

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' (נִמְצְאָ אִתּוֹ, 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-לְמִלְכֶּת הַקֹּדֶשׁ, kol-melekheth 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

וְהַנְּשֹׂאִים	וְהַבְּיָאוּ	אֵת	אֲבָנֵי יִ	הַשֹּׁהַם	וְאֵת	אֲבָנֵי יִ
And the rulers	brought	H853	and stones	onyx	H853	and stones
H5387	H935		H68	H7718		H68
הַמֶּלֶא יִ	לְאֵפֹד		וְלִחְשֹׁן:			
to be set	for the ephod		and for the breastplate			
H4394	H646		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: