

Exodus 39

As Moses completes his record of the events at Mount Sinai, recorded in Exodus, he summarizes the sewing of the priests' clothes and then records that Israel brought the objects of worship to Moses. The chapter concludes with Moses blessing Israel for fulfilling God's commandments (39:43). It is to be noted the number of times the text records that Israel did what God commanded through Moses: 39:1, 5, 7, 21, 26, 39, 31, 32, 42, 43.

TRANSLATION - 39:1:

1 And from the blue and purple and worms of scarlet they made woven garments for to serve in the holy place and they made the garments of holiness which [were] for Aaron just as Jehovah commanded Moses.

HEBREW WORDS:

"Plates" (ver. 3) is found only here and Numbers 17:3. "Strings" (ver. 3) was found in Genesis 38:18, 25 and earlier in Exodus in 28:28, 37.

THE ORIGINAL COMMAND IS RECORDED IN:

See chapter 28 for the original command relative to the priests' clothing.

COMMENTARY:

These materials made from blue, purple, and "worms" of scarlet were used both for the curtains and other hangings for the court and tabernacle as well as for the clothes of the priests. These were "garments of holiness" because they were specially intended for use in service to God.

APPLICATION:

For application, see comments in chapter 28.

TRANSLATION - 39:2-5:

2 And he made the gold ephod of blue and purple and worm of scarlet and twisted linen. **3** And they hammered plates of gold and he cut strings to make inside the blue and inside the purple and inside the worm of scarlet and inside the linen, a work of the craftsman. **4** Shoulder plates they made them attaching to the two edges it was joined. **5** And the woven band of the ephod which [was] on him one with it just as the workmanship of gold and blue and purple and worms of scarlet and twisted linen just as Jehovah commanded Moses.

THE ORIGINAL COMMAND IS RECORDED IN:

See 28:6-12 for the original command relative to the priests' ephod.

COMMENTARY:

This paragraph describes the sewing of the ephod for the priest. It is noted here, in contrast to chapter 28, that there were threads made of gold woven into the clothing. Verse 5 notes that Israel sewed, just as God commanded Moses. The Egyptians would hammer gold into thin sheets and then cut the sheets into thin strands to use as decorative threads. God has Israel do the same thing in the clothing for the priests.

APPLICATION:

For application, see comments in chapter 28.

TRANSLATION - 39:6-7:

6 And they made the stones of onyx enclosed in the settings of gold engraved with the engraving seal on the names of the sons of Israel. **7** And he put them on the shoulder pieces of the ephod, the memorial stones for the sons of Israel just as Jehovah commanded Moses.

THE ORIGINAL COMMAND IS RECORDED IN:

See 28:9-11 for the original command to make these stones.

COMMENTARY:

These two verses describe the actual making of the memorial stones for the priests.

APPLICATION:

For application, see comments in chapter 28.

TRANSLATION - 39:8-21:

8 And he made the breast piece the work of a craftsman the ephod of gold, blue and purple and worms of scarlet and twisted linen. **9** Square it was, folded, they made the breast piece a span its length and a span its breadth, folded. **10** And they mounted it four rows of stone: a row of sardius, topaz, and emerald - one. **11** And the second row: turquoise, sapphire, and a diamond. **12** And the third row jacinth, agate, and amethyst. **13** And the fourth row: beryl, an onyx and jasper enclosed in the gold setting in their settings. **14** And the stones on the names of the sons of Israel, these [were] twelve by their names, engraved on them, each by his name for the twelve tribes. **15** And they made on the great pieces chains of cords workmanship twisted of pure gold. **16** And they made two settings of gold and two rings of gold and they put the two rings on the two edges of the breast piece. **17** And they put the two cords of gold on the two rings on the edges of the breast piece. **18** And the two edges of the two cords they put on the two settings and they put them on the shoulders of the ephod on the edges of it. **19** And they made two rings of gold and put them on the two edges of the breast piece on its shoulders which [was] on the side of ephod inward. **20** And they made two rings of gold and put them on the two shoulders of the ephod at the bottom in the front close to the coupling above the woven band of the ephod. **21** And they bound the breast piece by its rings on the rings of the ephod with a blue cord to be on the woven band of the ephod and it will not loose the breast piece from on the ephod just as Jehovah commanded Moses.

THE ORIGINAL COMMAND IS RECORDED IN:

See 28:15-28 for the original command for the breast piece and its stones.

