵת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ	וְאֵת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ	וְאֵת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ	וְאֵת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ	וְאֵת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ	וְאֵת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ	וְאֵת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ
and the shovels		and the basons		and the fleshhooks		and the fleshhooks	
H3257	H853	H4219		H4207		H853	
וְאֵת הַכְּלִי	כָּל יְהוָה	כָּל יְהוָה	כָּל יְהוָה	כָּל יְהוָה	כָּל יְהוָה	כָּל יְהוָה	כָּל יְהוָה
and the firepans		all the vessels		And he made		he of brass	
H4289	H3605	H3627		H6213		H5178	

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 27:3 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt make his pans to receive his ashes, and his shovels, and his basons, and his fleshhooks, and his firepans: all the vessels thereof thou shalt make of brass.

1 Samuel 2:13 (Sacrifice): And the priests' custom with the people was, that when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant came, while the flesh was in seething, with a fleshhook of three teeth in his hand;