

INTRODUCTION: EXODUS 28

- Today we are going to wrap up our series... On Earth As It Is In Heaven... looking at the Tabernacle as God's pattern for worship.
- In our final message we are looking at the meaning of the Garments of the High Priest

Paul writing to the Hebrews said...

Hebrews 8:4–5 (NKJV)

⁴ Since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law; ⁵ who serve ***the copy and shadow of the heavenly things***

- The tabernacle is the revelation of God's relationship to man
- It begins with God in the Holy of Holies
- God is the One who invites us, calls us to enter into this relationship of love that is expressed through worship

As John wrote...

1 John 4:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son ***to be the propitiation for our sins.***

- The word propitiation is translated "mercy seat"
- Jesus Himself is the real mercy seat, the Ark is the shadow

After establishing a relationship of love, God establishes fellowship

- This is represented by the Holy Place which reveals our position
- We are people of the Presence and our minds have been enlightened, illuminated by Jesus Himself

Then we move to the Outer Courtyard which represents our mission

- We are to proclaim the forgiveness of sins through the substitutionary death of Jesus on the cross, cleansing from the power of sin through the washing of the water of the Spirit and only One way to the Father

[SLIDE 1] Today we are looking at the Garments for the Priesthood

Exodus 28:1–4 (NKJV)

28 "Now take Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister to Me as priest, *Aaron and Aaron's sons: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.* ² And you shall make holy

garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty. ³ So you shall speak to all *who are* gifted artisans, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments, to consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest. ⁴ And these *are* the garments which they shall make: a breastplate, an ephod, a robe, a skillfully woven tunic, a turban, and a sash. So they shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother and his sons, that he may minister to Me as priest.

In Exodus 28 we see two types of priests mentioned

- Aaron, who is appointed as the High Priest and Aaron's sons who are simply appointed priests, kohanine, servants of God
- Aaron didn't decide to become the High Priest and Aaron didn't decide who would become High Priests after him... he had to come from the lineage of the Priesthood to qualify and he was appointed by God
- The High Priest is shadow or a type of Christ
- The sons of the High Priest are shadows or types of the church, the royal priesthood that Peter mentions in 1 Peter 2:9

Paul reveals Jesus as our Great High Priest in Hebrews 4

Hebrews 4:14–16 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession.

- John sees Jesus ministering in the midst of the 7 lampstands clothed as a High Priest in Revelation 1
- Thus, the Garments of the Priesthood worn by Aaron represent the ministry of Jesus to us

[SLIDE 2] The first item mentioned is the Ephod

Exodus 28:5–6 (NKJV)

⁵ "They shall take the gold, blue, purple, and scarlet *thread*, and the fine linen, ⁶ and they shall make the ephod of gold, blue, purple, *and* scarlet *thread*, and fine woven linen, artistically worked.

- Gold represents the glory of God –
 - John 1:14... we beheld His glory
- Blue represents Heaven –
 - Ephesians 2:6... in the heavenly realms in Christ
- Purple represents royalty –

- Revelations 19:16... King of Kings and Lord of Lords
- Scarlet represents redemption –
 - Romans 3:24... redemption came by Jesus
- Fine linen represents righteousness –
 - 1 Corinthians 1:30... Jesus is our righteousness
- When combined together gives us a picture of His Deity and His Humanity intricately woven together...
- The Glory of the Royal King of Heaven is demonstrated in the greatest act of love in recorded history... God became flesh, dwelt among us, became the payment for our sin that we might become righteous in Him
- There could be no claiming of the crown without the cross
- He could not be Sovereign without first being Savior

[SLIDE 3] On the shoulders of the Ephod were two stones

- Etched in each stone were six of the 12 tribes of Israel and each stone was set in gold (representing glory)
- The placement of the tribes of Israel on the shoulders of the High Priest indicated His authority to represent them before God
- This is what is meant when Isaiah 9:6 says the government is upon His shoulders... He was describing Jesus as our Great High Priest
- Thus Jesus has the authority to stand before God and represent us and when the enemy accuses us before the Father... Jesus steps forward and says... NO... Satan doesn't represent them... I represent them

