

**June 25, 2023**

**Exodus 39:1; 32-43**

1 From the blue and purple and scarlet yarns they made finely woven garments, for ministering in the Holy Place. They made the holy garments for Aaron, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

32 Thus all the work of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting was finished, and the people of Israel did according to all that the LORD had commanded Moses; so they did. 33 Then they brought the tabernacle to Moses, the tent and all its utensils, its hooks, its frames, its bars, its pillars, and its bases; 34 the covering of tanned rams' skins and goatskins, and the veil of the screen; 35 the ark of the testimony with its poles and the mercy seat; 36 the table with all its utensils, and the bread of the Presence; 37 the lampstand of pure gold and its lamps with the lamps set and all its utensils, and the oil for the light; 38 the golden altar, the anointing oil and the fragrant incense, and the screen for the entrance of the tent; 39 the bronze altar, and its grating of bronze, its poles, and all its utensils; the basin and its stand; 40 the hangings of the court, its pillars, and its bases, and the screen for the gate of the court, its cords, and its pegs; and all the utensils for the service of the tabernacle, for the tent of meeting; 41 the finely worked garments for ministering in the Holy Place, the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons for their service as priests. 42 According to all that the LORD had commanded Moses, so the people of Israel had done all the work. 43 And Moses saw all the work, and behold, they had done it; as the LORD had commanded, so had they done it. Then Moses blessed them.

Scriptures for further study:

Exodus 19:6

Exodus 28-29

Hebrews 4:14-17

Hebrews 9:13-14

1 Peter 2:4,9

Revelation 1:5-6



### **Delivered to Serve the LORD**

**Exodus 39:1; 32-43**

**BIG IDEA:** Because Jesus is the Great High Priest, then by faith in Him we are clothed with His righteousness and blessed by him to serve Him.

### **OUTLINE**

1. The Holy Garments for the Priests
2. The LORD's Commands
3. The Blessing
4. Our Calling

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Westminster Larger Catechism

Q.1 What is the primary and highest purpose of human beings?

A. The primary and highest purpose of human beings is to glorify God and to enjoy him completely..

“Exodus 39 reinforces one of the central themes of the book of Exodus, God alone determines how He is to be worshiped. He does not ask His people how to creatively think up their own ways to approach Him, but instead carefully explains what they are to do. So, this phrase, “according to all the Lord had commanded Moses,” and “just as the Lord had commanded,” served to emphasize that point.”

- Dr. Ligon Duncan

The High Priest's Holy Garments. The *turban* of fine linen held a plate of pure shining gold, on which were engraved the Hebrew words for “Holy to YHWH.” The *ephod* (a colorful linen torso garment held by a skillfully woven waistband) had two shoulder pieces, each holding an onyx stone. The names of the 12 sons of Israel were engraved on these two stones. The cloth *breastpiece of judgment* had four rows, each with three precious stones. Each of these stones had engraved upon it the name of one of the tribes of Israel. The breastpiece also contained the Urim and the Thummim and was attached to the ephod by gold chains and rings. The blue *robe* was worn under the ephod (Lev. 8:7–8); colorful imitation pomegranates lined the hem of the robe, alternating with golden bells. The white *coat* or tunic of checkered weave and fine linen was probably held by the embroidered sash under the robe.

-ESV Study Bible



**Praise to Jesus.** Take time this week to review the blessings we have from Jesus as our Great High Priest. Here are two passages that can help you: Ephesians 1: 3-14, Hebrews 4:14-17. Praise God for these blessings and ask God to show you how to share these blessings with others this week.

**Repentance through Jesus.** Read John 14:15,23 and 1 John 5: 3. Ask God the Holy Spirit to reveal how you have forgotten the love of Christ and have not followed God's commands in your life this week. Repent of this and look to Jesus for forgiveness.

**Consecration for Jesus.** Meditate on the beauty of Jesus as our Great High Priest and ask the Spirit to empower you to worship and serve God this week in your home, at your job, with friends, and with strangers.

## DISCIPLESHIP DURING THE WEEK

These “Sermon Discussion Questions” are designed for study during the week for believers in a wide variety of ages & stages in their walk with Christ.

1. What would you say is your purpose in life? How does this purpose affect the way you live? What does the Bible teach us about our purpose in life? What did you learn of your purpose in life from Exodus 39?
2. Review Exodus 28 and compare that with Exodus 39:1-31. Why did the LORD appoint priests for Israel? Why did the LORD command that the priests wear these special garments? Why were these garments called holy?
3. Why did Moses repeat the phrase “as the LORD had commanded Moses” in describing the building of the Tabernacle and in our passage from Exodus 39 in the description of the making of the priestly garments?
4. What are the similarities between the last parts of the creation account in Genesis 1:31-2:3 and Exodus 39:32-43?
5. How did Jesus fulfill the role of High Priest? What blessings do we have from our union with Christ as the Great High Priest?
6. What does the Bible teach us about our calling as “a holy priesthood” and “a royal priesthood” (1 Peter 2:5,9)?

“Christ is our great high priest. When He undertook the work of our redemption, He put on the clothes of service, He arrayed Himself with the gifts and graces of the Spirit which He received not by measure. He girded Himself with the girdle of resolution to go through with His undertaking. He charged Himself with God’s spiritual Israel, bore them on His shoulders, carried them in His bosom, laid them near His heart, engraved them on the palms of His hands, and presented them in the breastplate of judgment to His Father. And lastly, He crowned Himself with holiness to the Lord, consecrating His who undertaking to the honor of His Father’s holiness, now consider how great this Man is.” - Matthew Henry

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This covenant [of grace] was administered differently in the time of the law and in the time of the gospel. Under the law it was administered by promises, prophecies, sacrifices, circumcision, the paschal lamb, and other types and ordinances given to the Jewish people, all foreshadowing Christ.

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7.6  
Under the gospel Christ himself, the substance of God’s grace, was revealed. The ordinances of this New Testament are the preaching of the word and the administration of the sacraments of baptism and the Lord’s supper.

“These verses [Exodus 39:1-31] mention three things that Aaron’s wardrobe was supposed to convey: holiness, glory, and beauty.” - Dr. Phillip Graham Ryken

# FOR FAMILIES AND YOUNG CHILDREN

1. Why are the garments for the priests called “holy” and why is the place where the priest is to minister called the “Holy Place” in Exodus 39:1? *(These are called holy because of God’s holy presence there.)*

Scriptures for further study:

Hebrews 4:14-17

2. In Exodus 39:7 and 39:14, why are the twelve sons of Israel represented on the ephod of the priestly garments? *(This is because the Priests were to be the Israelite’s representative before God.)*

Hebrews 8:1-13

3. Why did Moses repeat the phrase “as the LORD had commanded Moses” several times in the passages related to the Tabernacle? (39:1,5,7,21,29,31,42, and 43) *(This was a reminder to Israel that the Tabernacle and its design were from the LORD and not from Moses. Hebrews 8:5 calls the earthly Tabernacle the “copy and shadow of the heavenly things”. Also talk with your children about how God requires that we worship Him according to His will and pattern, not ours.)*

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

4. Why did Moses bless the Israelites in Exodus 39:43 after reviewing their work in building the Tabernacle? *(This was because their work was done according to the LORD’s commands that He gave to Moses.)*

a. If you have older children, then ask them what the similarities are to Exodus 39:43 and Genesis 1:31, 2:1-3. *(In Genesis 1:31 and 2:1-3, God reviews His creation and blesses the seventh day as a day of rest. In Exodus 39:43, Moses reviews the work of the Israelites in building the Tabernacle and blesses them. The Tabernacle is a part of God’s re-creation or new creation in His work of redemption, which is culminated in person and work of Jesus Christ.)*

## FOR STUDENTS

1. How often is the phrase “As the Lord commanded” found in chapters 39-40? Why is it important that the Tabernacle is crafted just as God commanded? (See Hebrews 8:5)
2. Read Exodus 39:32. What does this verse tell us? How careful were the people to do everything exactly as God commanded?
3. What did Moses do after he inspected everything the people had made? (Exodus 39:42-43)
4. The Tabernacle is where God’s glory is manifested as a sign of God’s presence with His people. Who is the true Tabernacle? (See John 1:14; John 17:24).
5. Exodus 39 speaks of the people’s full obedience in the construction of the tabernacle and its elements. What does “dwelling” in our hearts have to do with obedience to God with our hands and lives?

## FOR NON-BELIEVERS OR NEW BELIEVERS

1. Some have pointed out that the priest was decked out to look like the Tabernacle itself, thus making him perfectly suited and “made for his work” in the Tabernacle.

**Question:** How does this point to Jesus himself, the High Priest, who is perfect for the priestly work that He would need to perform on our behalf? (See Hebrews 7:26).

