

Exodus 39:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they did bind the breastplate by his rings unto the rings of the ephod with a lace of blue, that it might be above the curious girdle of the ephod, and that the breastplate might not be loosed from the ephod; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Analysis

Binding the breastplate to the ephod 'with a lace of blue' (פֶּתִיל תְּכֵלֶת, petil techelet, blue cord) creates the final connection, ensuring the breastplate remains 'above the curious girdle' and 'might not be loosed from the ephod.' The blue cord signifies heavenly authority securing earthly ministry—divine decree, not human effort, keeps the priest's garments properly ordered. The emphatic 'as the LORD commanded Moses' (8th occurrence in ch 39) underscores obedience. This permanent binding prefigures believers' eternal union with Christ, secured by divine oath (Hebrews 6:17-18), never loosened.

Historical Context

The blue dye (techelet), possibly from the murex snail, was costly and labor-intensive to produce. Its use even in 'hidden' binding cords demonstrates that nothing in worship of YHWH was common or cheap. The blue color consistently symbolized heaven/deity throughout the tabernacle furnishings.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does the blue cord's heavenly color securing earthly ministry illustrate grace undergirding obedience?
2. What assurance comes from your union with Christ being bound by divine decree, not human effort?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּבְדּוּ And they did bind H7405	אֶת H853	הַחֹשֶׁן and that the breastplate H2833	טְבִיעֹתָיו by his rings H2885	אֶל H413	טְבִיעֹתָיו by his rings H2885
מֵעֵפֹד from the ephod H646	בְּפֶתִיל with a lace H6616	תְּכֵלֶת of blue H8504	לִהְיוֹת H1961	עַל H5921	
כִּי יִשָּׁב that it might be above the curious girdle H2805	מֵעֵפֹד from the ephod H646	וְלֹא H3808	יִזָּח might not be loosed H2118		
וְהַחֹשֶׁן and that the breastplate H2833	מֵעַל H5921	מֵעֵפֹד from the ephod H646	כִּי צִוָּה H834	צִוָּה commanded H6680	
יְהוָה as the LORD H3068	אֶת H853	מֹשֶׁה Moses H4872			