

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' (כָּשֶׁבֶת, 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' (כִּי-אָשֶׁר 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

וְאֵת שֶׁבֶת	אֶפְתָּת	רָאשָׁה	מִתְבָּרְכָה	וְאֵת שֶׁבֶת	וְאֵת שֶׁבֶת	וְאֵת שֶׁבֶת
And the curious girdle	of his ephod					
H2805	H642	H834	H5921	H4480	H1931	
כְּמַעַשְׂהוֹ				לְתֹתְךָ	בְּזַבְדָּךְ	
that was upon it was of the same according to the work			thereof of gold		blue	
H4639			H2091		H8504	
וְאֵת שֶׁבֶת	מִשְׁטִיר	רָאשָׁה	וְאֵת שֶׁבֶת	מִשְׁטִיר	רָאשָׁה	
and purple	and scarlet	linen	and fine twined		H834	
H713	H8144	H8336	H7806			
מִשְׁהָה:	אָתָה	מִשְׁהָה:	אָתָה	מִשְׁהָה:	אָתָה	
commanded	as the LORD	H853	Moses	H4872		
H6680	H3068					

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.

