

Exodus 28:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt make a plate of pure gold, and grave upon it, like the engravings of a signet, HOLINESS TO THE LORD.

Analysis

A golden plate (צִיצִית, tzitz, literally 'flower/blossom') with the engraving 'HOLINESS TO THE LORD' (קָדֵשׁ לֵיהְיוּ, Qodesh l'YHWH) worn on Aaron's forehead. The plate represents the priest's consecrated mind/will—his thoughts devoted to God's holiness. Engraved like a signet (official seal), this holiness is authenticated, permanent, official. Christ's mind is perfectly devoted to God's glory—He always does what pleases the Father (John 8:29). His forehead bearing holiness declares His complete consecration.

Historical Context

The golden plate was likely attached to the turban/mitre with a blue cord (v.37). The prominent forehead placement ensured this declaration of holiness was always visible when the high priest ministered, proclaiming his consecrated status.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does Christ's 'HOLINESS TO THE LORD' on His forehead teach about His complete devotion to God's glory?
2. How should believers, as a 'kingdom of priests,' bear visible marks of consecration?

Interlinear Text

וְעַשְׂתָּה	יְתָהַר	בְּזָבֵב	זֶה	וְרָא	תְּפִתְחָת	עַלְיוֹן
And thou shalt make	a plate	gold	of pure	and grave		H5921
H6213	H6731	H2091	H2889	H6605		

לִיהְוָה:	קְדֻשָּׁה	חַתְּמָה	פָּטוּחָה	וְעַלְיוֹן
upon it like the engravings	of a signet	HOLINESS	TO THE LORD	
H6603	H2368	H6944	H3068	

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 14:20 (Holy): In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the LORD'S house shall be like the bowls before the altar.

Leviticus 8:9 (Holy): And he put the mitre upon his head; also upon the mitre, even upon his forefront, did he put the golden plate, the holy crown; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Exodus 39:30 (Holy): And they made the plate of the holy crown of pure gold, and wrote upon it a writing, like to the engravings of a signet, HOLINESS TO THE LORD.