

Exodus Chapter 39 Verses 6-21 The Ephod Christ Wore For Us

Ex 39:6 "And they wrought onyx stones inclosed in ouches of gold, graven, as signets are graven, with the names of the children of Israel. 7 And he put them on the shoulders of the ephod, that they should be stones for a memorial to the children of Israel; as the LORD commanded Moses."

These stones, each with the name of a tribe of Israel, were "**memorial**" stones, of the nation Israel borne upon the shoulders of the high priest. Therefore, we see that when Jesus sacrificed himself for the eternal forgiveness of sins, it was for the saved of the nation of Israel. Why was Israel upon his shoulders? Remember that the law was a works system, and being borne upon the shoulders shows forth the work of Christ on their behalf in the eternal setting.

They were stones of memorial because a memorial is of something in the past. This shows that when Christ fulfilled the sacrificial law, by offering himself on the cross a holy acceptable sacrifice for sins, he carried the saved of Israel, who lived under the law service, upon his shoulders, and their sins of the past were eternally forgiven. Under the law they were only forgiven on a yearly basis through the high priest entering the most holy place with blood for himself and Israel. When Christ sacrificed himself, his pure and holy blood forgave eternally the sins of all that will be in the eternal heaven. This will be fully manifested in the eternal resurrection of the dead in Christ, when all of God's people shall have sinless and glorified bodies, both Jews and Gentiles.

We notice that the stones were set in ouches of pure gold, which prophesy of the need, of the pure sinless blood of Christ needed to bring about the eternal remission of their sins. Again, we point out that it was all done in accordance with the command of God.

8 "And he made the breastplate of cunning work, like the work of the ephod; of gold, blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen. 9 It was foursquare; they made the breastplate double: a span was the length thereof, and a span the breadth thereof, being doubled. 10 And they set in it four rows of stones: the first row was a sardius, a topaz, and a carbuncle: this was the first row. 11 And the second row, an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond. 12 And the third row, a ligure, an agate, and an amethyst. 13 And the fourth row, a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper: they were inclosed in ouches of gold in their inclosings. 14 And the stones were according to the names of the children of Israel, twelve, according to their names, like the engravings of a signet, every one with his name, according to the twelve tribes. 15 And they made upon the breastplate chains at the ends, of wreathen work of pure gold. 16 And they made two ouches of gold, and two gold rings; and put the two rings in the two ends of the breastplate. 17 And they put the two wreathen chains of gold in the two rings on the ends of the breastplate. 18 And the two ends of the two wreathen chains they fastened in the two ouches, and put them on the shoulder pieces of the ephod, before it. 19 And they made two rings of gold, and put them on the two ends of the breastplate, upon the border of it, which was on the side of the ephod inward. 20 And they made two other golden rings, and put them on the two sides of the ephod underneath, toward the forepart of it, over against the other coupling thereof, above the curious girdle of the ephod. 21 And they did bind the breastplate by his rings unto the rings of the ephod with a lace of blue, that it might be above the curious girdle of the ephod, and that the breastplate might not be loosed from the ephod; as the LORD commanded Moses."

These verses tell us of the breastplate that was attached to the robe of the ephod over the breast of the high priest. The breastplate had fixed upon it twelve stones of different precious materials with the names of the tribes of Israel upon them. It was also bound in a fashion that it could not be removed from the ephod, signifying that after the resurrection of Christ, those of Israel who believed and received the new birth would be saved, and grafted into the New Testament Church. What do you mean by the Israelites being grafted into the church? Let us look at what scripture actually says, seen in **Ro 9:6; 3 "For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: 4 Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; 5 Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen. 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." This scripture testifies that the New Testament Church is comprised of "***the seed.***" The New Testament Church being "***the seed***" explains that need for the saved of the nation Israel to be grafted into the New Testament Church. How were they grafted in? They were borne upon the heart of Jesus, our High Priest, just as the seed were borne upon the heart of Jesus. Jesus established the New Testament Church as a new and living way of worship to God. Because the sacrificial law was fulfilled, the New Testament Church was established by Jesus, for "***the children of promise who are counted for the seed,***" which seed are the saved of the Gentiles. Through the new birth, and belief in the finished work of Jesus, and they did not need to be grafted into the New Testament Church, because it was compromised of them, who were never under the law service. Those of the lineage of Israel are grafted into the New Testament Church, having been brought out of, and from under, the law service.

We notice that the stones on the breastplate were not memorial stones as those upon the shoulders of the ephod. They were stones with the names of the tribes of Israel engraved in them, which gives us the prophesy, of the New Testament Church and the grafting in of the Jews. The stones were also set in ouches of pure gold, which tells us that it took the sacrifice, of the pure blood of Jesus on the cross, to grant eternal remission of sins for the New Testament Church, for both Jews and Gentiles. Again, we point put that it was all done in accordance with the command of God. The engraved stones remind me of hymn we sing in the Lloyd Hymnal:

412 11s.

Christ's comfort to the church.

Still, still I am with thee, my promise shall stand;
Through tempests and tossings I'll bring
thee to land.

1 O ZION, afflicted with wave upon wave,
Whom no man can comfort, whom no
man can save;
With darkness surrounded, with terrors
dismayed,
In toiling and rowing thy strength is decayed.

2 Loud roaring, the billows now nigh overwhelm,
But skillful's the pilot who sits at the helm;
His wisdom conducts thee, his power
thee defends,
In safety and quiet thy warfare he ends.

3 'O fearful, O faithless!' in mercy he cries,
'My promise, my truth, are they light in
thine eyes?

4 'Forget thee, I will not, I cannot—thy name
Engraved on my heart doth for ever remain!
The palms of my hands, while I look on, I see
The wounds I received when suffering for Thee.

5 'I feel at my heart all thy sighs and thy groans,
For thou art most near me, my flesh and
my bones;
In all thy distresses thy Head feels the pain,
Yet all are most needful, not one is in vain.

6 'Then trust me, and fear not, thy life is secure;
My wisdom is perfect, supreme is my power;
In love I correct thee, thy soul to refine,
To make thee at length in my likeness to shine.'

May God bless us all to remember every day that Jesus bore the load of our sins and made a way for the eternal salvation of all of God's people. These, eternally saved people, were borne upon the shoulders and the heart of our King Jesus. Praise and glory to the name of Jesus Christ, Hallelujah! Amen!