

# Numbers 4:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they shall take all the instruments of ministry, wherewith they minister in the sanctuary, and put them in a cloth of blue, and cover them with a covering of badgers' skins, and shall put them on a bar:

## Analysis

---

The concluding phrase 'all the instruments of ministry, wherewith they minister in the sanctuary' encompasses every tool used in tabernacle service. The Hebrew *kol-kelei hasharet* (all the vessels/instruments of service) emphasizes completeness—nothing forgotten or left behind. This teaches that effective spiritual ministry requires all necessary resources, not selective use of convenient elements. Churches similarly need comprehensive provision: Word, sacraments, prayer, discipline, mutual care—all components of biblical ecclesiology. Partial provision produces incomplete ministry.

## Historical Context

---

The instruments of ministry included numerous specialized tools: firepans, fleshhooks, shovels, basins, all specifically crafted for tabernacle functions (Exodus 27:3; 38:3). Each served specific purposes in the sacrificial system. Their inclusion in transport ensured worship could resume immediately upon arrival at each camp. This prepared Israel for the conquest—worship would continue even during warfare.

## Related Passages

## **Romans 2:1 – Judging others**

## **Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment**

## **Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ**

## **Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth**

## Study Questions

1. How does comprehensive provision of ministry instruments teach that churches need all biblical means, not selective adoption?
2. What happens when churches neglect certain biblical ministry elements?
3. How do we ensure our ministry maintains all biblical components rather than cultural preferences?

## Interlinear Text

|                         |               |           |                          |                     |             |                 |
|-------------------------|---------------|-----------|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| וְלֹקְחוּ               | אֶת           | כָּל      | כָּל                     | כָּל                | רַבָּשָׂת   | אֲשֶׁר          |
| And they shall take     |               | H853      | H3605                    | all the instruments | of ministry | H834            |
|                         |               | H3947     |                          | H3627               | H8335       |                 |
| וְשָׁרְתוּ              | בְּמִ         | בְּמִ     | בְּקָדְשָׁ               | וְנִתְנֶהָ          | אֲלֵ        | בְּגָד          |
| wherewith they minister | H0            |           | in the sanctuary         | and put             | H413        | them in a cloth |
|                         | H8334         |           | H6944                    | H5414               |             | H899            |
| אַוְתָם                 | וְכַס         | וְתַכְתֵּ | בְּמַכְסֵ                | עַוְרָ              | תְּחִשָּׁ   | וְנִתְנֶהָ      |
| of blue                 | and cover     | H853      | the them with a covering | skins               | of badgers  | and put         |
| H8504                   | H3680         |           | H4372                    | H5785               | H8476       | H5414           |
| עַל                     | בְּקֹוטָ      |           |                          |                     |             |                 |
| H5921                   | them on a bar | H4132     |                          |                     |             |                 |

## Additional Cross-References

---

**1 Chronicles 9:29** (Temple): Some of them also were appointed to oversee the vessels, and all the instruments of the sanctuary, and the fine flour, and the wine, and the oil, and the frankincense, and the spices.

---

From KJV Study • [kjvstudy.org](http://kjvstudy.org)