

## The Priests Garments Exodus Chapter 28 Verses 1-14

**Ex 28:1 ¶** "And take thou unto thee Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office, even Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons."

God tells Moses that he has chosen the family of Aaron to serve in the priesthood. Aaron is the elder brother of Moses and will be the High Priest. Aaron, the elder brother, is a picture of Jesus Christ, our elder brother, seen in: **Ro 8:29 ¶** "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren." Jesus is also our High Priest, seen in: **Heb 9:11** "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; 12 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."

God is still in the business of choosing his ministers today. We see this in:

- **Mr 16:14-15; 14 ¶** "Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. 15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."
- **Ro 10:15; 15** "And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

There are many other scriptures to support this principle, but this should suffice to show that God chooses, whom he will, to serve in the office of minister of the gospel.

This also demonstrates that there are God appointed offices in the church, seen in: **Eph 4:11-12; 11** "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:" Every child of grace has their proper office, which is their position, to fill in their service of the Lord.

**2** "And thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother for glory and for beauty. 3 And thou shalt speak unto all that are wise hearted, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments to consecrate him, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office. 4 And these are the garments which they shall make; a breastplate, and an ephod, and a robe, and a broidered coat, a mitre, and a girdle: and they shall make holy garments for Aaron thy brother, and his sons, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office."

**"And thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother for glory and for beauty."** The holy garments of the High Priest are a picture, of the beauty of our true High Priest. The High Priest was the person with access to God for Israel. Jesus Christ, our High Priest is our person of access to God the Father, which is why we are commanded to pray to God the Father in the name of Jesus, seen in: **Joh 16:24** "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full."

God has set Aaron apart to be the High Priest. The High Priest is to have special garments to wear as he serves in this God appointed office. Jesus wore special garments: he came to earth in a prepared body, which was sinless. Jesus always displayed the glory of the Father, by displaying all the fruits of the spirit that manifest the goodness and greatness of God. He did it by preaching and teaching the truths of God. He did it by his acts of mercy and kindness in healing the sick, and many other miraculous works. He did it by selflessly giving his life on the cross for the remission of the sins of all of God's people.

These garments are a picture of the garments each child of God is to wear because we have the Holy Spirit of Christ, our High Priest, in us. Each day we are to exhibit the beauty and glory of Christ, letting the brightness of his glory shine forth through our good works, seen in: **Mt 5:16** "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Also seen in: **Tit 3:14** "And let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful." When we exhibit fruitful works in Christ, we are showing forth the garments of glory and beauty of Christ. The ultimate beauty of the Christian garments is to fulfill the two great commandments given by Jesus: **Mt 22:37** "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God

**with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. Mt 22:39 Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.**" We should never seek our own glory, but desire to glorify Jesus.

This also gives us the picture of the ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ today. How? Preachers don't wear special garments like the High Priest did. God's preachers wear the special garments of holiness, by living true Christian lives of the highest standard, and preaching and teaching the whole truth of God. They are called to a higher standard than other Christians. What do you mean? They are to be fully read and studied in the bible, to know the scriptures and the doctrinal truths of the scriptures, that they may teach the whole truth of God's word, to the glory of the name of God, to the salvation of sinners, and the edification of God's children.

As God had prepared men with special skills to enable them to make these special garments for the priests: God has prepared certain people to teach newly called ministers. They are to strengthen them for the duty that God has laid out for them. They are those who are diligent in bringing them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. God certainly uses other ministers to coach, and encourage, new preachers, to become grounded in the faithful truth of God, the bible, such as Paul taking Timothy under his care and schooling him.

Other ministers, and the church, should be involved in grooming and teaching new ministers to put on the whole armor of God. Teaching them to preach the whole council of God, to the glory of Jesus Christ, and not to preach to please men, or glorify themselves.

**5 "And they shall take gold, and blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen. 6 ¶ And they shall make the ephod of gold, of blue, and of purple, of scarlet, and fine twined linen, with cunning work. 7 It shall have the two shoulder pieces thereof joined at the two edges thereof; and so, it shall be joined together. 8 And the curious girdle of the ephod, which is upon it, shall be of the same, according to the work thereof; even of gold, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen."**

We notice that the materials to make the ephod of the High Priest are the same as were used in the inner curtain of the holy place of the tabernacle. As the tabernacle in its completeness was a picture of Jesus Christ, so is everything that we read about the High Priest, who is serving faithfully in his God appointed office, is a picture of Jesus Christ. As we read of the several parts of the high priest garments, we are reminded that Jesus put on the whole armor of God as an example for us to be faithful in wearing the whole armor of God.

**9 "And thou shalt take two onyx stones, and grave on them the names of the children of Israel: 10 Six of their names on one stone, and the other six names of the rest on the other stone, according to their birth. 11 With the work of an engraver in stone, like the engravings of a signet, shalt thou engrave the two stones with the names of the children of Israel: thou shalt make them to be set in ouches of gold. 12 And thou shalt put the two stones upon the shoulders of the ephod for stones of memorial unto the children of Israel: and Aaron shall bear their names before the LORD upon his two shoulders for a memorial. 13 And thou shalt make ouches of gold; 14 And two chains of pure gold at the ends; of wreathen work shalt thou make them, and fasten the wreathen chains to the ouches."**

These two stones with the names of all the tribes of Israel on them, in order of birth, give us the picture of how Jesus bore the names of all of God's people on his shoulders on the cross at Calvary. They were also stones of memorial for Israel. As we think upon this, looking back at the cross and the sacrifice of Christ for all of God's people, we see a prophetic picture of Christ bearing the names of the Israelites that were saved before Christ's death on the cross, and the names of all who are saved out of the world, both Jew and Gentile, after Christ's death on the cross. Remember, the scripture: **Ro 9:6 ¶ "Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: 7 Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. 8 That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed."**

The two stones were connected by the two chains. The finished work of Jesus has provided the eternal remission of sins for those before and after his coming and death on the cross. How do you explain that? Well, the souls of all the saved, upon the death of the natural body, go immediately to be in the presence of God in heaven. However, the sin cursed bodies, of those before and after the coming of Christ, will be resurrected in sinless purity, because Jesus has completely erased the debt, and penalty, of sin for all the saved.

The placement of them upon the shoulders indicates that only Jesus could bear the names of all Israel by his own strength. There was none other, who ever lived on earth, that could, without sin, bear the weight of the sins of all of God's people. Jesus paid it all, and told us so, when he said on the cross: "***it is finished.***"

Now, I am going to be what we called the mean teacher, who gave us homework in school: I ask you to do your homework and read this chapter in its entirety. It may be that God will show you other revealed mysteries, such as the hooks, loops, taches, etc. which bound the garments together, that demonstrate how the church is bound together, seen in: ***Eph 4:16 "From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."*** One body in Jesus Christ. Thank you, our High Priest, for granting us the privilege of being a part of your eternal kingdom, on earth and in the eternal heaven. Amen!