

# The Tabernacle: Heaven on Earth – part 4

## Exodus Chapter 28

### Chapter 28 - the Priests New Clothes Chapter 29 - Consecration of the Priests

These two chapters are a picture of you and me as Christians

- 1 Peter 2:5 "You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."
- 1 Peter 2:9 "But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR {God's} OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;"

More importantly, these two chapters are a picture of Jesus our High Priest

- Hebrews 3:1 "Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;"
- Hebrews 4:14+15 "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast [our] profession. 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 5:10 "Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec."
- Hebrews 8:1+2 "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; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man."
- Hebrews 9:11+12 "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; 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]."

#### Exd 28:1 1) Priestly Garments v. 1 - 43

"Then bring near to yourself Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the sons of Israel, to minister as priest to Me--Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons.

- These men are called by God. Not chosen by men
- These men are to minister (serve) God "minister as priest to Me"
- Priest = (Hbr - *Kohen*) simply means to "stand up for another's cause" "intermediary"
- 1<sup>st</sup> priest mentioned in the Bible is Melchisedec (Gen.14:8)
- Last priest mentioned is Jesus (Heb. 13:11-12)

#### Exd 28:2 "You shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty.

- The priest's garments are for glory and for beauty.
- The garments were to be a visible illustration to all of God's glory and the beauty of His life among man. This idea is striking in comparison to the black garments used by priests today.
- What is our garment? What do we put on before the world? A garment of praise, life, joy, or hope? Or is it the garment of anger, resentment, fear, or unforgiveness?

#### Exd 28:3 "You shall speak to all the skillful persons whom I have endowed with the spirit of wisdom, that they make Aaron's garments to consecrate him, that he may minister as priest to Me.

Does God not know what is happening at the bottom of the mountain?

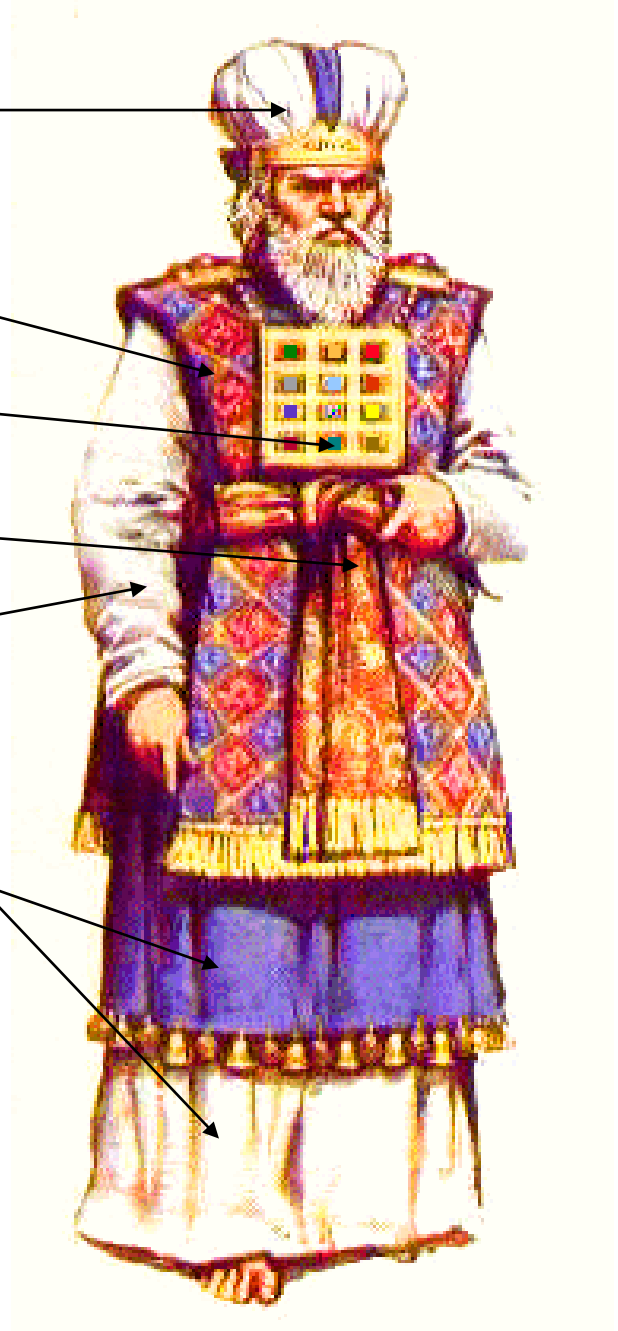
Yes, Grace is happening. At the beginning of Aarons ministry Aaron will know that he is not worthy but it is God's grace that called him.

- God desires the tailors to be skillful and filled with a spirit of wisdom.
- THESE GARMENTS MUST BE IMPORTANT. THEY SEEM TO BE IMPORTANT TO GOD.
- Consecrated = to set apart, to show oneself sacred, to separate oneself
- The garments were to set Aaron apart as sacred and holy.
- A second time god said "minister as priest to me"

Exd 28:4 "These are the garments which they shall make: a breastpiece and an ephod and a robe and a tunic of checkered work, a turban and a sash, and they shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother and his sons, that he may minister as priest to Me.

