

# 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' (פְּתִיל תְּכִלָּת, 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

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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

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וְיִרְכְּסֵ	אֶת	בְּחֵשֶׁן	תְּבַעַת	אֶל	תְּבַעַת
And they did bind	H853	and that the breastplate	H2833	by his rings	H413
H7405			H2885	by his rings	H2885
בְּאֵפֶת	דַּיְמָה	לְתַחַת	בְּפִתְחָה	לְהַיִת	עַל
from the ephod	H646	with a lace	H6616	of blue	H8504
				H1961	H5921
בְּאֵפֶת	דַּיְמָה	לְתַחַת	בְּפִתְחָה	לְהַיִת	עַל
that it might be above the curious girdle	H2805	from the ephod	H646	H3808	might not be loosed
				H3808	H2118
בְּחֵשֶׁן	לְמַעַן	בְּאֵפֶת	רְבָאֵשׁ	בְּאֵפֶת	רְבָאֵשׁ
and that the breastplate	H2833	H5921	from the ephod	H646	H834
				H646	H834
בְּחֵשֶׁן	לְמַעַן	בְּאֵפֶת	רְבָאֵשׁ	בְּאֵפֶת	רְבָאֵשׁ
and that the breastplate	H853	Moses	H4872	commanded	H6680
					H6680
מֹשֶׁה:	אֶת	יְהִי	ה	וְיִרְכְּסֵ	
as the LORD	H3068				