

Exodus 28:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

With the work of an engraver in stone, like the engravings of a signet, shalt thou engrave the two stones with the names of the children of Israel: thou shalt make them to be set in ouches of gold.

Analysis

The engraving must be done 'like the engravings of a signet'—the same method used for official seals that authenticate documents. A signet's impression validates ownership and authority. The tribal names engraved with signet-quality craftsmanship indicates God's authentication—these are officially His people. The enclosing gold settings (ouches) frame and display the names, ensuring they're seen and protected. Christ's representation of us is both official (authenticated by God) and careful (we're displayed and protected).

Historical Context

Signet rings bore owner's seals for impressing into wax or clay, authenticating documents. The same engraving technique used for personal seals was applied to these sacred stones, ensuring permanence and clarity—names that wouldn't fade or wear away.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does God's 'authentication' of you (signet engraving) mean for your identity?
2. How does Christ both display and protect you before the Father?

Interlinear Text

מְעַשֵּׁה	חֶרֶשׁ	בָּאָבֶן יִם	פְּתֻוחִים	חֶתֶם
With the work	of an engraver	in stone	like the engravings	of a signet
H4639	H2796	H68	H6603	H2368
תְּפִתְחֶה	אַתְּ	שְׁתִּים	עַל	שְׁמֹת
shalt thou engrave	H853	the two	in stone	with the names
H6605	H8147	H68	H5921	H8034
בְּנֵי	יִשְׂרָאֵל	תִּמְסְבֵּת	מְשֻׁבֶּצֶת	תְּמִימָה
of the children	of Israel	them to be set	in ouches	of gold
H1121	H3478	H4142	H4865	H2091
תְּמִימָה				thou shalt make
				H6213
אַתְּ				
H853				

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