

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

וְאֵת	שְׁתֵּי	קְצוֹת	שְׁתֵּי	הַעֲבֹת	וְנָתַן	עַל
H853	And the two	ends	And the two	chains	and put	H5921
	H8147	H7098	H8147	H5688	H5414	
	שְׁתֵּי	הַמְּשָׁבָצִים	וְנָתַן	עַל	כֶּתֶף	
	And the two	ouches	and put	H5921	them on the shoulderpieces	
	H8147	H4865	H5414		H3802	
הָאֶפֶד	אֵל	מִן	לְפָנָיו:			
of the ephod	H413	it	before			
H646		H4136	H6440			

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