

Exodus 38:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he made the staves of shittim wood, and overlaid them with brass.

Analysis

Staves of shittim wood overlaid with bronze (not gold) distinguish this furniture from interior pieces. Bronze-overlay for judgment-tools versus gold-overlay for presence-tools teaches that different ministries require appropriate preparation. Those ministering at the bronze altar (bearing others' judgment) need bronze-character (endurance, strength), while those ministering within (priestly worship) need gold-character (glory, purity). Yet both require the same base: shittim wood (humanity)—all ministry, whether dealing with sin or celebrating holiness, requires genuine humanity clothed in appropriate divine character.

Historical Context

The staves were long enough for multiple bearers to carry the heavy bronze altar. Using bronze overlay rather than gold matched the altar's function and metal, maintaining consistency in materials—practical recognition that gold would be inappropriate for carrying an object associated with blood, fire, and judgment.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What does bronze-overlay (versus gold) for judgment-tools teach about different preparations for different ministries?
2. How does the common base (shittim wood) under different overlays illustrate varied ministries sharing common humanity?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעַשׂ	אֶת	הַבַּדִּים	עֵץ	שִׁטִּים	וַיַּצַּף	אֹתָם
And he made	H853	the staves	wood	of shittim	and overlaid	H853
H6213		H905	H6086	H7848	H6823	
נְחֹשֶׁת:						
them with brass						
H5178						

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 10:3 (Creation): And I made an ark of shittim wood, and hewed two tables of stone like unto the first, and went up into the mount, having the two tables in mine hand.