

Exodus 38:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

Vessels for the altar—pots (סִירוֹת, sirot) for ashes, shovels (יָעִים, ya'im), basins (מִזְרָקוֹת, mizrakot), fleshhooks (מִזְלָגוֹת, mizlagot), and firepans (מַחְתּוֹת, 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

וַעֲשֶׂה ה	אֶת	כָּל	כָּל	יֹ	הַמִּזְבֵּחַ	אֶת	הַסִּירֹת	אֶת
And he made	H853	H3605	all the vessels	of the altar	H853	the pots	H853	
H6213			H3627	H4196		H5518		
הַעֲשִׂים	אֶת	הַמִּזְבְּקֹת	אֶת	הַמִּזְלָגֹת	אֶת			
and the shovels	H853	and the basons	H853	and the fleshhooks	H853			
H3257		H4219		H4207				
הַמַּחֲתֹת	כָּל	כָּל	יֹ	וַעֲשֶׂה ה	נְחֹשֶׁת:			
and the firepans	H3605	all the vessels	And he made	he of brass				
H4289		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;