

Typology

A Jewish Midrashic method of interpretation.

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THE TABERNACLE AND THE PRIESTHOOD

The study of the Tabernacle and the Priesthood contains some of the most stimulating truths in the Old Testament. We will consider this topic and apply the principle of symbology. God instructed Moses and his brother Aaron to build the tent Tabernacle for the purpose of worship. The tabernacle symbolises our relationship as believers with the Holy God in heaven. God's words to Moses were *"take thou unto thee Aaron thy brother. He shall be a minister unto me in the priest's office and thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron for glory and beauty"*. **Exodus 28:1-2**. The writer to Hebrews reminds us that every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God and that he must offer both gifts and sacrifices for sin. No man takes this honour unto himself; he is called of God, as was Aaron (**Hebrews 5:1-4**).

PRIESTLY APPOINTMENT

Purification

Aaron was washed with water (**Exodus 29:4**). Jesus as a High Priest was baptised by John (**Matthew 3:15-17**). The Lord Jesus was baptised to meet the demands of the Mosaic Law for Ministry.

His Sanctification

"Thou shall take the anointing oil and shall pour it on his head". (**Exodus 29:7**). See **1 Peter 2:4-5**—Jesus was sanctified, or set apart, by His Father and sent into the world (**John 10:36**). After Jesus' baptism the heavens opened and the Spirit of God descended upon Him like a dove (**Matthew 3:16**). Here we see the setting out of Christ's ministry. The Hebrew writer says *"Thou hast loved righteousness and hated iniquity therefore God even Thy God hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness above Thy fellows."* (**Hebrews 1:9**)

PRIESTLY APPAREL. Read Exodus Chapter 28.

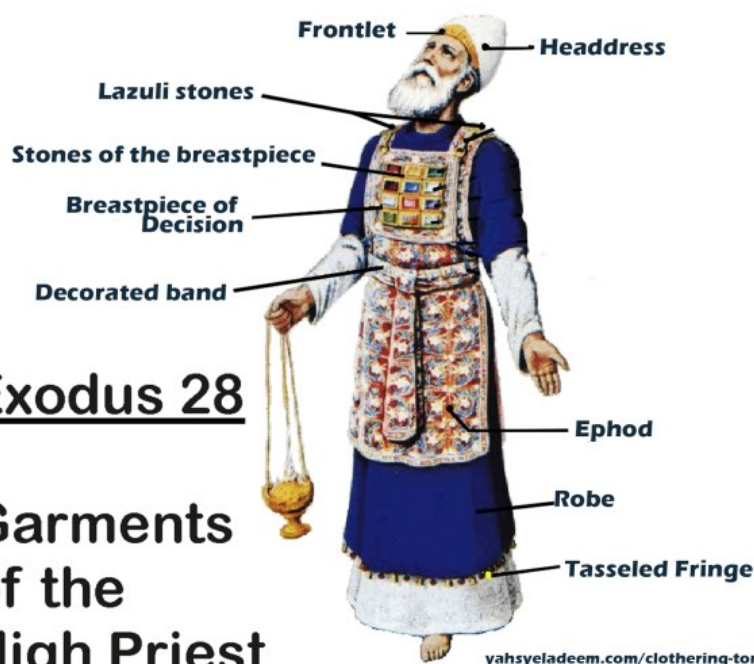
The garments were designed not to draw attention to Aaron but to the sacred office of holiness. Each part of his attire speaks eloquently of the glories and the virtues of Jesus as our High Priest.

The Coat.

“Thou shalt put upon Aaron the coat” (Exodus 29:5). This was the first layer of attire other than the linen breeches, and speaks of the humanity of Jesus Christ as our High Priest.

Exodus 28

Garments of the High Priest



The Robe of the Ephod.

“Thou shalt put a robe of ephod on Aaron” (Exodus 29:5). This speaks of the divinity of Christ as our High Priest. It was the second layer of the attire and ephod was made of blue. It was designed in such a way that it could not be torn like the seamless garment. Upon the hem of the garment were pomegranates of blue, purple and scarlet. Also bells of gold were at the hem of the garment between the pomegranates (Exodus 28:31-33). The colour blue is a heavenly colour and typifies the divine character of our Lord. **Luke 2:10-11** speaks of the angels heralding the birth of Christ as being born of God. **Hebrews 3:1** tells us that His calling is a heavenly one.

We've pointed out that the garment was seamless (Exodus 28:32). All the attacks that are made on the deity and the divinity of Jesus Christ cannot tear apart or destroy the fact that He was God manifest in the flesh (1 **Timothy 3:16**). The bells on the garment speak of His testimony; the pomegranates speak of His fruitfulness.

