

THE ROBES AND GARMENTS OF ISRAEL'S PRIESTS

BIBLE TEXT : Exodus 28:1-43; 29:29, 30; 39:1-31

LESSON 97 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel upon his heart before the LORD continually" (Exodus 28:30).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Exodus 28:1-43 (KJV)

¹ And take thou unto thee Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office, *even* Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons.

² And thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother for glory and for beauty.

³ And thou shalt speak unto all *that are* wise hearted, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments to consecrate him, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office.

⁴ And these *are* the garments which they shall make; a breastplate, and an ephod, and a robe, and a broidered coat, a mitre, and a girdle: and they shall make holy garments for Aaron thy brother, and his sons, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office.

⁵ And they shall take gold, and blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen.

⁶ And they shall make the ephod *of* gold, *of* blue, and *of* purple, *of* scarlet, and fine twined linen, with cunning work.

⁷ It shall have the two shoulderpieces thereof joined at the two edges thereof; and *so* it shall be joined together.

⁸ And the curious girdle of the ephod, which *is* upon it, shall be of the same, according to the work thereof; *even of* gold, *of* blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen.

⁹ And thou shalt take two onyx stones, and grave on them the names of the children of Israel:

¹⁰ Six of their names on one stone, and *the other* six names of the rest on the other stone, according to their birth.

¹¹ With the work of an engraver in stone, *like* the engravings of a signet, shalt thou engrave the two stones with the names of the children of Israel: thou shalt make them to be set in ouches of gold.

¹² And thou shalt put the two stones upon the shoulders of the ephod *for* stones of memorial unto the children of Israel: and Aaron shall bear their names before the LORD upon his two shoulders for a memorial.

¹³ And thou shalt make ouches *of* gold;

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I Holy Garments for the High Priest, for Glory and Beauty

1. All the priests' garments were made through the freewill offerings of the people by skilled, consecrated hands, Exodus 28:1-5; 39:1;

Exodus 25:2 (KJV)

² Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering.

Exodus 25:4 (KJV)

⁴ And blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair,

Exodus 25:7 (KJV)

⁷ Onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod, and in the breastplate.

Ezra 2:68-69 (KJV)

⁶⁸ And *some* of the chief of the fathers, when they came to the house of the LORD which is at Jerusalem, offered freely for the house of God to set it up in his place:

⁶⁹ They gave after their ability unto the treasure of the work threescore and one thousand drams of gold, and five thousand pound of silver, and one hundred priests' garments.

Nehemiah 7:70-72 (KJV)

⁷⁰ And *some* of the chief of the fathers gave unto the work. The Tirshatha gave to the treasure a thousand drams of gold, fifty basons, five hundred and thirty priests' garments.

⁷¹ And *some* of the chief of the fathers gave to the treasure of the work twenty thousand drams of gold, and two thousand and two hundred pound of silver.

⁷² And *that* which the rest of the people gave *was* twenty thousand drams of gold, and two thousand pound of silver, and threescore and seven priests' garments.

2. The Ephod and Girdle were beautiful garments that displayed the finest textile skill, and the inscribed stones as shoulder pieces, Exodus 28:6-14; 39:2-7;

Exodus 35:4-5 (KJV)

⁴ And Moses spake unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, This *is* the thing which the LORD commanded, saying,

⁵ Take ye from among you an offering unto the LORD: whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the LORD; gold, and silver, and brass,

Exodus 35:9 (KJV)

⁹ And onyx stones, and stones to be set for the ephod, and for the breastplate.

3. The Breastplate of Judgment, woven of gold, blue, purple, scarlet, and fine linen, with its 12 precious stones to represent the 12 tribes of Israel, was fastened to the ephod, Exodus 28:16-29; 39:8-14;

Isaiah 49:16 (KJV)

¹⁶ Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of *my* hands; thy walls *are* continually before me.

4. The Urim and Thummim were placed in the breastplate, Exodus 28:30;

Leviticus 8:8 (KJV)

⁸ And he put the breastplate upon him: also he put in the breastplate the Urim and the Thummim.

Numbers 27:21 (KJV)

²¹ And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall ask *counsel* for him after the judgment of Urim before the LORD: at his word shall they go out, and at his word they shall come in, *both* he, and all the children of Israel with him, even all the congregation.

5. The Robe of the Ephod, a richly ornamented blue garment,

¹⁴ And two chains *of* pure gold at the ends; *of* wreathen work shalt thou make them, and fasten the wreathen chains to the ouches.

¹⁵ And thou shalt make the breastplate of judgment with cunning work; after the work of the ephod thou shalt make it; *of* gold, *of* blue, and *of* purple, and *of* scarlet, and *of* fine twined linen, shalt thou make it.

¹⁶ Foursquare it shall be *being* doubled; a span *shall be* the length thereof, and a span *shall be* the breadth thereof.

¹⁷ And thou shalt set in it settings of stones, *even* four rows of stones: *the first row shall be* a sardius, a topaz, and a carbuncle: *this shall be* the first row.

¹⁸ And the second row *shall be* an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond.

¹⁹ And the third row a ligure, an agate, and an amethyst.

²⁰ And the fourth row a beryl, and an onyx, and a jasper: they shall be set in gold in their inclosings.

²¹ And the stones shall be with the names of the children of Israel, twelve, according to their names, *like* the engravings of a signet; every one with his name shall they be according to the twelve tribes.

²² And thou shalt make upon the breastplate chains at the ends *of* wreathen work *of* pure gold.

²³ And thou shalt make upon the breastplate two rings of gold, and shalt put the two rings on the two ends of the breastplate.

²⁴ And thou shalt put the two wreathen chains of gold in the two rings *which are* on the ends of the breastplate.

²⁵ And *the other* two ends of the two wreathen chains thou shalt fasten in the two ouches, and put *them* on the shoulderpieces of the ephod before it.

²⁶ And thou shalt make two rings of gold, and thou shalt put them upon the two ends of the breastplate in the border thereof, *which is* in the side of the ephod inward.

²⁷ And two *other* rings of gold thou shalt make, and shalt put them on the two sides of the ephod underneath, toward the forepart thereof, over against the *other* coupling thereof, above the curious girdle of the ephod.

²⁸ And they shall bind the breastplate by the rings thereof unto the rings of the ephod with a lace of blue, that *it* may be above the curious girdle of the ephod, and that the breastplate be not loosed from the ephod.

²⁹ And Aaron shall bear the names of the children of Israel in the breastplate of judgment upon his heart, when he goeth in unto the holy *place*, for a memorial before

was worn under the ephod, Exodus 28:31-35; 39:22-26;
Leviticus 8:7-9 (KJV)

⁷ And he put upon him the coat, and girded him with the girdle, and clothed him with the robe, and put the ephod upon him, and he girded him with the curious girdle of the ephod, and bound *it* unto him therewith.

⁸ And he put the breastplate upon him: also he put in the breastplate the Urim and the Thummim.

⁹ And he put the mitre upon his head; also upon the mitre, *even* upon his forefront, did he put the golden plate, the holy crown; as the LORD commanded Moses.

6. The Mitre, or headdress, was of linen, Exodus 28:39; 39:28
7. The Engraved Gold Plate was secured to the mitre with blue lace, Exodus 28:36-38; 39:30, 31
8. The Embroidered Linen Robe and its Girdle, and Linen Breeches were worn under the robe of the ephod, Exodus 28:39, 42, 43; 39:27-29
9. The holy garments were to be passed on to each successor upon the death of the high priest, Exodus 29:29, 30;

Numbers 20:24-28 (KJV)

²⁴ Aaron shall be gathered unto his people: for he shall not enter into the land which I have given unto the children of Israel, because ye rebelled against my word at the water of Meribah.

²⁵ Take Aaron and Eleazar his son, and bring them up unto mount Hor:

²⁶ And strip Aaron of his garments, and put them upon Eleazar his son: and Aaron shall be gathered *unto his people*, and shall die there.

²⁷ And Moses did as the LORD commanded: and they went up into mount Hor in the sight of all the congregation.

²⁸ And Moses stripped Aaron of his garments, and put them upon Eleazar his son; and Aaron died there in the top of the mount: and Moses and Eleazar came down from the mount.

II Holy Garments for the Regular Priests, for Glory and Beauty

1. Linen Coats, Breeches, Bonnets, and Girdles were made for the regular priests, Exodus 28:4, 40-43; 39:27, 28;

Leviticus 8:13 (KJV)

¹³ And Moses brought Aaron's sons, and put coats upon them, and girded them with girdles, and put bonnets upon them; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Ezekiel 44:17-19 (KJV)

¹⁷ And it shall come to pass, *that* when they enter in at the gates of the inner court, they shall be clothed with linen garments; and no wool shall come upon them, whiles they minister in the gates of the inner court, and within.

¹⁸ They shall have linen bonnets upon their heads, and shall have linen breeches upon their loins; they shall not gird *themselves* with any thing that causeth sweat.

¹⁹ And when they go forth into the utter court, *even* into the utter court to the people, they shall put off their garments wherein they ministered, and lay them in the holy chambers, and they shall put on other garments; and they shall not sanctify the people with their garments.

NOTES:

Beautiful Perfection in Every Detail of God's Worship

In our last lessons about the Israelites we saw them leaving their encampment at the base of Mt. Sinai and starting for the Promised Land after having received the Law and ordinances of God. The Tabernacle had been built and set up, and God's presence had manifested itself in a wonderful way upon and in that sacred structure. Finally, the pillar of cloud had lifted and moved ahead and God led them on. The Levites had taken up their newly assigned responsibilities and every detail of their movement had been carefully executed and carried out.

From the time of the dedication of the Tabernacle to the time of their movement, less than two months (Compare **Exodus 40:2 (KJV)** ² On the first day of the first month shalt thou set up the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation.

the LORD continually.

³⁰ And thou shalt put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim; and they shall be upon Aaron's heart, when he goeth in before the LORD: and Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel upon his heart before the LORD continually.

³¹ And thou shalt make the robe of the ephod all of blue.

³² And there shall be an hole in the top of it, in the midst thereof: it shall have a binding of woven work round about the hole of it, as it were the hole of an habergeon, that it be not rent.

³³ And *beneath* upon the hem of it thou shalt make pomegranates of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, round about the hem thereof; and bells of gold between them round about:

³⁴ A golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, upon the hem of the robe round about.

³⁵ And it shall be upon Aaron to minister: and his sound shall be heard when he goeth in unto the holy *place* before the LORD, and when he cometh out, that he die not.

³⁶ And thou shalt make a plate of pure gold, and grave upon it, *like* the engravings of a signet, HOLINESS TO THE LORD.

³⁷ And thou shalt put it on a blue lace, that it may be upon the mitre; upon the forefront of the mitre it shall be.

³⁸ And it shall be upon Aaron's forehead, that Aaron may bear the iniquity of the holy things, which the children of Israel shall hallow in all their holy gifts; and it shall be always upon his forehead, that they may be accepted before the LORD.

³⁹ And thou shalt embroider the coat of fine linen, and thou shalt make the mitre of fine linen, and thou shalt make the girdle of needlework.

⁴⁰ And for Aaron's sons thou shalt make coats, and thou shalt make for them girdles, and bonnets shalt thou make for them, for glory and for beauty.

⁴¹ And thou shalt put them upon Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him; and shalt anoint them, and consecrate them, and sanctify them, that they may minister unto me in the priest's office.

⁴² And thou shalt make them linen breeches to cover their nakedness; from the loins even unto the thighs they shall reach:

⁴³ And they shall be upon Aaron, and upon his sons, when they come in unto the tabernacle of the congregation, or when they come near unto the altar to minister in the holy *place*; that they bear not iniquity, and die: *it shall be* a statute for

With **Numbers 10:11 (KJV)** ¹¹ And it came to pass on the twentieth *day* of the second month, in the second year, that the cloud was taken up from off the tabernacle of the testimony), God had met With them many times as they presented their offerings to Him. It was during this period that the princes of Israel brought their offerings to the Lord (Numbers 7:1-89); the second Passover was celebrated; the high priest and assisting priests were anointed and consecrated for their service; and the Levites were set aside and instructed in their work for God. The daily morning and evening sacrifices had been offered, the Sabbath offerings brought to the Lord, and the prescribed offerings brought at the beginning of the new month. Thus, even though the worship was only newly instituted, they had seen the Perfect Sacrifice that was to come from Heaven typified over and over again.

