**Exodus 28**

**Outline**

Exodus 28:1-43: Priestly Garments

Exodus 29:1-46: Consecration of Aaron as High Priest

**Exodus 28:1-43: Priestly Garments**

**1-5** God tells Moses to set aside Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar to serve as High Priest for the nation of Israel. They are to make articles of clothing which are to be worn as the High Priest goes about his duty: Breast piece, ephod, robe, tunic of checkered work, turban, and sash.

**Gold, blue, purple, scarlet, and fine linen…** These are the materials donated in 25:3-4.

**3** **Skillful persons, endowed with spirit of wisdom…** Just as rest of tabernacle is made with those who have skill, so are the garments (31:1-6). The garments are no less important or any less a Divine command than the rest of the tabernacle.

* Holy garments (28:2, 4)
* Glory and beauty (28:2, 40)

**Ephod (28:6-14)**

* Gold, blue, purple, scarlet, and fine linen (28:6)
* Band that connects made of same material (28:7-8)
* 2 Onyx stones with six tribes on each stone and set in filigree of gold (28:9-11)
  + According to their birth could mean “Order of their birth” (Gen 29:31-30:24; 35:16-18)
  + Josephus had them according to order of birth
  + Rabbi Hanina ben Gamaliel followed order of tribes in Exodus 1:1-5
  + Maimonides
    - Right side: Reuben, Levi Issachar, Naphtali, Gad, Joseph (25 Hebrew Consonants)
    - Left side: Simeon, Judah, Zebulun, Dan, Asher, Benjamin (25 Hebrew Consonants)
* Aaron will bear the names before the Lord (28:12)
* Memorial (2x in 28:12, 29)
* Gold chains go on filigree setting (28:13-14)

**Breast piece (28:15-30)**

* Made of same material as Ephod (28:15)
* Perfect square folded double (28:16)
* Four rows of stones set in gold filigree (28:17-20)
  + 1st Row: Ruby, Topaz, Emerald (28:17)
  + 2nd Row: Turquoise, Sapphire, Dimond (28:18)
  + 3rd Row: Jacinth, Agate, Amethyst (28:19)
  + 4th Row: Beryl, Onyx, Jasper (28:20)
  + Nine (9) of these stones are mentioned in Ezekiel 28:13 as being found in Eden[[1]](#footnote-1)
* Names of tribes to be engraved on stones (28:21)
* Chains, rings, and cords of gold to tie on breastplate (28:22-28)
* Aaron carries name of tribes before Lord (28:29)
* Urim and Thummim in breastpeice; carries judgment before Lord (28:30)

**Robe (28:31-35)**

* All blue (28:31)
* Like coat of mail; not to be torn (28:32)
* Hem: Pomegranate design and golden bells (28:33-34)
  + Pomegranate (Promised land: Num 13:23; 20:5; Dt 8:8)
* Failure to put bells on High Priest (Aaron) will result in death (28:35)

**Plate for Turban (28:36-38)**

* Pure gold plate with “Holy to the LORD” (28:36)
* Fastened with blue cord to front of turban (28:37)
* Always on forehead so may be accepted (28:38)
* Holiness is to be mark of ALL the people (Ex 19:6)
* Accepted before Lord (28:38)

**Tunic of checkered work (28:39a)**

* Work of fine linen

**Turban (28:39b)**

* Fine linen

**Sash (28:39c)**

* Work of a weaver

**Linen Breeches (28:42)**

* Cover bare flesh
* Reach from loins to thighs

**40-43** The tunics and caps are to be made for Aaron and his sons then they are to be anointed as priests to God. Further they are to make coverings for their legs so that their nakedness may be covered. Failure to do this will result in death (28:43).

* Possible death (28:35, 43)

**Why such detail on garments?**

* These garments were not for all Israel but for the priests
* In NT (James 2) garments do not matter

1) Speaks of preparation when come before the Lord

When you are coming before the Lord to worship you do not take a half-hearted approach. There is preparation that we go through to worship. In our case, it is not the garments but the heart and mind (which would have also applied to them).

This also should remind us of Eden. In Eden garments were given because of the sin of humanity and they are driven out of the garden. Here, God tells them the garments to wear so they might come into His presence and He might dwell among them. I have a great sermon title… “Clothing: From Sin to Salvation.” I just have to write the lesson now.

2) Garments symbolized nation

* Names on Onyx stone on shoulder (28:9-12)
* 12 Stones with Tribes names (28:21)
* Carry names before the Lord (28:29-30)

3) Battle armor

* Ex 14: Be still and let God fight for you
* Ex 17: Moses holds us his staff and they are victorious
* Reminder you fight your battles by going to God and putting trust in Him

4) Holy to the Lord on forehead

* Many times God marks His people
* Ezekiel 9:4
* Zech 14:20
* Revelation 3:12; 7:3; 9:4; 13:16 (mark of beast); 14:1

1. Sarna, 180 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)