

Exodus 39:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate, round about the hem of the robe to minister in; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Analysis

The alternating pattern—"a bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate"—creates rhythmic repetition emphasizing completeness. The phrase 'to minister in' (לְשָׁרֶת, lesharet) indicates these adornments served functional, not merely decorative, purposes. Ministry to God requires both audible witness (bells) and visible fruit (pomegranates). The tenth 'as the LORD commanded Moses' in chapter 39 underscores exact obedience. Christ's perfect priesthood combines sound doctrine (bells) and sanctified living (fruit), witness and works, proclamation and proof.

Historical Context

The hem's complete circling with alternating bells and pomegranates ensured the audible witness continued regardless of the high priest's position or movement. The careful alternation demonstrates attention to pattern, not random placement—everything in worship follows divine order.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How should ministers today balance audible witness (proclamation) and visible fruit (godly living)?
2. What does the alternating pattern teach about rhythm and order in sustained spiritual ministry?

Interlinear Text

פָּגָם	וּרְמֵם	פָּגָם	וּרְמֵם	עַל	שׁוֹלֵן
A bell	and a pomegranate	A bell	and a pomegranate	H5921	the hem
H6472	H7416	H6472	H7416		H7757
בְּמִלְחָמָה	לְשָׁרֶת	סְבִיב	כָּאשָׁר	צִוָּה	אַתָּה
of the robe	round about	to minister	H834	commanded	in as the LORD
H4598	H5439	H8334		H6680	H3068

מֹשֶׁה:

Moses

H4872

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 28:34 (Parallel theme): A golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, upon the hem of the robe round about.