The Work of The Ark, The Dwelling Place, The Garments, & Service

Exodus 34:34-39:43

**Reading Questions**

1. What day is the Sabbath?
2. What skins were in Exodus 39:34?

**Reading Answers**

1. The Seventh Day (Exodus 35:2)

2. Sadly, the KJV states rams’ and badgers’ skins, and the NIV states ram skins and hides of sea cows. Some translations actually put seal skins! We know that badgers and seals are unclean, so these are obviously wrong translations since this would contradict the commands to not touch unclean carcasses and make a distinction between the clean and the unclean. Not only that, but where would they be getting seals at in the wilderness? This is nuts.

Rams are just male lambs, so that is possibly correct. But the second animal in question from the Hebrew word תְּחָשִׁים (techashiym) could possibly be in the antelope family according to Strong’s definitions or simply another unknown, but clean animal, according to the Ancient Hebrew Research Center Lexicon of the Bible. We know for certain יהוה would not use an unclean animal.

**Note:** This same thing happened in previous verses and is mentioned in the reading notes for Week 18 of the Annual Reading Schedule for the question, “What skins are used in Exodus 25:5 and 26:14?”

**Reading Notes**

- Not kindling a fire (Exodus 35:3) literally is talking about not starting a new fire that hasn’t already been started on Shabbat, but also could be teaching us to not start arguments or strife (Proverbs 26:20-21).

- Pictures of what people believe the Ark looked like online show that the Ark would have somewhat looked like a throne with the wings of the Keruvim (Exodus 37:9) being spread out on the sides of the Ark.
• The word for “Ark” in this reading is a different word than the “Ark” of Noach or the “Ark” that Mosheh was put in when he was a baby. Jeff Benner of the Ancient Hebrew Research Center just translates this word from Strong’s # H727 as “box”.

Related Verses


Not Kindling Fire: Proverbs 26:20-21


The Horns of The Altar: Exodus 29:12, Leviticus 4:25, 18, 25, 8:15, 16:18, 1 Kings 1:50, 2:28, Psalms 118:27

The Altar For Burnt Offering: Numbers 3:31, 16:38-39, 1 Kings 8:64, 2 Chronicles 13:11


Urim & Tummim: Exodus 28:30, Leviticus 8:8, Deuteronomy 33:8, Ezra 2:63, Nehemiah 7:65

Bells: Exodus 28:33

Linen Trousers: Exodus 28:42, Leviticus 6:10, 16:4, Ezekiel 44:18
Set-Apart Sign of Dedication: Exodus 29:6, Leviticus 8:9, 21:12
Incense Altar: Exodus 30:1, 27, Numbers 3:31, 2 Chronicles 13:11,
Basin of Bronze For Washing: Exodus 30:18, 1 Kings 7:30-38
Set-Apart Anointing Oil: Exodus 30:23-33
Stones In Breastplate: Exodus 28:16-21