

Exodus 28:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt put the two stones upon the shoulders of the ephod for stones of memorial unto the children of Israel: and Aaron shall bear their names before the LORD upon his two shoulders for a memorial.

Analysis

The stones are placed on the ephod's shoulders as 'stones of memorial unto the children of Israel.' Memorial suggests both remembrance and testimony—God remembers His people, and the stones testify to that remembrance. Aaron bears the names 'before the Lord'—in God's presence, constantly visible. This memorial is God-ward (reminding Him) and man-ward (testifying to Israel). Christ's continual intercession serves both purposes—He reminds the Father of His promises, and we're assured of His advocacy.

Historical Context

The shoulder placement meant these memorial stones were visible when the high priest stood before the veil or entered the Most Holy Place. Every priestly act occurred with Israel's names literally on the priest's shoulders.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's intercession serve as both reminder to God and assurance to you?
2. What does it mean that your name is 'always before the Lord' in Christ?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁמֹת אֶת שְׁתַיִם אֶבֶן יְלֹעַל כְּתָפֵיךְ וְכָפֵד
And thou shalt put the two for stones upon thy shoulders and of the ephod
H7760 H853 H8147 H68 H5921 H3802 H646

אֶבֶן לְבָנִים יְשַׁרְאֵל יְנַשֵּׁא אֶבֶן
for stones for a memorial unto the children of Israel shall bear and Aaron
H68 H2146 H1121 H3478 H5375 H175

אֶת שְׁמוֹת מֵאֵת לְפָנֵי יְהָנָם הַלְּבָנִים שְׁתַיִם כְּתָפֵיךְ לְזִיכָר
their names before the LORD the two shoulders for a memorial
H853 H8034 H6440 H3068 H5921 H8147 H3802 H2146

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 28:29 (References Lord): And Aaron shall bear the names of the children of Israel in the breastplate of judgment upon his heart, when he goeth in unto the holy place, for a memorial before the LORD continually.

Joshua 4:7 (References Lord): Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever.

Leviticus 24:7 (References Lord): And thou shalt put pure frankincense upon each row, that it may be on the bread for a memorial, even an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

Numbers 16:40 (References Lord): To be a memorial unto the children of Israel, that no stranger, which is not of the seed of Aaron, come near to offer incense before the LORD; that he be not as Korah, and as his company: as the LORD said to him by the hand of Moses.

Numbers 31:54 (References Lord): And Moses and Eleazar the priest took the gold of the captains of thousands and of hundreds, and brought it into the tabernacle of the congregation, for a memorial for the children of Israel before the LORD.

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