- By two or three witnesses a matter is established. This is the third time in four verses this phrase is said. Possibly, a subtle suggestion to the Holy Trinity.
- The skillful persons will make:

- Turban -
- Ephod -
- Breastpiece -
- Sash -
- Tunic -
- Robe -
- Undergarment - not seen



Exd 28:5 "They shall take the gold and the blue and the purple and the scarlet {material} and the fine Ephod linen.

Exd 28:6 "They shall also make the ephod of gold, of blue and purple {and} scarlet {material} and fine twisted linen, the work of the skillful workman.

Exd 28:7 "It shall have two shoulder pieces joined to its two ends, that it may be joined.

- Exd 28:8 "The skillfully woven band, which is on it, shall be like its workmanship, of the same material: of gold, of blue and purple and scarlet {material} and fine twisted linen.
- Exd 28:9 "You shall take two onyx stones and engrave on them the names of the sons of Israel,
- Exd 28:10 six of their names on the one stone and the names of the remaining six on the other stone, according to their birth.
- Exd 28:11 "As a jeweler engraves a signet, you shall engrave the two stones according to the names of the sons of Israel; you shall set them in filigree {settings} of gold.
- Exd 28:12 "You shall put the two stones on the shoulder pieces of the ephod, {as} stones of memorial for the sons of Israel, and Aaron shall bear their names before the LORD on his two shoulders for a memorial.
- Exd 28:13 "You shall make filigree {settings} of gold,
- Exd 28:14 and two chains of pure gold; you shall make them of twisted cordage work, and you shall put the corded chains on the filigree {settings.}
- **Ephod** - His clothes had to be specially made by those who had been given particular ability for the task. Over a robe of checker work the High Priest wore a garment called an 'ephod'. It was made of linen with gold, blue, purple and scarlet.
  - It was intended for both the front and back of the body and made in two parts, which were clasped together at the shoulder by two onyx stones set in gold. Each of these onyx stones was engraved with names of the twelve tribes of Israel. Six names, in order of birth, were carried on one shoulder and six on the other.
  - This meant that every time the High Priest went into the Holy Place he bore the names of the tribes before the Lord and in keeping with the character of a priest, he represented these people to God.
- Exd 28:15 "You shall make a breastpiece of judgment, the work of a skillful workman; like the work of the ephod you shall make it: of gold, of blue and purple and scarlet {material} and fine twisted linen you shall make it.
- Breastpiece**
- Exd 28:16 "It shall be square {and} folded double, a span in length and a span in width.
- Exd 28:17 "You shall mount on it four rows of stones; the first row {shall be} a row of ruby, topaz and emerald;
- Exd 28:18 and the second row a turquoise, a sapphire and a diamond;
- Exd 28:19 and the third row a jacinth, an agate and an amethyst;
- Exd 28:20 and the fourth row a beryl and an onyx and a jasper; they shall be set in gold filigree.
- Exd 28:21 "The stones shall be according to the names of the sons of Israel: twelve, according to their names; they shall be {like} the engravings of a seal, each according to his name for the twelve tribes.
- Exd 28:22 "You shall make on the breastpiece chains of twisted cordage work in pure gold.
- Exd 28:23 "You shall make on the breastpiece two rings of gold, and shall put the two rings on the two ends of the breastpiece.
- Exd 28:24 "You shall put the two cords of gold on the two rings at the ends of the breastpiece.
- Exd 28:25 "You shall put the {other} two ends of the two cords on the two filigree {settings,} and put them on the shoulder pieces of the ephod, at the front of it.
- Exd 28:26 "You shall make two rings of gold and shall place them on the two ends of the breastpiece, on the edge of it, which is toward the inner side of the ephod.
- Exd 28:27 "You shall make two rings of gold and put them on the bottom of the two shoulder pieces of the ephod, on the front of it close to the place where it is joined, above the skillfully woven band of the ephod.

Exd 28:28 "They shall bind the breastpiece by its rings to the rings of the ephod with a blue cord, so that it will be on the skillfully woven band of the ephod, and that the breastpiece will not come loose from the ephod.

Exd 28:29 "Aaron shall carry the names of the sons of Israel in the breastpiece of judgment over his heart when he enters the holy place, for a memorial before the LORD continually.

Exd 28:30 "You shall put in the breastpiece of judgment the Urim and the Thummim, and they shall be over Aaron's heart when he goes in before the LORD; and Aaron shall carry the judgment of the sons of Israel over his heart before the LORD continually.

