

Numbers 4:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they shall put upon it all the vessels thereof, wherewith they minister about it, even the censers, the fleshhooks, and the shovels, and the basons, all the vessels of the altar; and they shall spread upon it a covering of badgers' skins, and put to the staves of it.

Analysis

The comprehensive inventory of altar vessels—censers, fleshhooks, shovels, and basins—demonstrates that every aspect of sacrifice was ordained by God. These instruments of atonement had to be properly covered and carried, teaching that the means of approaching God through sacrifice was not a human invention but divine revelation. The altar represents the centrality of substitutionary atonement in God's plan of redemption. Reformed theology sees this as prefiguring the ultimate sacrifice of Christ.

Historical Context

The bronze altar stood in the tabernacle courtyard where the daily burnt offerings and sin offerings were made. The instruments listed were used for removing ashes, turning the sacrifice, and handling the blood—all essential elements of the sacrificial system that maintained Israel's covenant relationship with God.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the detailed regulation of altar vessels demonstrate that salvation is by God's prescription, not human merit?
2. What does the bronze altar's continual use teach us about the ongoing need for atonement?
3. In what ways do these Old Testament sacrificial instruments point forward to Christ's once-for-all sacrifice?

Interlinear Text

וְיִתְנַחֵן	לֵבֶן	כָּל	כָּל	רָאשָׁן
And they shall put	אֶת שְׁלֵמִים	כָּל	כָּל	רָאשָׁן
H5414	H5921	H853	H3605	H834
thereof wherewith they minister	וְיִשְׁרַת	כָּל	כָּל	בְּמִקְדָּשָׁת
H8334	H5921	H0	H853	about it even the censers
the fleshhooks	וְאֶת בְּמִזְבֵּחַ	וְאֶת בְּמִזְבֵּחַ	וְאֶת בְּמִזְבֵּחַ	וְאֶת בְּמִזְבֵּחַ
H853	H853	H3257	H853	H3605
all the vessels	וְאֶת כְּלֵי	וְאֶת כְּלֵי	וְאֶת כְּלֵי	וְאֶת כְּלֵי
H3627	H4196	H6566	H5921	H3681
of badgers	וְשֵׁם וְתַּחַת	וְשֵׁם וְתַּחַת	וְשֵׁם וְתַּחַת	וְשֵׁם וְתַּחַת
H8476	H7760	H905	H5785	

