

Exodus 39:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And a girdle of fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet, of needlework; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Analysis

The girdle of embroidered needlework (מַעֲשֵׂה רוֹקֵם, ma'aseh roqem, work of embroiderer) combining fine linen with blue, purple, and scarlet creates a sash for service. The אַבְנֵט (avnet, sash/girdle) symbolizes readiness for active ministry—servants girded their robes for work (Luke 12:35; John 13:4-5). The embroidered colors (heaven, royalty, sacrifice) bound around the waist teach that ministry requires divine enablement secured to the minister. The 11th 'as the LORD commanded Moses' emphasizes sustained obedience through detailed instructions. Christ, girded with faithfulness (Isaiah 11:5), perfectly served.

Historical Context

The embroidered girdle, more ornate than a simple cord, demonstrated the dignity of priestly service. Girding long robes at the waist enabled vigorous activity (running, working) that flowing garments would hinder. The priest's girded readiness symbolized prepared service before God.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does 'girding' for ministry illustrate the need for believers to prepare themselves for faithful service?
2. What does Christ being 'girded with faithfulness' teach about His perfect readiness to minister?

Interlinear Text

וְתוֹלַעַת עֵת וְאַרְגָּמָן וְתֵכָה לְתֹרֶם מְשֻׁרָר שֵׁשׁ הָאַבְנֵי ט וְאֶת
H853 And a girdle H73 linen H8336 of fine twined H7806 and blue H8504 and purple H713 H8438

אֶת יְהוָה הָצִוָּה בְּאֵשׁ רַקֵּם מַעֲשֵׂה וְשָׁנִי
and scarlet H8144 H4639 of needlework H7551 H834 commanded H6680 as the LORD H3068 H853

מֹשֶׁה:

Moses

H4872