[SLIDE 4] The second item is the Breastplate of Judgment

- The Hebrew word for Breastplate is "hosen" and it means "beauty"
- The Breastplate was square and had 12 precious stones set in gold
- It was woven with the same materials as the Ephod
- Each stone representing the tribes of Israel and the colors of the stone corresponding to the colors of the banners for each tribe
- Aaron was an ordinary man with an ordinary heart... but the breastplate gave him the capacity to enlarge his heart by placing on his heart the people of God
- Thus the Breastplate represents God's heart for His people
- They are unique... 12 unique stones
- They are of great value... 12 precious stones
- They are accepted and beloved... placed on the heart of the High Priest

- But here is another mystery revealed... the Breastplate of Judgment was square... what else was square? The Bronze Altar
- The Breastplate of Judgment represented the Judgment of forgiveness, the Judgment of acceptance because of the Lamb that was slain
- As the High Priest stood in the Presence of God, on his chest the 12 stones set in gold, woven in glory, royalty, redemption, righteousness a heavenly people... it was a picture of you and I who are in Christ

As Paul wrote to the Ephesians

Ephesians 1:3–6 (NKJV)

³Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, ⁴just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

- You are accepted by God through Jesus Christ!

[SLIDE 5] The Breastplate was folded in half to form a pocket

- Inside the pocket were two stones
- The Urim and Thummim, which represent the revelation of God's Will
- The words themselves are translated "lights" and "perfections" or "glory" and beauty" which is what the Will of God brings into our lives
- As we obey God, we are elevated to glory and made beautiful
- When the High Priest would go into the Holy Place to inquire of the LORD, the LORD would reveal His will to the High Priest
- Then the High Priest would bring the revelation to the people

Paul wrote to the Romans

Romans 11:33 (NKJV)

³³Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!

- We don't have the capacity to know God's judgments or His ways... they must be revealed to us
- The writer of Hebrews tells us how to get this revelation

Hebrews 1:1–2 (NKJV)

1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, **2** has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

- Jesus is our Great High Priest who is the revelation of God's will for us
- What has God revealed... For God so loved the world that He gave

[SLIDE 6] The third item is the Robe

Exodus 28:31 (NKJV)

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

- The blue robe represents the High Priest was to be a heavenly man

John 1:1, 14 (NKJV)

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

- Here we have the mystery of mysteries... how God could become flesh and live amongst men... but that is what our Great High Priest did
- On the robe were pomegranates and golden bells
- The pomegranates represent the law because it is said to have 613 seeds that correspond with the 613 mitzvot or commandments but before that it was known as a symbol of love
- The sound of the bells represent JOY and thus we have a description of the abundant life that is ours in Jesus
- It is a life of love and a life of JOY

[SLIDE 7] There are a couple of other items but for the sake of time I want to go to the Altar of Incense

Exodus 30:1 (NKJV)

30 "You shall make an altar to burn incense on; you shall make it of acacia wood.

- Incense represents prayer
- Aaron was instructed to burn incense on the altar twice a day... morning and evening
- The fire was taken from the Bronze Altar and it was never to go out signifying that our prayers are heard because of the blood of the Lamb
- The Altar of Incense represents the prayers of our Great High Priest who never stops praying for us

Hebrews 7:25 (NKJV)

²⁵ Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

- It's good to know people are praying for you... it's better to know Jesus is praying for you!
- His prayers are always answered!

Now what is the point of this series... Paul says it best

Hebrews 8:1–2 (NKJV)

8 Now *this* is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, ² a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

Hebrews 10:19–25 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and *having* a High Priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

- This is not a theory or a wish... this is reality
- You are invited by God into fellowship, you are in His Presence, you have the mind of Christ, you are forgiven, you are accepted in Christ so draw near to God, be confident in your identity and love one another