

Exodus 25:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod, and in the breastplate.

Analysis

Onyx stones and precious gems for the high priest's ephod and breastplate represent Israel carried on the priest's shoulders (strength) and heart (love) as he ministers before God. This prefigures Christ our High Priest who bears His people's names constantly before the Father (Hebrews 7:25). The variety of stones (twelve tribes, twelve gems) shows God's appreciation for diversity within unity.

Historical Context

Onyx (חֹהַם, shoham) was a valuable stone, possibly green beryl or carnelian. The twelve stones for the breastplate represented the twelve tribes, ensuring all Israel was represented in priestly intercession.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does it comfort you that Christ bears your name before God continually?
2. In what ways does God value both your unique identity and your unity with His people?

Interlinear Text

וְאֲבִנֵי י	שֵׁ הֶם	וְאֲבִנֵי י	מִלֵּא ים	לְאַפֵּי ד	וּלְחֹשֶׁן:
and stones	Onyx	and stones	to be set	in the ephod	and in the breastplate
H68	H7718	H68	H4394	H646	H2833

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 28:4 (Parallel theme): And these are the garments which they shall make; a breastplate, and an ephod, and a robe, and a broidered coat, a mitre, and a girdle: and they shall make holy garments for Aaron thy brother, and his sons, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office.

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