

Exodus 38:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he made for the altar a brasen grate of network under the compass thereof beneath unto the midst of it.

Analysis

The grate of network bronze (מִכְבָּר מַאֲסֵה רֶשֶׁת נְחוֹשֶׁת, mikhbar ma'aseh reshet nechoshet) provided structure beneath the altar's compass (כַּרְכֹּב, karkov—'ledge' or 'border'), likely allowing ash removal and airflow for continuous burning. This grating beneath teaches that judgment's fire requires careful engineering—God's wrath against sin isn't chaotic rage but ordered justice. The network design suggests that nothing falls through God's justice; His judgment captures every sin, yet provides means (grating) for dealing with judgment's remains (ashes).

Historical Context

The bronze grating sat approximately halfway up the altar (v. 4), forming a ledge where priests stood to service the offerings. The network design allowed ashes to fall through while supporting the burning sacrifice above. This engineering enabled continuous operation of the altar.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What does the carefully engineered grating teach about God's judgment being ordered justice rather than chaotic wrath?
2. How does the network capturing everything yet allowing ash removal illustrate both thoroughness and provision in divine judgment?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעַשׂ	לְמִזְבֵּי־חַ	מִכְבֵּר	הַמַּעֲשֵׂה	רֶשֶׁת	נְחֹשֶׁת	תַּחַת
And he made	for the altar	grate	H4639	of network	a brasen	H8478
H6213	H4196	H4345		H7568	H5178	
כַּרְכַּב־וְ	מִלְּמַטָּה	עַד	חֲצִיּוֹ:			
under the compass	thereof beneath	H5704	unto the midst			
H3749	H4295		H2677			

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