- **Breastpiece** - Over the ephod the High Priest wore a breastplate which was a pouch about 8 ¾ inches square made of beautifully woven material.
- On the front of the breastplate were fastened twelve precious stones in four rows of three. On each of these stones were engraved the name of one of the tribes of Israel.
- The breastplate was actually a piece of elaborately finished cloth of the same material as the ephod. It was a strip twice as long as it was wide, but folded back on itself so as to form a square bag into which the Urim and Thummim were placed. (Lights & Perfection)
- The breastplate was held in place by golden chains attached to the onyx shoulder clasps and also by blue lace ribbons, which attached the breastplate to the ephod. Evidently, there was a small golden ring attached to each corner of the breastplate to which in turn the golden chains and ribbons were connected.
- The stones upon the breastplate represented the twelve tribes of Israel, and they were borne before the Lord continually as a memorial. Inasmuch as the twelve stones were in one breastplate they speak of the oneness of the people of God; while their position upon Aaron's breast speaks of God's affection for His people.
- The names on the breastplate were always close to Aaron's heart just as with Christ and His precious ones.

- God sees his people as precious jewels and keeps them close to his heart.
- The High priest not only should have a heart for God but a heart for God's people.

Exd 28:31 "You shall make the robe of the ephod all of blue.

Robe

Exd 28:32 "There shall be an opening at its top in the middle of it; around its opening there shall be a binding of woven work, like the opening of a coat of mail, so that it will not be torn.

Exd 28:33 "You shall make on its hem pomegranates of blue and purple and scarlet {material,} all around on its hem, and bells of gold between them all around:

Exd 28:34 a golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, all around on the hem of the robe.

Exd 28:35 "It shall be on Aaron when he ministers; and its tinkling shall be heard when he enters and leaves the holy place before the LORD, so that he will not die.

- **Robe** - Under the ephod the High Priest wore a robe of blue.
- Golden bells were attached to the hem and pomegranates made from material hung between the bells. The robe of the ephod was a plain blue sleeveless garment worn directly beneath the ephod and probably extending some inches below it.
- Apparently there was a row of pomegranates embroidered upon the hem (see Ex 39:24) interspaced with tinkling golden bells which sounded as the priest moved.
- The bells speak of listening to God while in His service and the music of them brings a certain joy.
- The pomegranates speak of fruitfulness (abundant seeds) and are symbols of the Word of God as sweet and pleasant spiritual food.
- The sound of the bells could be heard when Aaron went into the Holy Place before the Lord, and the listening people would know that he had not been struck dead in God's presence, but that his offering on their behalf had been accepted by God.

- Exd 28:36 "You shall also make a plate of pure gold and shall engrave on it, like the engravings of a seal, Holy to the LORD."  
**Turban Plate**
- Exd 28:37 "You shall fasten it on a blue cord, and it shall be on the turban; it shall be at the front of the turban.
- Exd 28:38 "It shall be on Aaron's forehead, and Aaron shall take away the iniquity of the holy things which the sons of Israel consecrate, with regard to all their holy gifts; and it shall always be on his forehead, that they may be accepted before the LORD.
- Exd 28:39 "You shall weave the tunic of checkered work of fine linen, and shall make a turban of fine linen, and you shall make a sash, the work of a weaver."  
**Tunic, Turbin, Sash, and Undergarment**
- Exd 28:40 "For Aaron's sons you shall make tunics; you shall also make sashes for them, and you shall make caps for them, for glory and for beauty.
- Exd 28:41 "You shall put them on Aaron your brother and on his sons with him; and you shall anoint them and ordain them and consecrate them, that they may serve Me as priests.

- **Tunic** - A long tunic (the embroidered coat) with sleeves of white linen, woven throughout without seam
- **Turban** - On his head the High Priest wore a turban of fine linen which was bound around the head in coils. On the front of the turban on Aaron's forehead, attached by a blue lace ribbon, there was the golden plate engraved HOLINESS TO THE LORD. This was a constant reminder of holiness to the covenant people in Israel and to the High Priest in his calling, for the Lord said to Moses, "Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them, "Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy" (Lev. 19:2). By being marked, the High Priest typified the true inner holiness on the ground of which, alone, Israel could be accepted before God. He was truly the most important man on earth. The conspicuous position of the golden plate upon Aaron's forehead gave special meaning and character to all of his garments and to his office. In committing himself to holiness, Aaron could be assured that he qualified for divine service and was accepted by God as a mediator between God and the people of Israel.
- **Sash** - The front and back of the ephod were made to be as one garment by a sash or girdle, which was tied about the priest's waist. This was also of blue, purple, and scarlet linen intertwined with golden threads. In the language of Scripture for a priest to be girded with his sash was for him to be fully arrayed in his garments and prepared and ready to serve.

Exd 28:42 "You shall make for them linen breeches to cover {their} bare flesh; they shall reach from the loins even to the thighs."  
**Undergarment**

Exd 28:43 "They shall be on Aaron and on his sons when they enter the tent of meeting, or when they approach the altar to minister in the holy place, so that they do not incur guilt and die. It {shall be} a statute forever to him and to his descendants after him.

- **Undergarment** - all of the priests - were to wear undergarments, so it would be impossible for their nakedness to be exposed while ministering.

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