

Exodus 39:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

It was foursquare; they made the breastplate double: a span was the length thereof, and a span the breadth thereof, being doubled.

Analysis

The breastplate's foursquare design (רַבּוּעַ, ravua, square), doubled for strength, with a 'span' (זֶרֶת, zeret, about 9 inches) dimensions, creates space for twelve stones (v. 10-13). The perfect square symbolizes completeness and stability—God's covenant with the twelve tribes is balanced, secure, and comprehensive. The doubling provided a pocket for the Urim and Thummim (28:30), instruments of divine guidance. Geometric perfection in worship implements teaches that God orders His church with precision and purpose.

Historical Context

A 'span' measured from thumb tip to little finger tip—approximately 9 inches—making this a substantial breastplate. The doubled design created a pouch for holding the Urim and Thummim. The square shape contrasted with irregular, asymmetric designs common in pagan religious objects.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What does the breastplate's perfect square design reveal about God's ordered, purposeful covenant with His people?
2. How does the Urim and Thummim pocket teach us about seeking divine guidance in church leadership?

Interlinear Text

רַב וָעַ	הָ הָ	כָּפֹל:	עָשׂוּ	אֶת	הַ חֹשֶׁן	וְרֵת
It was foursquare	H1961	double	they made	H853	the breastplate	a span
H7251		H3717	H6213		H2833	H2239
אָרְכּוֹ	וְרֵת	רֹחְבוֹ	כָּפֹל:			
was the length	a span	the breadth	double			
H753	H2239	H7341	H3717			

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