

Numbers 4:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And this is the charge of their burden, according to all their service in the tabernacle of the congregation; the boards of the tabernacle, and the bars thereof, and the pillars thereof, and sockets thereof,

Analysis

The Merarites' burden of boards represents the fundamental structure supporting God's dwelling place. Boards, though less visibly glorious than the golden furnishings or embroidered curtains, were absolutely essential. Without them, the entire tabernacle would collapse. This teaches the Reformed principle that foundational, supporting work has immense value even when it lacks outward glamour. God values faithful service in every capacity.

Historical Context

The tabernacle boards were made of acacia wood overlaid with gold, standing upright and fitted into silver sockets. Each board was approximately fifteen feet tall and over two feet wide, making them heavy and requiring careful handling during transport.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does the essential nature of unglamorous foundational work challenge our pursuit of visible ministry?
2. What does the golden covering of the boards teach about the value God places on structural support?
3. In what ways does faithful service in supporting roles demonstrate Christ-like humility?

Interlinear Text

וְזֹאת

H2063

מִשְׁמַחַת

And this is the charge

H4931

מִשְׁאָכָם

of their burden

H4853

לְכָל

H3605

עֲבֹדָתָם

according to all their service

H5656

בְּאֵלֵהָ

in the tabernacle

H168

מִוֶּעַד

of the congregation

H4150

קַרְשֵׁי

the boards

H7175

הַמִּשְׁכָּה

of the tabernacle

H4908

וּבָרִים יוֹ

and the bars

H1280

וְעַמֻּדָיו

thereof and the pillars

H5982

וְאֲדָנָיו:

thereof and sockets

H134