

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 מִשְׁמֶן כָּתָמָה מִשְׁאָה מִלְכָל עֲבֹדָתָם
H2063 And this is the charge of their burden H4853 H3605 according to all their service H5656

בְּרִית יְהוָה מִשְׁעָן כְּרָשִׁים מִזְבְּחָה בְּרִית יְהוָה
in the tabernacle of the congregation the boards of the tabernacle and the bars H168 H4150 H7175 H4908 H1280

וְעַמְדָה יְהוָה תְּאַלְּתָנִים
thereof and the pillars thereof and sockets H5982 H134

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