

Starting at chapter 25, we have looked at the details of the Tabernacle which focuses on the worship of God. The central theme is God's presence. That should always be ever present in our minds. It is so important to worship God and realize His presence amongst us. Exodus 25:8, God said He wanted a sanctuary, so He could dwell with His people. He certainly has taken up a dwelling with them in this structure. The Tabernacle is a great illustration of the work and person of Christ, since He is the fulfillment of what the Tabernacle and its articles point to. We are in the section of Exodus that focuses on this form of worship that allows the people to engage in encounters with Him. This actually takes up almost a third of the book. There must be a great amount of significance to this revelation that God gives, that this much is written. We have looked at the coverings and the curtains, the ark, showbread table, the golden lampstand, brazen altar, and the courts. We have now arrived at chapter 28 which features the clothing of the priests. I never apologize for God's Word, but without knowing what all this means, it could seem rather boring. However, when we see that every word of God is inspired, there has to be a rich amount of depth here. Many of us have been blessed as we march through this section and glean from it many precious, valuable truths. Above all, the glory and supremacy of Christ is proclaimed as we see His beauty. The priests garments will bring the beauty of Christ to light as we study this chapter together today. Let us turn to Exodus, chapter 28 to see if we can find His beauty in the priestly ministry and garments.

### **1. PRIESTS ARE CHOSEN BY GOD TO SERVE HIM--V 1**

The priests did not appoint themselves to the position of priests. Just like in our salvation, we did not choose God, but He chose us. God chose who the priests were to be. It was not a voluntary thing for just anybody in Israel to do. It is always God's plan and good pleasure to carry out His will the way He wants. This is how He did with Abraham, Moses, and the nation of Israel. He chooses to do what and how He wants it. He now chooses the priests, Aaron, and his sons. As a matter of fact, the whole tribe of Levi will be involved in doing the Levitical duties. They all will play a huge part in the worship and sacrifices in the Tabernacle and representing the individual worshippers to God.

#### **1. WORSHIP IS IMPORTANT**

As one looks at this chapter and all the minute details in God's instructions, one would gather that God takes worship very seriously. His great care in ordering how the priests would dress, even in the underwear to be worn, stresses how important worship of God is. One does not approach God in a casual, cavalier way. God has to be approached on His own terms. His people are to obey His will and instructions. We are so concerned with our own comfort and personal preferences that sometimes we tend to push aside reverence to Him for our own pleasure. His Word is what is to be the focus of worship.

#### **2. CHOSEN BY GOD**

John 15:16 We did not choose Him but He chose us. He chose the priests to serve Him. This was an act of sovereign grace, for it certainly was not their deserving of it.

### 3. GOD'S OWN TERMS

All of God's instructions are to be obeyed the way He commands. He tells how to approach Him, the way to approach Him, and He alone makes it possible to approach Him.

### 4. MINISTER TO GOD

The first obligation is to please the Lord and serve Him. The servant's most important obligation is to love the Lord. All ministry flows out of that relationship. A part of pleasing the Lord was wearing the priestly garments.

### 5. LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD AND MELCHIZADEK

This old covenant priesthood descended from Levi and Aaron. That Levitical tribe was the source of the priests for 1400 years.

So the question is how can the ultimate high priest of God come from Judah?

The new covenant priesthood was descended from Judah and Melchizedek as opposed to Aaron and Levi.

Hebrews 7:14-17

Christ's priesthood is of a different order than that of the old covenant.

Those were just types of the reality that was to come. Christ came from the tribe of Judah and would not have been considered to be a priest because He wasn't from the tribe of Levi. He is in the likeness of Melchizedek not on the basis of a law of physical requirement but according to the power of indestructible life. "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

Christ's priesthood was superior to the Aaronic priesthood because it had a better oath and a better covenant. His was permanent while the Levitical priesthood was temporary.

Jesus was king and priest and in turn because of that we have become a kingdom of priests.

## 2. THE HOLY GARMENTS ARE APPOINTED BY GOD-V 2-4

### 1. TO REFLECT THE BEAUTY OF GOD

These clothes were from the finest of material and were expensive. They were ornate and tremendously beautiful. God wanted tabernacle worship to reflect His glory and beauty. This teaches what God is like. The glory of God is the manifestation of His holiness. His glory is a revelation of the secret of His holiness. What is seen is His glory which is the beauty of His holiness.

