

Exodus 35:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses said unto the children of Israel, See, the LORD hath called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah;

Analysis

Rulers bring onyx stones (אַבְנֵי הַשְׁׁהָם, avnei ha-shoham) and stones for setting (אַבְנֵי הַמִּלְאָכִים, avnei ha-millu'im) for the ephod and breastplate—precious gems bearing tribal names before God. The specific mention of rulers (נְשִׂיאִים, nesi'im, 'princes' or 'leaders') bringing these costliest items demonstrates leadership through sacrificial example. These stones would rest on the high priest's shoulders (strength) and heart (love), symbolizing Christ bearing His people's names continually before the Father in intercession.

Historical Context

Acquiring precious stones required wealth and connections—likely involving trade with distant regions. The breastplate alone required twelve different gemstones (28:17-20), each representing one tribe. Leaders' contribution of these expensive items set an example of generous giving.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does the leaders' contribution of the most expensive items teach about leadership and sacrificial example?
2. How does the imagery of names engraved on precious stones carried before God illustrate Christ's intercessory work?

Interlinear Text

יְהוָה	קָרְבָּן	רָא	וְיִשְׁרָאֵל	בֶּן	אֶל	מֹשֶׁה	וְאָמֵר
said	And Moses	H413	the son	of Israel	See	hath called	the LORD
H559	H4872		H1121	H3478	H7200	H7121	H3068
בָּשָׂר	בְּצַלְאֵל	בֶּן	אוֹרִי	בֶּן	וְרָא	הַלְמִיד	יְהוָה:
by name	Bezaleel	the son	of Uri	the son	of Hur	of the tribe	of Judah
H8034	H1212	H1121	H221	H1121	H2354	H4294	H3063

Additional Cross-References

James 1:17 (Parallel theme): Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

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