

LESSON 3

PRIESTLY GARMENTS

Reading : Exo.28 and 39

Memory verse : Heb,2:9

Theme: To understand the glory and beauty of Jesus Christ, our High Priest and to endeavour to grow closer to His image.

Introduction: Whom does the Israeli high priest foreshadow? Whom do the ordinary priests stand for? For both the types of priests, official garments are prescribed to suite their status and position. Let this study of their dresses help us see the glory and beauty of Jesus Christ and create in us a desire to be like Him.

OFFICIAL GARMENTS OF THE HIGH PRIEST

There were seven pieces of clothing assigned for the high priest.

1. Long coat (tunic) Exo.39:27-29
2. Blue robe- Exo. 28 :31-34
3. Ephod -Exo 28; 6-13;39 : 2-5
4. Girdle of the Ephod- Exo. 28 : 8, Lev,8:7
5. Linen Girdle- Lev. 8:7 Exo. 39:8-21
6. Breast plate- Exo.28:14-30,39: 8-21
7. Mitre(Turban)- Lev. 8:9; Exo.28:36-39

1. **Long Coat (Tunic):** The first apparel that the high priest has to wear over his white undergarment is the long coat made of white linen. White colour represents holiness. the Lord covers Himself with light (Psa. 104:2). There is no darkness (sin) in Jesus Christ (1 John 1:5). Let us reflect the glory of holiness of Jesus Christ in our lives. The essence of holiness is to do the will of God. Jesus submitted Himself fully to the will of God (John 5: 10;6:38). Therefore holiness was His garment(1 Pet. 1:15-16).

2. Blue robe: The robe is woven as a single piece of cloth without stitching and with a hole in the middle just large enough for the high priest's head to pass through. Bells made of gold and pomegranates made of blue, purple and scarlet linen were hung alternately in its hem. The blue color of the robe stands for the heavenly grace of Jesus Christ. Its quality of being woven without stitching shows the unbroken flow of God's grace. The golden bells and the pomegranates hanging in the hem of this robe covering the body of high priest represent the gifts and the fruits of Spirit which abound in the church, the body of Christ.

3. Ephod (Exo 28; 6-13; 39 : 2-5): This garment was crafted skillfully with gold and blue purple and scarlet linen. It reached from the shoulder to the knee of the high priest. It also had a girdle attached to it. An onyx stone was fixed on each shoulder of the Ephod. The names of the 12 tribes of Israel were engraved on the stones, six on each, in the order of their birth. The high priest was carrying each of the tribes of Israel on his shoulders while he was standing in the presence of God. This points to the fact that Jesus Christ, our High Priest, is holding us on his strong shoulders (Isa. 40:11; 46:3-4).

4. Girdle of Ephod (Exo. 28 : 8): The girdle points to the readiness of Jesus Christ for service. Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many (Mark 10:45). Jesus showed His willingness to serve even at the last supper when He washed the feet of His disciples (John 13:4-5).

5. Linen girdle (For the blue robe-Lev. 8:7, Exo. 39:29): This girdle in fine needlework using blue, purple and scarlet linen represents truth. Righteousness and truth are foundations of Christ's throne. Truth should be our girdle too (Eph. 6:14).

6. Breastplate (Exo. 28:14-30; 39:8-21): The breastplate was also known as the plate of Judgement. This was the most precious and beautiful item among the garments of the high priest and was woven like the ephod. It was a square piece measuring one span long and one span wide after it was folded double, it was attached to the Ephod. With golden chains above the girdle such that it would appear close to the chest of the high priest. Inside the breastplate were kept Urim and Thummim which meant "revelation" and "truth". Probably these were two precious stones used to find out the will of God. Twelve precious stones were mounted in gold setting in four rows on the breastplate. The names of all the tribes of Israel were engraved on the precious stones. Every one of us is a treasure of God (Mal. 3:7). As our High Priest, Christ is bearing us continually in His

loving heart in the presence of God. How much comfort and joy this knowledge should create in us!

7. Mitre(Exo.28: 36-37): The mitre (turban) was made of fine linen. Attached to it with a blue cord was a plate made of pure gold with the words, "Holy to the Lord", engraved on it. When the high priest was wearing the turban, the golden plate would be hanging in front of his forehead. Thus the high priest was shown to be bearing the guilt of all things which the people of Israel were consecrating. The mitre points to the fact that our High Priest wore the crown of thorns to sanctify us. He will now appear finally as the King of Kings.

The perfection of Jesus Christ is a divine mystery. In Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And we as His body also grow to perfection. (Col. 2:9,19). Let His glory and His divine beauty be always in our meditations

THE OFFICIAL GARMENTS OF ORDINARY PRIESTS

There were three pieces of clothing assigned for ordinary priests to wear over their white undergarments(Exo. 28:40).

1. Long coat: This coat made of white linen points to holiness. Believers must be holy in the sight of God in all respects (1 Pet. 1: 15-16).

2. Girdle: As the girdle distinguishes priests, the believers also should be distinguished by the girdle of truth. Nothing against truth should ever be seen in believers(Eph. 6: 14).

3. Holy mitre (Turban): Jesus Christ wore the crown of thorns and became the supreme sacrifice for us in order to give us the helmet of salvation. Therefore let us shine as witnesses of our saviour wearing on our heads the mitre of salvation that we received by faith in Him (Eph. 6:17).

QUESTIONS

1. Which are the official garments of the ordinary priests and the high priest?
2. Describe each piece of clothing of the high priest and explain its significance.
3. What do the golden bells and the pomegranates in the hem of the blue robe point to?

4. Give the names of :
 - a) The two items kept inside the breastplate
 - b) The garment signifying the fact that Jesus Christ is carrying us on His shoulders
 - c) The garment which signifies that Jesus Christ is bearing us in His loving heart
5. Prove the statement: "High priestly garments foreshadow the divine perfection of Jesus Christ".

LESSON 4

THE CONSECRATION OF THE PRIESTS

Reading : Exo.29;Lev.8

Memory verses : Rom 12: 1-2

Theme: To study the spiritual meanings of various ceremonies performed during the consecration of Israeli priests and offer ourselves totally in the presence of God.

Introduction: A person who is volunteering for any service should dedicate himself for the same. Although all the sons in Aarons family were called for priestly service, they still had to be consecrated for it. Seven steps were required for consecration. In similar way, believers who are called to be priests in the New testament age must also go through the experiences of consecration for the priestly service. The seven steps associated with the consecration priests were shadows of the spiritual experiences of a consecrated believer.

1st step ✓ **1. Washing with water (Exo. 29:4; Lev 8:6):** On the day of consecration the priest is brought to the Tabernacle and washed with water and cleansed. This points to the requirement of being born again by the Word of God. Word of God is compared to water in the Bible. The verses, James 1:18 and 1 Pet. 1:23 clearly say the rebirth is by the Word of God. Jesus taught that a person is born again by the water and the Spirit (John 3:5). Here water refers to the Word of God. (Eph. 5:25-27) and Titus 3:6 also refer to the washing by Word of God. Holy spirit convicts a person of his