That's what these vestments are about. We see the beauty representing God's holiness. They manifest who God is. They were so ornate that one would have to come to the conclusion that God is splendid.

Two hundred years before Christ somebody wrote: "Their appearance makes one awestruck and dumbfounded. A man would think he'd come out of this world into another one. I assert that every man who comes near the spectacle I just described will experience astonishment and amazement beyond any words." Its like WOW. You really can't say anything. Your mouth drops open.

They reflected who God is, the holy God who puts His glory on display.

### 2. SET APART FROM THE COMMON

They signified a heart consecrated, a life set apart to God. God expects His people to be set apart to Him and for His worship by the beauty of holiness. The priests are to be clothed in a manner that prepares them

to minister for the living God.

3. TO MINISTER TO GOD

The words; "to minister unto Me" are found five times in these 2 chapters.

To minister to the people, one has to minister to the Lord, first.

4. CLOTHED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

Not only was the priest to be clothed ritually, he was to be clothed in righteousness.

Psalm 132:9

Christ is righteousness.

5. SEVEN DISTINCTIVE GARMENTS

The regular priests had four distinctive garments. No shoes were mentioned.

They would minister in their bare feet. They were on holy ground as Moses experienced earlier at the burning bush.

The High Priest almost had double the garments and had a more beautiful look as opposed to the regular priests who wore just plain white linen.

The High Priest wore gold and jewels with the colors of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet.

**3. PRIESTS ARE CHOSEN TO SERVE PEOPLE VV 5-30**

1. THE EPHOD

Ephod meant sleeveless garment that reached to the ankles.

What was significant about the ephod was not the fabric or colors. It was that the name of six tribes were engraved on each onyx stone on the shoulder clasps. Whenever the High Priest wore His special robes he carried the people on his shoulders before the Lord. Luke 22:27

The 12 tribes were precious in the sight of God

**PRINCIPLE OF REPRESENTATION**

He was to represent the people before the Lord and carry them on his shoulders. He was called to serve his people. The priests were mediators.

28:9-12—The people enter when the priests enter. The people are represented and it is as if they were in the priest as in Adam or in Christ.

To enjoy the presence of God, you need a mediator before God.

It is not self-service. The priests go before you in the Tabernacle.

You went into the presence of God in the Holy of Holies in and through and only in and through that high priest. He was you going in the presence of God.

2. THE BREASTPLATE

This was beautifully embroidered fabric that hung on the high priest's chest. There were twelve jewels, each one representing the respective tribe.

The stones were close to the heart.

Carried the people over his heart—Philippians 1:7

God's people enjoy His presence through priest-representation and sacrifice.

The variety of stones on the breastplate suggests the variety of people all of them precious to God. Each of the tribes had their own personality and outlook.

Urim and Thummin---Numbers 27:21, 1 Sam 30:7-8 They used these to determine the will of God for the nation.

God's will and direction Ps 119:105 We have the Word of God.

**4. PRIESTS MUST SERVE IN THE FEAR OF GOD VV31-43**

1. BLUE ROBE

Seamless John 19:23

The Roman soldiers placed on Jesus' back and shoulders a purple robe. they did it to mock Him, but John tells it because he knows that most would know that around the ephod of the high priest was a scarlet robe. The persecutors of Christ put on Him the royal garment of High Priest For His people.

Pomegranates—fruitfulness

Bells---witness

The priestly walk must be fruitful and faithful, always giving witness that there is a serving of the Lord with integrity

## 2. THE TURBAN

This was only worn by the high priest

Holiness to the Lord      Lev 11:44-45, 19:2, 20:7

The Israelites were to be holy. Jesus died to make men holy, not necessarily happy. The first step to happiness is holiness.

High Priest identified with the sins of the people

This is where we get to the fear. Twice in this section the priests were warns that they might die if they didn't fully obey the Lords instructions.andwear the right garments. They must walk in the fear of the Lord and obey Him. They would die if they didn't wash at the laver, or if they used different incense. They were to observe clean and unclean lest they die.

Warning of death    28:35,43, 30:20-21, Lev 16:13, 22:1-9

Hebrews 12:28, There must be reverence and godly fear. Psalm 2:11

There must be a Spirit inspired fear of God.

## **JESUS IS OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST**