

Exodus 35:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the rulers brought onyx stones, and stones to be set, for the ephod, and for the breastplate;

Analysis

Blue, purple, and scarlet materials with fine linen represent colors requiring expensive dyes and skilled labor. Those who possessed these materials 'with whom they were found' (נִמְצָא אֶתְּנוֹ, nimtza ito) brought them—emphasizing stewardship: recognizing that what we 'find with us' belongs ultimately to God and should be consecrated to His purposes. The phrase 'all the work of the service' (כָּל-מְלָאכָת, kol-melekhet ha-avodah) sanctifies practical work as spiritual service.

Historical Context

These colored threads required extensive processing: blue from Mediterranean mollusk dye, purple from murex snails (requiring thousands per ounce of dye), and scarlet from oak scale insects. Their availability indicated both wealth and willingness to use it for God's glory.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What does the phrase 'with whom they were found' teach about stewardship and recognizing God's ownership of our possessions?
2. How does bringing expensive, already-processed materials demonstrate sacrificial giving versus giving from surplus?

Interlinear Text

וְאֶת־ And the	רְאֵשָׁת־ rulers	בָּאֵת brought	אֶת־ H853	בָּבֶן־ and stones	בָּבֶן H68	בָּשָׁבָט onyx	בָּבֶן H853	בָּשָׁבָט and stones	בָּבֶן H68
H5387	H935			H2833		H7718			

| לֹא־ to be set | לֹא־ for the ephod | וְלֹא־ and for the breastplate | לֹא־ H4394 | וְלֹא־ H646 | לֹא־ H2833 | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 29:6 (Parallel theme): Then the chief of the fathers and princes of the tribes of Israel, and the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the rulers of the king's work, offered willingly,

Ezra 2:68 (Parallel theme): And some of the chief of the fathers, when they came to the house of the LORD which is at Jerusalem, offered freely for the house of God to set it up in his place: