

Exodus 28:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt make the breastplate of judgment with cunning work; after the work of the ephod thou shalt make it; of gold, of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, and of fine twined linen, shalt thou make it.

Analysis

The breastplate of judgment (כֹּשֶׁט מִשְׁפָּט, khoshen mishpat)—the priest's most sacred garment piece—is made like the ephod (matching materials and workmanship). Called the 'breastplate of judgment' because it contains the Urim and Thummim (v.30) for discerning God's will. Worn over the heart, it shows that priestly judgment must flow from love. Christ's judgments are righteous because they're motivated by love; His decisions for us arise from having our names on His heart.

Historical Context

This breastplate was approximately 9 inches square when folded (a span in length and breadth), forming a pouch to hold the Urim and Thummim. It was the most elaborate piece of the high priestly wardrobe, containing twelve precious stones.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do Christ's decisions for you flow from both righteous judgment and loving care?
2. What does having your name 'on His heart' mean for His guidance in your life?

Interlinear Text

תַּעֲשֶׂה הַ	חֹשֶׁן	מִשְׁפָּט	כְּמַעֲשֵׂה הַ	חֵי ב
And thou shalt make	the breastplate	of judgment	after the work	with cunning
H6213	H2833	H4941	H4639	H2803
כְּמַעֲשֵׂה הַ	אֵפֹד ד	תַּעֲשֶׂה הַ	תְּכֵ לָת זָהָב	תְּכֵ לָת
after the work	of the ephod	And thou shalt make	it of gold	of blue
H4639	H646	H6213	H2091	H8504
וְאַרְגָּמָן	וְתוֹלַע עֵת	שָׁנִי	וְשֵׁשׁ	מִשְׁזֵר ר
and of purple	H8438	and of scarlet	linen	and of fine twined
H713		H8144	H8336	H7806
תַּעֲשֶׂה הַ	אֹתוֹ:			
And thou shalt make	H853			
H6213				