

Exodus 39:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the curious girdle of his ephod, that was upon it, was of the same, according to the work thereof; of gold, blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Analysis

The 'curious girdle' (חֶשֶׁב, cheshev, skillfully woven band) made 'of the same' materials as the ephod emphasizes unity—the belt was not separate but an integral part. This girdle bound the ephod to the priest's body, securing it for active ministry. The phrase 'as the LORD commanded Moses' (כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה, ka'asher tsivah YHWH) appears repeatedly in this chapter, underscoring radical obedience. Truth must 'gird' the minister (Ephesians 6:14); Christ, our High Priest, is 'girded with faithfulness' (Isaiah 11:5). Worship according to divine prescription, not human preference.

Historical Context

The girdle served a practical function—securing the ephod for active priestly service. Its integration with the ephod itself, rather than being a separate accessory, emphasized the unified design of the high priestly garments according to God's exact specifications.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. Why does God repeatedly emphasize 'as the LORD commanded'—what does this teach about acceptable worship?
2. How does 'girding' for ministry apply to believers who serve as a kingdom of priests (1 Peter 2:9)?

Interlinear Text

וְהָ שָׁב	אֶפְדָּתוֹ	אֲשֶׁר	עַל יוֹ	מִמֶּנּוּ	הוּא
And the curious girdle	of his ephod	H834	H5921	H4480	H1931
H2805	H642				
כִּמְעֵשָׂהּ	זָה ב	תֵּכֶּלֶת			
that was upon it was of the same according to the work	thereof of gold	blue			
H4639	H2091	H8504			
וְאֶרְגָּמָהּ	וְתוֹלַעַת	שָׁנִי	וְשֵׁשׁ	מִשְׁזָר	כֶּאֱשֶׁר
and purple	H8438	and scarlet	linen	and fine twined	H834
H713		H8144	H8336	H7806	
צִוָּה	יְהוָה	אֶת	מֹשֶׁה:		
commanded	as the LORD	H853	Moses		
H6680	H3068		H4872		

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 1:13 (Parallel theme): And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

Matthew 28:20 (Parallel theme): Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