2. The priest wore a breastpiece with twelve stones representing the twelve tribes of Israel. It was as if the priest carried the people of God “on his heart” as he entered the Most Holy Place. The priest was in a sense responsible for securing their entrance into the LORD’s presence. How does this illustrate the work that Jesus Christ does in representing us before God? Have your trusted in Christ as your Savior and High Priest? If so, you can have assurance that your name is written on his heart!

3. If Jesus Christ now fulfills the role of the high priest, what is the purpose of having earthly priests and pastors today?

4. As a new believer, know that God’s desire for us in worship is that we worship Him in spirit and truth (i.e., mind and heart). How we dress outwardly is certainly not the main focus, and we should feel welcome to come and worship no matter if we wear denim or silk.

**Question:** Is there any value or purpose in a present-day pastor or priest wearing any special garments or robes? Without being legalistic, how might your dress be an important consideration today?



*The Seventh Plague of Egypt, John Martin, 1823*

**About the artist and painting:** The English Romantic painter John Martin was no stranger to death and despair. Out of the 13 children born to his mother and father, John was one of only 6 that survived childhood. He grew up in poverty, the son of a farm laborer. In 1813, John lost his grandmother, mother, father, and youngest son all in the same year. Despite his popular appeal to English society, he was never really celebrated much less even accepted by the art community. Yet he was somewhat of a revolutionary by choosing to paint very fantastic, biblical scenes and landscapes. One can't help but think John looked to the extraordinary aspects of the bible to deal with the harsh realities of life in a broken world.

His 1823 work, *The Seventh Plague of Egypt*, helps to capture the deliverance theme so prevalent in the Book of Exodus. In the painting you have these mighty structures of Pharaoh's palace, city, and pyramids all displayed in their grandeur. In Moses' day this represented to God's people Pharaoh's power and oppression towards them as he ruthlessly made their lives harsh. Yet God is breaking into these circumstances, "showing up" to bring about His deliverance. In this painting, over and above the Egyptian structures is something more magnificent, the storm of God: thunder, hail, and fire being poured down upon the oppressor and persecutor of His people. And your eye is drawn to the man standing on the left side of the painting, Moses, with outstretched arms looking to the LORD and His deliverance.



## **The purpose of Exodus:**

“The original purpose of Exodus was theological, to teach God’s people about himself and their relationship to him.” - Peter Enns, NIVAC, 25.

“Exodus is about a man, Moses. He is central to the narrative in a way in which no single character, not even Abraham, dominates Genesis...Exodus is about a nation, Israel, moving from slavery in Egypt into freedom...but ultimately Exodus is about God, about the God of the covenant who has instituted a new relationship between himself and those whom he has called to be his people.”  
- John Mackay, Exodus, 9.

“The whole story of Exodus is a covenant narrative. The God who pledged himself to Abraham and his descendants remained the faithful God. He had made promises and intended to honor them, and when his moment came, honor them he did...in a word, Exodus cannot be described simply as the book of the holiness of the Lord, nor simply as the book of the presence of the Lord, but as the book of the holy God present in all his holiness at the heart of his people’s life, their provident savior and friend, who makes provision whereby they, in all their unworthiness, may live safely with him.” - Alec Motyer, The Bible Speaks Today: The Message of Exodus, 20, 23.

The setting for Exodus 1:1-2:25 is Israel in Egypt. The opening section sets the stage for the rest of the book by describing: the connection to the narrative of Genesis (Ex. 1:1–7), the oppression that has arisen under a new pharaoh (1:8–22), the preservation of Moses at birth (2:1–10) and later in Midian (2:11–22), and the declaration of God’s intimate knowledge of Israel’s suffering and God’s faithfulness to his covenant with Abraham and his descendants (2:23–25).

## **Exodus is a journey in two parts.**

Part One: Egypt Exodus 1-15 Aug. 7th – Oct. 30th

Part Two: Sinai Exodus 16-18 Nov. 6th – Nov. 20th

*Pause for Advent: Nov. 27th – Dec. 18th*

Part Two Cont. Sinai Exodus 19 - 39 Jan. 8th – June 25th

*Pause for Capital Campaign Series: Jan. 22nd-Feb. 12th*

*Pause for DNOW: February 19th*

*Pause for Missions Sunday: March 26th*

## **Resources for further study:**

*Exodus: A Mentors Commentary* by John Mackay

*Exodus: An Exegetical and Theological Exposition of Holy Scripture*  
(Volume 2) (The New American Commentary) by Douglas Stuart