

Exodus 28:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall be upon Aaron to minister: and his sound shall be heard when he goeth in unto the holy place before the LORD, and when he cometh out, that he die not.

Analysis

The purpose: Aaron must wear it 'when he ministereth,' and 'his sound shall be heard when he goeth in...and when he cometh out...that he die not.' The bells announce the priest's movements—entering God's presence and returning. The sound assures both God and Israel that the priest lives and ministers successfully. Christ's priestly work is both audible (announced, proclaimed) and effective (He lives and intercedes). The bells prevent death by ensuring proper approach—we hear Christ's ongoing intercession (Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:25).

Historical Context

The bells' ringing served practical and theological purposes: practically, they announced the high priest's location and activity within the tabernacle; theologically, they demonstrated that he remained alive in God's presence—a sound of ongoing successful mediation.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does 'hearing' Christ's ongoing intercession give you confidence in prayer?
2. What does the connection between sound and life teach about assurance of accepted mediation?

Interlinear Text

עַל יְהוָה הַ	אֶהָרִן	לְשֶׁרֶת	וְנִשְׁמָע	קוֹלוֹ
H1961	H5921	H175	H8334	H6963
And it shall be upon Aaron	to minister	shall be heard	and his sound	
וְכִצָּאת וְ	יְהוָה הַ	לִפְנֵי יְ	הַקֹּדֶשׁ	אֶל בָּבֵא וְ
H935	H413	H6440	H6944	H3318
when he goeth	in unto the holy	place before	the LORD	and when he cometh
וְיָמֹותֵי אֵל				
H3808	H4191			
out that he die				

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 9:12 (Holy): Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.