Naturally, all the technical details of the worship and their significance was not fully plain to them. They followed the plan in faith, because it was God's plan. We who live in the Gospel dispensation do the same if we are God's children. They knew that their obligation to God was to come to Him in faith and in obedience to the plan He gave them even though it was not fully understood in every detail. We know the same to be true. So, even though they did not know all to which every type and shadow pointed they could still receive the same benefits from Calvary's Blood as we who know that event as a historical fact.

Perhaps they looked upon some of the details of the worship in wonderment, even as we look at the prophesied events of the future in eagerness, desiring to know the manner in which all those things are going to be fulfilled. No doubt as they came to the Tabernacle court entrance they were amazed at the beauty of the parts of the structure and its appointments that they could see. Perhaps they looked at the gorgeous robes of the regular priests with admiration, and in the simple beauty of those holy garments could see the typical presentation of many of the attributes of the coming Christ. And if those garments caused them to ponder upon the promises given them of the coming Advocate what must have been their thoughts when they saw the high priest arrayed in the glory and beauty of his official robes?

The Robes of the High Priest ,

The priesthood was headed by the high priest; and to show the position he held God ordained that the robes of that office should be outstanding from all the others. But that was not the only reason for the difference between his robes and those of the regular priests. We have said that the simple beauty of the robes of the regular, priests showed some of the attributes of Christ. But it was not possible for any one man or one sacrifice to show all phases of Christ's attributes or intercessory office. The most that could be typified in any one person was shown in the high priest. He, in his robes and jewels, was an earthly type of our great High Priest who is now arrayed in the sublime glories of His everlasting righteousness - the beauty of which cannot be imagined by man, let alone be adequately shown by earthly garments or choice stones of this cursed earth.

In **Leviticus 8:7-9 (KJV)** ⁷ And he put upon him the coat, and girded him with the girdle, and clothed him with the robe,

ever unto him and his seed after him.

Exodus 29:29-30 (KJV)

²⁹ And the holy garments of Aaron shall be his sons' after him, to be anointed therein, and to be consecrated in them.

³⁰ And that son that is priest in his stead shall put them on seven days, when he cometh into the tabernacle of the congregation to minister in the holy place.

Exodus 39:1-31 (KJV)

¹ And of the blue, and purple, and scarlet, they made cloths of service, to do service in the holy place, and made the holy garments for Aaron; as the LORD commanded Moses.

² And he made the ephod of gold, blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen.

³ And they did beat the gold into thin plates, and cut it into wires, to work it in the blue, and in the purple, and in the scarlet, and in the fine linen, with cunning work.

⁴ They made shoulderpieces for it, to couple it together: by the two edges was it coupled together.

⁵ 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.

⁶ And they wrought onyx stones inclosed in ouches of gold, graven, as signets are graven, with the names of the children of Israel.

⁷ And he put them on the shoulders of the ephod, that they should be stones for a memorial to the children of Israel; as the LORD commanded Moses.

⁸ And he made the breastplate of cunning work, like the work of the ephod; of gold, blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen.

⁹ It was foursquare; they made the breastplate double: a span was the length thereof, and a span the breadth thereof, being doubled.

¹⁰ And they set in it four rows of stones: the first row was a sardius, a topaz, and a carbuncle: this was the first row.

¹¹ And the second row, an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond.

¹² And the third row, a ligure, an agate, and an amethyst.

¹³ And the fourth row, a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper: they were inclosed in ouches of gold in their inclosings.

¹⁴ And the stones were according to the names of the children of Israel, twelve, according to their names, like the engravings of a signet, every one with his

and put the ephod upon him, and he girded him with the curious girdle of the ephod, and bound it unto him therewith.
⁸ And he put the breastplate upon him: also he put in the breastplate the Urim and the Thummim.⁹ And he put the mitre upon his head; also upon the mitre, even upon his forefront, did he put the golden plate, the holy crown; as the LORD commanded Moses, we are told the order in which these garments were put on. After the undergarments Moses put the brodered linen coat on Aaron and fastened it with its linen girdle, colored blue, purple, and scarlet. Over that coat Moses next placed the robe of the ephod, a blue garment with pomegranates of blue, purple and scarlet wrought on its hem, alternated with bells of gold. It is thought by some that there were about 72 bells and pomegranates on the hem of this one garment.

