

Exodus 39:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they made the plate of the holy crown of pure gold, and wrote upon it a writing, like to the engravings of a signet, HOLINESS TO THE LORD.

Analysis

The golden plate (טִצִּית, tsits, flower/shining thing) engraved 'HOLINESS TO THE LORD' (קֹדֶשׁ לַיהוָה, qodesh l'YHWH) represents the pinnacle of priestly ministry—consecration. Worn on Aaron's forehead (v. 31), this declaration faced both God (when entering the Holy Place) and people (when blessing them). The inscription teaches that acceptable ministry requires holiness, not mere ritual. The golden material signifies divine glory; engraving indicates permanence. This holy crown prefigures Christ, perfectly holy (Hebrews 7:26), whose consecration enables ours (Hebrews 10:10, 14).

Historical Context

The golden plate's frontal position made the inscription visible to all, proclaiming that Israel's high priest represented holiness before God and to the nation. The 'signet' engraving style ensured permanence—this was no temporary decoration but permanent declaration.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does 'HOLINESS TO THE LORD' on the forehead teach that ministry's essence is consecration, not activity?
2. What does Christ's perfect holiness accomplishing believers' consecration reveal about grace?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעַשׂ וְ	אֶת	צַיִץ	נֹזֵר	קֹדֶשׁ	זָהָב	טָהוֹר	וַיִּכְתֹּב וְ
And they made	H853	the plate	crown	HOLINESS	gold	of pure	and wrote
H6213		H6731	H5145	H6944	H2091	H2889	H3789
עַל יוֹ	מִכְתָּב	כְּפִתּוּחֵי	חֹתֶם	קֹדֶשׁ			
H5921	upon it a writing	like to the engravings	of a signet	HOLINESS			
	H4385	H6603	H2368	H6944			
לַיהוָה:							
TO THE LORD							
H3068							

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 5:10 (Creation): And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

Hebrews 7:26 (Holy): For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

Hebrews 1:3 (Parallel theme): Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;