

The Sanctuary – With Jesus My High Priest

ST Series 20

The Garments of the High Priest – Special Garments (Lev. 8:7-9; Ex. 28:1-38)

In addition to the common priest garments, the high priest added four multicolored “golden garments” to complete the high priest’s uniform, which began with Aaron. These were so called since they were embellished with threads of gold. This uniform of service had to be worn over the common priest’s garments.

Please list the additional garments of the high priest’s regalia (Ex. 29:5; Lev. 8:7-9)

1. The Blue _____
2. The _____
3. The _____ of the Ephod
4. The _____ or _____

Description of each garment:

The Blue Robe – (Ex.28:31-35; 29:5)

Woven in one piece, this sleeveless azure woolen cloak, reached to just below the knees (the Hebrew *me’il*, comes from the root- *to cover*.) The robe symbolized flawless obedience to the entire law. Its wholeness must never be rent because the decalogue cannot be fractured with impunity (**Lev. 10:6**; Ex. 39:23). Arms came through slits in the sides, and an opening in the top for the head. Around its neck opening was a strong hem, so made “that it should not rend” (Ex. 39:23).

[DA 708 states that the high priest who tore his robe was automatically condemned to death by his act. Caiaphas is the only high priest on record who ever did. *Extra Credit- Why?*]

*Fulfillment: Only upon the foundation of a **righteous life**, represented by the **fine linen clean and white**, can there be **true obedience**, suggested by the **seamless blue robe**. Christ is represented as wearing zeal and righteousness as a robe (*me’il*, Isa. 59:17; 61:10).*

Red Fruit and **Golden Bells** – (Ex. 28:33)

A rich fringe hung from the hem of the **blue** robe. This was made up of either 70, or 72 balls of **blue**, **purple** or **scarlet** wool, shaped like “pomegranates,” with a corresponding number of golden bells between each. {Some state there were 72 total—36 fruit, 36 bells—which does seem more reasonable.} But why the pomegranate fruit?

The Jewish Encyclopedia explains that “throughout the East the pomegranate is the symbol of luxuriant fertility and of life.” It has also been stated by one that

“the pomegranates, with their pleasant odor, their sweet and refreshing juice, and the richness of their delicious kernels, were symbols of the word and testimony of God as a sweet and pleasant spiritual food, that enlivens the souls and refreshes the heart.” (compare Ps. 19:8-11; 119:25, 43, 50 with Deut. 8:3; Prov. 9:8; Eccl. 15:3)

Fulfillment: A **pomegranate** is a fruit filled with seeds suffused in **blood**. Did these appear to the imagination of any observer as symbols of **Christ’s spermatic word** bathed in **His life’s blood** to make the message **sweet** and effective?

Application: The **divine Sower** has strewn multitudes of **blood-bathed “seed,”** the children of His kingdom (Matt 13:38), into the fields of the world **to produce a mighty harvest.**

Each **golden bell** had a separate **golden tongue**. The Lord stipulated that the **blue robe** *“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”* (Ex.28:35).

The message of the bells is of an active high priest serving especially in the holy place. It should be remembered that when he annually ministered in the most holy place, he wore only his _____ robes (*more on this when we study the DOA*). But clad in his golden garments he had but to stir, and the chorus of the bells carillonned this news to all:

(Such sounds as emanated from **these bells**, small of construction, and made of a **softer metal**, would have been gentle and subtle.)

Fulfillment: *What was that sound—“He Who died lives! He ministers **in love!** His blood-bought seeds are alive and flourishing, and the witness of their **golden tongues** never ceases!”* *Eternal Spirit, tune our ears to listen. The **bells** symbolize **witnessing**, while the **pomegranates** tell of **fruit-bearing**.*

The Ephod

This “apron of service” was placed over this seamless sapphire cloak (the blue robe). From the high priest’s shoulders this double sleeveless apron (the ephod) reached to his knees. It was the official garment of the high priest of Israel and shorter than the robe (PP 351). It was made of the same material to that of the veils—gold, blue, and purple, scarlet and fine twined linen (Ex. 39:3). It was the most costly and magnificent of his garments, since this is where the breastplate was to rest on.

Fulfillment: *It symbolized **the flesh of Jesus** (Heb. 10:20), and pointed to two of His attributes—His **humanness** and **compassionate understanding** of His fellow human beings. Its shape told of His **function as servant**. Christ “clothed His divinity with humanity, that He might help those who need help” (ST May 8, 1901).*

List two Bible characters who wore the Ephod: _____ and _____.

The ephod was designed to protect the high priest's other robes, it reminded all who noticed it that the ruler of Israel was also the servant of Jehovah, and their servant.

