

Exodus 39:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And of the blue, and purple, and scarlet, they made cloths of service, to do service in the holy place, and made the holy garments for Aaron; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Analysis

Of the blue, and purple, and scarlet (תִּכְלֵת וְאַרְגָּמָן וְתוֹלַעַת הַשָּׁנִי, tekhelet v'argaman v'tola'at hashani)—these three colors dominated the tabernacle's sacred textiles. Tekhelet (blue) came from rare Mediterranean mollusks; argaman (purple) from Phoenician murex snails; tola'at hashani (scarlet of the worm) from cochineal insects crushed for crimson dye.

Cloths of service (בְּגָדֵי־שֵׂרָד, bigdei-serad) were specialized garments for sanctuary ministry. **As the LORD commanded Moses** appears repeatedly in Exodus 39-40, emphasizing Israel's exact obedience after the golden calf rebellion (ch. 32). The priestly garments foreshadow Christ our High Priest (Hebrews 4:14-16), clothed in glory to minister before God.

Historical Context

Exodus 39 describes the completion of the tabernacle's construction (1445 BC), nine months after leaving Egypt. The skilled craftsmen Bezalel and Oholiab led this work. Purple dye was extraordinarily expensive—worth more than gold—making these garments suitable for approaching the Holy God.

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 31:10 (Holy): And the cloths of service, and the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons, to minister in the priest's office,

Exodus 35:23 (Parallel theme): And every man, with whom was found blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair, and red skins of rams, and badgers' skins, brought them.

Exodus 35:19 (Holy): The cloths of service, to do service in the holy place, the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons, to minister in the priest's office.

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.

Hebrews 9:25 (Holy): Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;

Psalms 93:5 (Holy): Thy testimonies are very sure: holiness becometh thine house, O LORD, for ever.

Ezekiel 42:14 (Holy): When the priests enter therein, then shall they not go out of the holy place into the utter court, but there they shall lay their garments wherein they minister; for they are holy; and shall put on other garments, and shall approach to those things which are for the people.

Ezekiel 43:12 (Holy): This is the law of the house; Upon the top of the mountain the whole limit thereof round about shall be most holy. Behold, this is the law of the house.