Over the robe of the ephod was placed the ephod itself. It was a shorter garment and was one of the most important of the high priest's wardrobe. It was beautifully and intricately wrought with gold, purple, scarlet, and blue, and fine linen in a design that God had no doubt given to Moses on Mt. Sinai. Two precious stones were mounted for shoulder pieces on the ephod. These stones were engraved with the names of the 12 tribes of Israel. The ephod had its own curiously-wrought girdle that secured it to its place.

The breastplate of judgment was fastened to the ephod by chains of gold passed through golden rings. It was about 18 inches long and 9 inches wide and was folded to a perfect square. Mounted upon it were 12 stones which also had the names of the tribes engraved upon them. Somewhere in this breastplate Moses placed the Urim and Thummim, an object - or objects - about which little is specifically told us in the Bible.

The high priest's head was covered with a mitre, or head covering, made of fine linen upon which was fastened with blue lace a plate of gold engraved with the words, "HOLINESS TO THE LORD."

Christ, Our High Priest

We have conjectured somewhat upon the individual feelings of the members of the congregation who looked upon the glories of these priestly robes and garments. Some fulfillment of their glorious types has taken place already and we can now see a little more of the typical meaning than the Israelites could in their time. But there are still greater glories to be manifested to us, which glories we shall completely see only when we see Him who is now our High Priest in the heavens. He is now clad in the priestly robes and garments He earned when He suffered to become our Intercessor. (Read **Isaiah 63:1 (KJV)** ¹ Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. **Hebrews 2:17 (KJV)** ¹⁷ Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. **Hebrews 3:1-2 (KJV)** ¹ Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;² Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house. **Hebrews 4:14-15 (KJV)** ¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the

name, according to the twelve tribes.

¹⁵ And they made upon the breastplate chains at the ends, *of* wreathen work *of* pure gold.

¹⁶ And they made two ouches *of* gold, and two gold rings; and put the two rings in the two ends of the breastplate.

¹⁷ And they put the two wreathen chains of gold in the two rings on the ends of the breastplate.

¹⁸ And the two ends of the two wreathen chains they fastened in the two ouches, and put them on the shoulderpieces of the ephod, before it.

¹⁹ And they made two rings of gold, and put *them* on the two ends of the breastplate, upon the border of it, which *was* on the side of the ephod inward.

²⁰ And they made two *other* golden rings, and put them on the two sides of the ephod underneath, toward the forepart of it, over against the *other* coupling thereof, above the curious girdle of the ephod.

²¹ And they did bind the breastplate by his rings unto the rings of the ephod with a lace of blue, that it might be above the curious girdle of the ephod, and that the breastplate might not be loosed from the ephod; as the LORD commanded Moses.

²² And he made the robe of the ephod *of* woven work, all *of* blue.

²³ And *there was* an hole in the midst of the robe, as the hole of an habergeon, *with* a band round about the hole, that it should not rend.

²⁴ And they made upon the hems of the robe pomegranates *of* blue, and purple, and scarlet, *and* twined linen.

²⁵ And they made bells *of* pure gold, and put the bells between the pomegranates upon the hem of the robe, round about between the pomegranates;

²⁶ A bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate, round about the hem of the robe to minister *in*; as the LORD commanded Moses.

²⁷ And they made coats *of* fine linen *of* woven work for Aaron, and for his sons,

²⁸ And a mitre *of* fine linen, and goodly bonnets *of* fine linen, and linen breeches *of* fine twined linen,

²⁹ And a girdle *of* fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet, *of* needlework; as the LORD commanded Moses.

³⁰ And they made the plate of the holy crown *of* pure gold, and wrote upon it a writing, *like to* the engravings of a signet, HOLINESS TO THE LORD.

