

Exodus 39:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there was an hole in the midst of the robe, as the hole of an habergeon, with a band round about the hole, that it should not rend.

Analysis

The robe's opening 'in the midst' with a reinforced edge 'as the hole of an habergeon' (כְּפִי תְּחִכָּא, kefi tachra, like a coat of mail opening) with a binding 'that it should not rend' (לֹא יִקְרַע, lo yikarea) teaches perfection's preservation. The Hebrew **קָרָע** (qara, to tear) recalls the tearing of priestly or kingly garments in grief or judgment (2 Kings 18:37; Matthew 26:65). The high priest's robe must never tear, symbolizing Christ's perfect, unbreakable ministry. Unlike human priests who fail, Christ's priesthood endures forever (Hebrews 7:24).

Historical Context

A habergeon (coat of mail) had a carefully finished opening to prevent tearing when put on/off. The comparison demonstrates that even the robe's opening received special reinforcement. The prohibition against tearing contrasts with Levitical laws where torn garments could disqualify priests from service.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the prohibition against the robe tearing symbolize Christ's perfect, unbreakable priesthood?
2. What comfort comes from Christ's ministry never failing or being torn, unlike human priests?

Interlinear Text

לֹפֶת

בְּתוֹךְ

בְּמִצְעָה

לֹפֶת

And there was an hole

of the robe

in the midst

And there was an hole

H6310

H4598

H8432

H6310

תְּחִכָּה

שְׁפָט

לֹפֶת

לֹא

לֹא

of an habergeon

with a band

And there was an hole

round about

H3808

H8473

H8193

H6310

H5439

לֹא

תְּרַנְדֵּל

H7167

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