

Exodus 39:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the two ends of the two wreathen chains they fastened in the two ouches, and put them on the shoulderpieces of the ephod, before it.

Analysis

Fastening the chains' 'two ends' to the gold settings on the ephod's shoulderpieces 'before it' (front) completes the top attachment. The breastplate now hangs from the shoulders—weight-bearing strength supports the heart's affections. This structural hierarchy teaches that priestly ministry requires strong shoulders to sustain compassionate heart. Christ's mediatorial work demonstrates both: omnipotent strength upholds infinite love. The connection's visibility ('before it') teaches that Christ's bearing His people in strength and love is openly displayed before the Father, not hidden.

Historical Context

The front attachment ensured the breastplate remained visible during priestly ministry, especially when Aaron faced the people while blessing them or entered the Holy Place facing forward. The connection's strength prevented the breastplate from shifting or falling during vigorous sacrificial work.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's strong shoulders supporting His compassionate heart assure believers of secure salvation?
2. What does the visible connection teach about Christ's open advocacy for believers before the Father?

Interlinear Text

עַל תִּתְנַצֵּן מִבְּעָבֶת תְּשִׁתִּי קְצֹות שְׁתִּי שְׁתִּי
H853 And the two ends And the two chains and put H5921
H8147 H7098 H8147 H5688 H5414

כְּתָפָת שְׁתִּי שְׁתִּי עַל תִּתְנַצֵּן מִבְּמִשְׁבָּצָת
And the two ouches and put H5921 them on the shoulderpieces H3802
H8147 H4865 H5414

פָּנָיו מִלְּאָלָּא כִּאָפָּד
of the ephod H413 it before H6440
H646 H4136

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