

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 תַחְרָא, 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 קָרַע (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

לֶפֶּיּוֹ	הַמָּעַיִל	בְּתוֹכֹוֹ	לֶפֶּיּוֹ	
And there was an hole	of the robe	in the midst	And there was an hole	
H6310	H4598	H8432	H6310	
תַּחֲבֵּא	שָׁפָה	לֶפֶּיּוֹ	סָבִיב	לֵא
of an habergeon	with a band	And there was an hole	round about	
H8473	H8193	H6310	H5439	H3808
יִקְרַע:				
that it should not rend				
H7167				