

Numbers 4:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they shall take a cloth of blue, and cover the candlestick of the light, and his lamps, and his tongs, and his snuffdishes, and all the oil vessels thereof, wherewith they minister unto it:

Analysis

The lampstand's covering included 'his lamps, and his tongs, and his snuffdishes, and all the oil vessels thereof'—every implement necessary for function. The Hebrew kol-kelei shamno (all the vessels of its oil) emphasizes completeness. The golden lampstand provided light in the holy place (Exodus 25:31-40), symbolizing God's illumination. That all its components traveled together teaches that spiritual light requires complete provision—not just the lampstand but the oil (Spirit), tongs (trimming/discipline), and snuffdishes (removing burned wicks). Christ is the light (John 8:12), and believers shine by His provision (Matthew 5:14-16).

Historical Context

The golden lampstand (menorah) had seven branches, each holding a lamp burning pure olive oil. Priests maintained it daily, trimming wicks and replenishing oil (Exodus 27:20-21). Its light never went out—when one lamp required servicing, the others continued burning. This constant illumination represented God's unchanging revelation. Zechariah's vision of the lampstand (Zechariah 4:2-6) connected it to the Spirit's power: 'Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD.'

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the lampstand with all its vessels teach that spiritual illumination requires multiple elements?
2. What does the continual maintenance (trimming, oil replenishment) teach about sustaining spiritual light?
3. How do believers function as Christ's light-bearers in the world today?

Interlinear Text

וְלָקְחוּ	בִּגְד	תְּכֵלֶת	וְכִסּוּ	אֶת	מִנְּבֵרֶת	הַמָּאוֹר
And they shall take	a cloth	of blue	and cover	H853	the candlestick	of the light
H3947	H899	H8504	H3680		H4501	H3974
וְאֶת	נֵרֵי יְהוָה	וְאֶת	מַלְקָחַיְהוָה	וְאֶת	מִחְתֹּתַיְהוָה	כָּל וְאֶת
H853	and his lamps	H853	and his tongs	H853	and his snuffdishes	H853 H3605
	H5216		H4457		H4289	
כָּל יְ	שֶׁמֶן הַ	אֲשֶׁר	יִשְׁרְתוּ	לָהּ	בָּהֶם:	
vessels	and all the oil	H834	thereof wherewith they minister	H0	H0	
H3627	H8081		H8334			