

Exodus 39:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They made shoulderpieces for it, to couple it together: by the two edges was it coupled together.

Analysis

The shoulderpieces coupling the ephod together (חָבַר, *chavar*, to join) created structural unity, enabling the garment to bear the onyx stones engraved with Israel's tribal names (v. 6-7). This 'coupling' illustrates that priestly ministry unites God and people—the mediator bridges the divide. The shoulder placement signifies strength; Christ carries His elect not on weak human shoulders but omnipotent divine shoulders. The ephod's two-piece design, joined together, may prefigure Christ uniting divine and human natures in His person.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern priestly garments often featured elaborate construction, but Israel's ephod uniquely bore the names of the covenant people, emphasizing representative mediation rather than personal priestly glory. The shoulderpieces' coupling ensured the stones remained securely positioned.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What comfort comes from knowing Christ bears believers' names on His strong shoulders, not weak human strength?
2. How does priestly ministry 'coupling' God and people illuminate Christ's unique mediatorial role?

Interlinear Text

כְּתִיפֹת	עָשׂוּ	לֹא	חֲבָר:	עַל	שְׁנֵי י
shoulderpieces	They made	H0	for it to couple it together	H5921	by the two
H3802	H6213		H2266		H8147
קְצוּוֹתָיו	חֲבָר:				
edges	for it to couple it together				
H7098	H2266				

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