"Christ took the form of a servant, and offered sacrifice,
Himself the _____, Himself the _____" (DA 25)

The front and back portions of the ephod were connected at the shoulders. "The ephod was sleeveless, and on its gold-embroidered shoulder-pieces were set two **onyx** stones, bearing the names of the twelve tribes of Israel" (PP 351; Ex. 28:6, 12).

Two purposes of these two gems and their golden fingers was

- 1-- "to couple together" the two portions of the _____ in a beautiful and precious union.
- 2—to from the base for the record of _____ names.

The original home of "**precious**" **onyx** was _____ (Gen 2:12).

Shaped by the lapidary's skill at Sinai these stones formed the record books of the high priest's congregation, chisel-cut so that they could not be obliterated. Strong fingers of pure gold clasped these foundation rocks to the high priest's shoulders so that none might pluck them from their God-assigned place. His shoulders pointed to his strength (Gen. 42:15; Isa.9:6) and looked forward to the One upon Whose shoulders the government of the universe rest forever secure (Isa. 9:7).

Upon these twin rocks the names of Israel's sons were etched according to their birth, the six older in the stone upon his right shoulder, and the six younger in the one on his left.

Their message is this: upon His strong shoulders our good Shepherd carries home His lost-found sheep and lambs (Luke 15:5)

In the list of additional garments of the high priest's regalia, back on the first page, the #3 item to fill in was "curious girdle". The phrase "cunning work" (curious girdle, Lev.8:7) indicates a design produced in its surface generally by tapestry weaving while the material was being made. This apron was therefore **beautiful** as well as **serviceable**.

*Fulfillment: These imperishable rosters pictured our High Priest's **love** and concern, for He keeps the names of His treasured family as "engravings of a signet."*

The Breastplate of Judgment – All my Security Is Christ

The seven vestments so far considered formed the backdrop for the high priest's most important and complex piece of regalia, his "breastplate of judgment" (Ex. 28:15). It was the most sacred of the priestly vestments" (PP 351), and authorized him to act as Israel's chief justice. It enabled him to adjudicate in matters of life and death, a function which looked to **Jesus**, the **anointed Judge**, in His work in the heavenly Sanctuary.

Bezaleel began to make the breastplate with fabric similar to that used for the veil. It needs to be often stressed that wherever this cloth is found in the Sanctuary it symbolizes the human nature of Jesus (Heb 10:20). The compassion flowing from His humanity is the very ground of God's justice. Then upon this platform of "His flesh" the artificer developed the rest of this glittering representation of the judicial government of God.

As we shall see, the names of each of the twelve tribes was recorded upon **precious jeweled foundations fixed to the breastplate**. This, in turn, rested upon **the high priest's heart** to display his **warm relationship** with his organized people. The **love flowing from his heart** must affect the justice of his decisions. These ideas looked ahead to Him Who was **both High Priest and eternal Judge**, "**touched** with the feelings of our infirmities" (Heb 4:15; Matt 8:17). **Eternal Spirit, help us to appreciate His love.**

Measured by the High Priest's Hands

The dimensions of this fabric were one span wide and two long, folded to form a square. **Christ's creative** and **redemptive** fingers encircle **the justice of God**. Never forget, He holds the universe, and you, in the hollow of His nail-pierced hands.

Located on the High Priest's Heart

The breastplate was precisely positioned above the sash around the high priest's chest, where it was suspended by two golden chains hanging from his shoulder pieces. The upper links of these chains were bound by ribbons of blue to the golden clasps which held the onyx epaulets on his shoulders. Their lower ends were tied, also with blue ribbons, to rings in the upper corners of the breastplate. The breastplate thus became an integral part of the **ephod** to indicate **that justice and judgment** were vital elements of the **high priest's service**.

The four parts of this composite symbol:

1. _____.
2. _____.
3. _____.
4. _____.

Twelve Foundations of Precious Stones

God Selects the Environment for Character Development

The Colors Invite Contemplation

How Precious Crystals Form

Gem Stones Must be Cut and Polished

Character is Developed Upon Jewel Foundations

Each Stone Must Shine

God Selected the Unique Foundation Stone for Each Tribe

Guidance and Judgment Through the Urim and Thummim

The Meaning of the Urim and Thummim (were probably diamonds)

Urim, the plural of the Hebrew word for **light**, is derived from a root meaning **fire** (ur). The verb which springs from it suggests the dawning of the day (1 Sam. 14:36)

Thummim comes from the verb **to complete**, end, consummate, or **make perfect** (*tamam*, Josh 5:8; Ps 18:31; 101:2), and points to the acceptance of God's will which rounds out and disciplines a person's life.

Foundations of Jewels

Arrangement of the Tribes and Apostles

Right Shoulder		Left Shoulder
Carnelian JUDAH Thomas		