

Exodus 39:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they made two other golden rings, and put them on the two sides of the ephod underneath, toward the forepart of it, over against the other coupling thereof, above the curious girdle of the ephod.

Analysis

Two more golden rings on the ephod's lower front, 'underneath' and 'over against the other coupling,' created attachment points for the breastplate's lower rings. The phrase 'over against' (לְעַמֶּת, le-umat, corresponding to) indicates precise alignment—divine design tolerates no sloppiness. The 'coupling' (מִחְבָּרָת, machbarto, joining) reference shows how multiple connection points create secure unity. This multi-point attachment system prefigures believers' multi-faceted union with Christ—justified, adopted, sanctified, sealed—secured through numerous covenant bonds, not a single fragile thread.

Historical Context

The rings' position 'underneath' meant they connected on the ephod's underside, invisible to observers but essential for function. This hidden engineering ensured the breastplate remained properly positioned even during the high priest's vigorous sacrificial activities.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does your multi-faceted union with Christ (justification, adoption, sealing) provide layered security?
2. What does God's precision in alignment ('over against') teach about His ordered, purposeful design for the church?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעֲשֵׂו	בְּשֶׂתֶן	שְׁתִּים	תְּבַעַת	צְבָעַת	זְבָבַת	עַל	תִּתְּבַעַת	וְ	עַל
And they made	them on the two	rings	other golden	and put					H5921
H6213	H8147	H2885	H2091	H5414					
them on the two	sides	of the ephod	underneath	toward	the forepart				
H8147	H3802	H646	H4295	H4136	H6440				
לְעַמְתָּה	מִחְבָּרָה וְ	מִמְעָל	לְשָׁבָב	לְפָאָד:					
of it over against	the other coupling	thereof above	the curious girdle	of the ephod					
H5980	H4225	H4605	H2805	H646					