³¹ And they tied unto it a lace of blue, to fasten *it* on high upon the mitre; as the

heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession.¹⁵ For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, *yet* without sin. **Hebrews 7:24-28 (KJV)** ²⁴ But this *man*, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. ²⁵ Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.²⁶ For such an high priest became us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; ⁷ Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself. ²⁸ For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, *maketh* the Son, who is consecrated for evermore. **Hebrews 8:1-2 (KJV)** ¹ Now of the things which we have spoken *this is* the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;² A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man. **Hebrews 9:11-14 (KJV)** ¹¹ But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; ¹² Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*. ¹³ For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: ¹⁴ How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? **Hebrews 10:19-21 (KJV)** ¹⁹ Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,²⁰ By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; ²¹ And *having* an high priest over the house of God;

Some of the Types as They Have Been Partially Fulfilled

The Linen Garments have a wonderful significance. We are taught that they are emblematic of some of the virtues of the Bride of Christ (**Proverbs 31:12 (KJV)** ¹² She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life). God's priests and great men of all ages wore linen in their ministrations and worship (**1 Samuel 2:18 (KJV)** ¹⁸ But Samuel ministered before the LORD, *being* a child, girded with a linen ephod. **1 Samuel 22:18 (KJV)** ¹⁸ And the king said to Doeg, Turn thou, and fall upon the priests. And Doeg the Edomite turned, and he fell upon the priests, and slew on that day fourscore and five persons that did wear a linen ephod. **2 Samuel 6:14 (KJV)** ¹⁴ And David danced before the LORD with all *his* might; and David *was* girded with a linen ephod. **Ezekiel 44:17-18 (KJV)** ¹⁷ And it shall come to pass, *that* when they enter in at the gates of the inner court, they shall be clothed with linen garments; and no wool shall come upon them, whiles they minister in the gates of the inner court, and within. ¹⁸ They shall have linen bonnets upon their heads, and shall have linen breeches upon their loins; they shall not gird *themselves* with any thing that causeth sweat). Gods chosen ones are dressed in it as well as being ornamented with the precious jewels (**Ezekiel 16:10-14 (KJV)** ¹⁰ I clothed thee also with brodered work, and shod thee with badgers' skin, and I girded thee about with fine linen, and I covered thee with silk. ¹¹ I decked thee also with ornaments, and I put bracelets upon thy hands, and a chain on thy neck. ¹² And I put a jewel on thy forehead, and earrings in thine ears, and a beautiful crown upon thine head.¹³ Thus wast thou decked with gold and silver; and thy raiment *was of* fine linen, and silk, and brodered work; thou didst eat fine flour, and honey, and oil: and thou wast exceeding beautiful, and thou didst prosper

into a kingdom. ¹⁴ And thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty: for it *was* perfect through my comeliness, which I had put upon thee, saith the Lord GOD. **Revelation 19:14 (KJV)** ¹⁴ And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean). In Heaven it is the righteousness of saints (**Revelation 19:8 (KJV)** ⁸ And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints).

The Shoulder Pieces and the Breastplate of Judgment contained the engraved names of the 12 tribes of Israel. These were never separated from the ephod and were a memorial, a sign, whereby the Israelites might know they were remembered when the high priest went before God. Their intercessor thus bore them upon his shoulders and upon his heart.

The Urim and Thummim, about which we know very little as far as their shape or content is concerned, were most wonderful. They were placed in the breastplate of judgment by Moses and were the means whereby the high priest communicated with God. Their significance is easily seen to be the spiritual discernment and guidance given to those o receive the indwelling power and anointing of the mighty baptism of the Holy Ghost and who press on to a very close walk with God. That sacred treasure that God can give us is easily grieved and lost - the Urim and Thummim being some of the five things listed by Bible students that were in Solomon's Temple and the Tabernacle, which were missing from the second Temple.

