

Numbers 4:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they shall put it and all the vessels thereof within a covering of badgers' skins, and shall put it upon a bar.

Analysis

The comprehensive wrapping—'put it and all the vessels thereof within a covering of badgers' skins, and shall put it upon a bar'—protected the lampstand completely. The Hebrew mot (bar/pole) indicates the carrying method. Everything was enclosed before Kohathites touched it, preventing both damage to sacred objects and death to transporters. This multi-layered protection teaches that holy things require complete safeguarding. Spiritual truth similarly needs protection from corruption—sound doctrine must be guarded carefully (2 Timothy 1:13-14), transported intact across generations without addition or subtraction.

Historical Context

The Kohathites carried the covered holy objects on their shoulders using poles, never touching the objects directly. This honored the objects' holiness while enabling their transport. The method contrasted with Philistine cart-transport of the captured ark (1 Samuel 6:7), which God tolerated from pagans but would not accept from Israel. God's people must follow His prescribed methods, not adopt pagan pragmatism.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does the careful transport of holy things inform how we handle and teach Scripture?
2. What 'coverings' protect sound doctrine from corruption during transmission?
3. Why must we follow God's prescribed methods for handling sacred truth rather than adopting cultural pragmatism?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּנָּתֶן וְ	אֶתְּהָא	וְאֶתְּהָא	כָּל	כָּל יְהוָה	אֵל
And they shall put	H853	H853	H3605	it and all the vessels	H413
H5414				H3627	
מִכֶּסֶּה	עֹר	תְּחָשׁ	וַיִּנָּתֶן וְ	עַל	הַמִּזְבֵּחַ:
thereof within a covering	skins	of badgers	And they shall put	H5921	it upon a bar
H4372	H5785	H8476	H5414		H4132

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