The Ephod

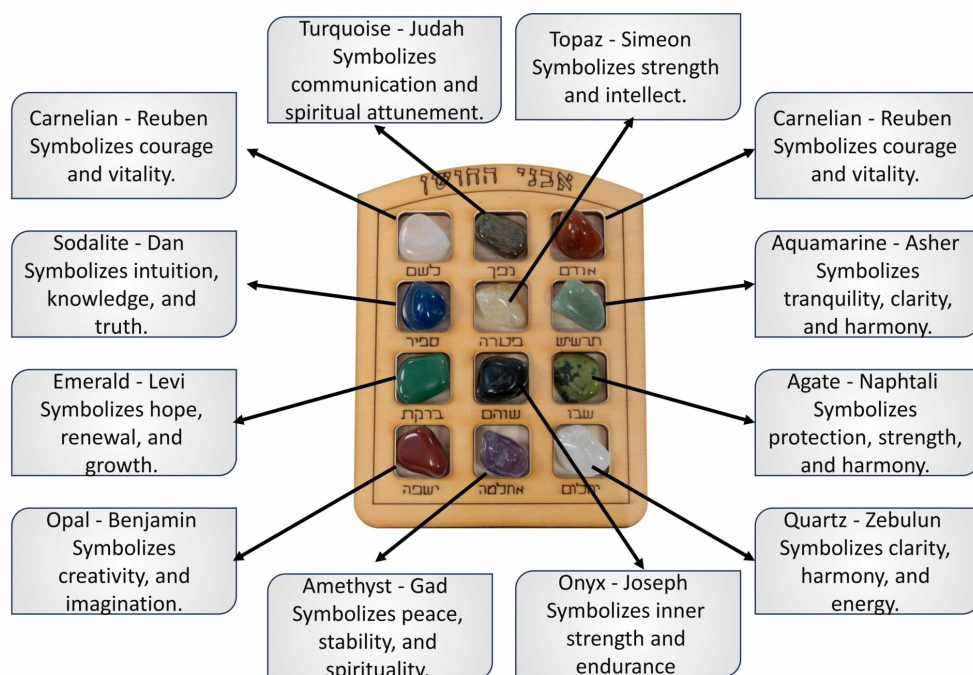
“Thou shalt take the garments and put it upon Aaron.” The ephod was a priestly apron or vestment upon which the breastplate was attached. This speaks of Christ's righteous service in His ministry. **Exodus 28:6-30** gives the detail of these materials.

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The Breastplate

This was a 23cm (9 inch) 4 square piece of linen cloth which was attached to the ephod and it had twelve stones with the names of the children of Israel on it (**Exodus 28:15-29**).

The breastplate speaks of the High Priest's love. **Romans 8:39** reminds us that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Each stone had a different colour showing the individuality of God's people.



The Urim and the Thummim

Exodus 28:30 speaks of the Urim and the Thummim. These are Hebrew words denoting light and perfection, illumination and truth. These stones most likely were black and white which were carried in the pouch of the breastplate. They were used to help the priest in making decisions. When God's answer was "yes" then the white stone was illuminated. When God's answer was "no", the black stone would be illuminated. God used signs and direct communication through the High Priest before the Bible was written as the complete and only source of truth.

This is symbolic of the divine guidance of God through Christ, through the presence of the Holy Spirit within the believer. **John 8:12** says "He that follows me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life." **Matt 21:42** declares our Lord as the cornerstone. Christ, through the Holy Spirit within us, enables us to discern truth from error by understanding the Word rightly divided.

"So he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him."

John 13:4-5

The Girdle

Exodus 28:4-8 speaks to us of the girdle which the priest would wear. (Curious girdle simply means intricately woven). (**Hebrews 7:24-25**). This speaks of the fact that Jesus had come to serve (**Matthew 20:28**). Also in **John 13:4-5** we see Jesus girding Himself with a towel to wash His disciple's feet.

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The Shoulder Stones

The onyx stones upon which were graven the names of the children of Israel typify Christ's ability to keep His own. In **Luke 15:5** the shepherd lays the lost sheep on his shoulders. This is all symbolic of the High Priest's ability to carry the Nation or God's people on His shoulders. **1 Peter 1:15** tells us that we are kept by the power of God. We also know that our names are etched or written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

The Mitre and Holy Crown.

"And thou shalt place a mitre upon Aaron and you will put the holy crown upon the miter (Exodus 29:5-6). This speaks of the authority of Christ as our High Priest. The mitre was a turban of fine twisted linen and the plate of pure gold bore the words "HOLINESS TO THE LORD" (**Exodus 28:36**). Jesus is the head of all principalities (**1 Corinthians 11:3**).

We have now considered the High Priest's humanity, divinity, ability and authority.

THE PRIESTLY ACTIVITY

The work of Aaron the High Priest can be summed up in seven words.

Leviticus 8:3-5 *"To keep the charge of the Lord".*

The Sacrifices

The High Priest was responsible to offer gifts and sacrifices for the sins of the Nation (**Hebrews 5:1**). Aaron as the High Priest was to sprinkle the blood before the mercy seat on the great Day of Atonement and make reconciliation for sin (**Hebrews 2:17**). Jesus Christ is our High Priest who has offered one sacrifice for sins forever (**Hebrews 10:11-12**). He acts as our Advocate before the Father (**1 John:7-9**).

CHRISTIAN APPAREL

Now as Christians we are told to *"put on Christ"* in **Gal 3:27** and further, put on the armour of God which we find detailed in **Ephesians 6:10-17**.

Can you label the diagram of this soldier?