We find that many received messages from God in Bible times through the Urim and Thummim (**Judges 20:18 (KJV)** ¹⁸ And the children of Israel arose, and went up to the house of God, and asked counsel of God, and said, Which of us shall go up first to the battle against the children of Benjamin? And the LORD said, Judah *shall go up* first. **Judges 20:28 (KJV)** ²⁸ And Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, stood before it in those days,) saying, Shall I yet again go out to battle against the children of Benjamin my brother, or shall I cease? And the LORD said, Go up; for to morrow I will deliver them into thine hand. **1 Samuel 10:22-23 (KJV)** ²² Therefore they enquired of the LORD further, if the man should yet come thither. And the LORD answered, Behold, he hath hid himself among the stuff.²³ And they ran and fetched him thence: and when he stood among the people, he was higher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward. **1 Samuel 23:9-12 (KJV)** ⁹ And David knew that Saul secretly practised mischief against him; and he said to Abiathar the priest, Bring hither the ephod.¹⁰ Then said David, O LORD God of Israel, thy servant hath certainly heard that Saul seeketh to come to Keilah, to destroy the city for my sake. ¹¹ Will the men of Keilah deliver me up into his hand? will Saul come down, as thy servant hath heard? O LORD God of Israel, I beseech thee, tell thy servant. And the LORD said, He will come down. ¹² Then said David, Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul? And the LORD said, They will deliver *thee* up. **1 Samuel 30:7-8 (KJV)** ⁷ And David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, I pray thee, bring me hither the ephod. And Abiathar brought thither the ephod to David.⁸ And David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake *them*, and without fail recover *all*). They were coveted, spiritual treasures to them, and should be so to us also (**Ezra 2:63**

QUESTIONS

- 1 Who furnished the material for the priests' robes and garments?
- 2 Name the garments worn by the regular priests.
- 3 Name the garments worn by the high priest.
- 4 What significance did the shoulder pieces of stone have?
- 5 'What was engraved upon the stones that were over the high priest's heart and what is the significance of the stones' being there?
- 6 Tell what the linen garments signified.
- 7 How was the holiness of God shown in the high priest's robes?
- 8 Why was God so exacting in the details of these garments?
- 9 What is the significance of the bells upon the hem of the high priest 'blue robe'?
- 10 Quote some passages of Scripture that tell us who our High Priest is.

(KJV) ⁶³ And the Tirshatha said unto them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, till there stood up a priest with Urim and with Thummim. **Deuteronomy 33:8 (KJV)** ⁸ And of Levi he said, *Let thy Thummim and thy Urim be with thy holy one, whom thou didst prove at Massah, and with whom thou didst strive at the waters of Meribah;* **1 Samuel 28:6 (KJV)** ⁶ And when Saul enquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets). And how thankful we should be that the passing away of the Old Dispensation did not deprive us of this treasure, but that it is reserved for those who will truly seek the best God can give them (**1 Corinthians 2:14 (KJV)** ¹⁴ But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. **John 8:12 (KJV)** ² Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. **John 16:13-15 (KJV)** ¹³ Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. ¹⁴ He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you. ¹⁵ All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you. **1 John 3:24 (KJV)** ²⁴ And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us. **1 John 4:1 (KJV)** ¹ Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. **1 Thessalonians 5:21 (KJV)** ²¹ Prove all things; hold fast that which is good).

The Robe of the Ephod had upon its border-hem alternate golden bells and wrought pomegranates. When the high priest went before the Lord in his ministrations these bells would sound and the people outside the court who waited in prayer would know that their intercessor was representing them before the Lord. The sound of the ringing bells would also let the people know that the high priest was alive. Abrupt silence would tell them that he had suddenly succumbed and that his successor would then have to take over the responsibilities of that office.

By prayer and communion with God we, too, can know that our great High Priest is interceding for us. We, too, can hear the "bells" upon His garments when we draw near to Heaven.

The Mitre upon the head of the high priest was one of the crowning pieces of apparel worn by that godly man. A plate of gold was fastened to it upon which were engraved the words, "HOLINESS TO THE LORD." Here was a constant reminder to him, and to all who saw him, of the sacredness and importance of his office.

The high priest was to minister in holy things. He was the representative of a holy God. He was to offer sacrifices that atonement might be made to put away sin, to make holy those offerers who came in faith and sincerity. He was to teach the people the way of righteousness and true holiness. As a mediator, he was to be holy himself, that he might obtain favor for them so they might be made holy and be prepared to dwell with holy people in the kingdom of glory. He was, finally, a type of that holy and just One who, in God's time, was to come and put away sin and make us holy by the sacrifice of Himself.