COMMENTARY:

This longest paragraph in this chapter relates to the breast piece for the priests. It is stated, for the fourth time in the chapter that Israel did as God commanded Moses.

APPLICATION:

For application, see comments in chapter 28.

TRANSLATION - 39:22-26:

22 And he made the robe of the ephod the work of weaving entirely of blue. **23** And the opening of the robe in the center as the opening of the leather band at the opening around; it will not be torn. **24** And they made the hem of the robe of pomegranates blue and purple and worms of woven scarlet. **25** And they made bells of pure gold and put the bells between the pomegranates on the hem of the robe around, between the pomegranates. **26** A bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate on the hem of the robe around to serve just as Jehovah commanded Moses.

THE ORIGINAL COMMAND IS RECORDED IN:

See 28:31, 34 for the original command relative to the robe.

COMMENTARY:

This paragraph notes the sewing of the robe for the priest.

APPLICATION:

For application, see comments in chapter 28.

TRANSLATION - 39:27-31:

27 And they made the tunic of woven linen the work of a weaver for Aaron and for his sons. **28** And the turban of linen and the cap, decorated, of linen and the undergarments of fine woven linen. **29** And the sash of twisted linen of blue and purple and worms of scarlet, the work of a weaver just as Jehovah commanded Moses. **30** And they made the plate of the crown of holiness of pure gold and they wrote on it writing of the engraving, a seal "Holiness to Jehovah." **31** And they put on it a cord of purple to put on the turban above just as Jehovah had commanded Moses.

THE ORIGINAL COMMAND IS RECORDED IN:

See 28:39-40, 42 for the original command for these clothing items.

COMMENTARY:

These three verses detail the sewing of the tunics, turbans, caps, and undergarments for the priests.

APPLICATION:

For application, see comments in chapter 28.

TRANSLATION - 39:32-43:

32 And they finished all the service of the tabernacle, the tent of meeting and they made the sons of Israel all which Jehovah had commanded Moses; thus they did. **33** And they brought the tabernacle to Moses, the tent and all its utensils, its hooks, its frames, its bars, and its pillars and its bases, **34** and the coverings of the leather of rams dyed red and the coverings of the skin of leather and the veil of the screen, **35** and the ark of the testimony and its poles and the atonement cover, **36** the table, all its utensils and the bread of the presence, **37** the gold menorah, its lights for the lamps set in order and all its utensils, the oil for the light, **38** the gold altar and the oil for anointing and the fragrant incense and the cover for the door of the tent, **39** the bronze altar and the bronze grating which [was] on it, its poles and all its utensils, the laver and its base, **40** the hangings of the court, its pillars, its bases and the screen for the gate of the court, its cords and its pegs and all the utensils the work of the tabernacle for the tent of meeting, **41** the garments for the service to serve in the holy place, the garments of holiness for Aaron the priest and the garments of his sons for priests. **42** All which Jehovah commanded Moses, thus the sons of Israel did - all the service. **43** Moses saw all the work and behold they made it just as Jehovah had commanded; thus they did and Moses blessed them.

HEBREW WORDS:

The word "lights" and "lamps" in verse 37 are different forms of the same word. The verb "to see" (ver. 43) was used first at 1:16; it is used 91 times in Exodus. Here, it connotes "to inspect." "Behold" was first found in 1:9. The verb "to bless" is used first at 12:32. It was also used at 20:11, 24; 23:25; 39:43.

HEBREW GRAMMAR:

The direct object marker is found 66 times in this chapter as Moses details the construction of the tabernacle and the items of the tabernacle which were brought to Moses.

THE ORIGINAL COMMAND IS RECORDED IN:

See 28:36-37 for the original command for the “holy crown.”

COMMENTARY:

These two verses (39:30-31) note the sewing of the “holy crown” for the high priest. Israel made it “just as Jehovah command Moses” (ver. 31).

Finally, the work of the tabernacle was completed (ver. 32). In verse 32, it is repeated twice that Israel did what God commanded Moses. Beginning in verse 33 (39:33-41), the Israelites brought each of the items to Moses which have been designed by God, guided by the Spirit, and built by men and women under the guidance of Bezalel and Oholiab. Verse 42 (and verse 43) emphasize once again that Israel did what God commanded them to do through Moses. In verse 43, Moses inspected the work, suggesting that he served as Bezalel and Oholiab’s supervisor. When Moses saw that the work had been done according to God’s specifications, then Moses blessed Israel.

APPLICATION:

For application, see comments in chapter 28.