

Exodus 28:1-43

SEEING OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

Aaron, the first high priest, was a remarkable type of Christ, our Great High Priest. And Aaron's sons foreshadowed the believer-priests who compose the church of the Lord Jesus… Some have wondered why the Holy Spirit in Exodus interrupts the description of the God-given pattern of the tabernacle with chapters 28-29, which tell of the priesthood. It has been suggested that it was as though God had come out from His throne room to meet sinful man at the brazen altar, and to lead His redeemed back with Him into His very throne room. He could do this only by the Person and work of His beloved Son and our Great High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ… Only because of the ministry of Christ, our Mediator, our Advocate with the Father, can we hold communion with our holy God. That would seem to be the reason why the Holy Spirit pauses at Exodus 28-29 to set forth in shadow and in type the glories…of the priestly work of Christ that we may better understand the fullness of His love and grace. —Louis T. Talbot

A. Consecrating the Priesthood – Aaron and His Sons (28:1)
  B. The High Priestly Garments for Glory and Beauty (28:2-4)
    C. The Ephod of the High Priest (28:5-14)
      D. The Breastplate of the High Priest (28:15-28)
        E. Bearing Israel over His Heart (28:29)
          F. The Urim and Thummim (28:30a)
        E. Bearing Israel over His Heart (28:30b)
      D. The Robe of the High Priest (28:31-35)
    C. The Headplate of the High Priest (28:36-38)
  B. The Priestly Garments for Glory and Beauty (28:39-40)
A. Consecrating the Priesthood – Aaron and His Sons (28:41-43)

Priesthood springs from the deepest need of the human soul, namely the need for forgiveness and the need for access to God.
—William G. Moorehead

The central concept of priesthood is mediation between the sphere of the divine and the ordinary world. —Philip Jenson (NIDOTTE)

THE PRIORITY OF THE PRIESTHOOD (28:1-4, 39-43)



- **The Role of the Priests**
  - To be _____ to serve the Lord.
  - To act as _____ between God and man.



- **The Garments of the Priests**
  - To convey _____ and _____.
  - To be made by _____ and Spirit-filled artisans.
  - To include a breastplate, ephod, robe, and gold headplate (worn only by the high priest), also a turban, tunic, sash, and linen undergarments (worn by all the priests).

THE PRE-EMINENCE OF THE HIGH PRIEST (28:5-38)

1. **The high priest was connected to the _____.**

   Gold (28:5-6,8,11,13-15,20,22-24,26-27,33-34,37 cf. Ex. 39:3)

   Blue, purple, scarlet, and fine linen (28:5-6,8,15; also 28:28,31,37)

2. **The high priest carried Israel on his _____.**

   Two onyx stones, one on each shoulder (28:9)

   Six tribes engraved on each stone, according to birth order (28:10)

3. **The high priest bore Israel over his _____.**

   Twelve jewels, one for each tribe (28:17-21; cf. Ezekiel 28:12-15)

   Breastplate attached firmly over the heart (28:28-29)

4. **The high priest made decisions for the people based on his love for them and his understanding of God's _____.**

   Urim and Thummim carried in the breastplate (28:30)

5. **The high priest could still be heard serving even when not seen.**

   Golden bells and pomegranates (28:33-35)

6. **The high priest was to be fully dedicated to the Lord.**

   HOLINESS TO THE LORD on his forehead (28:36-37)

7. **The high priest bore the _____ of the people.**

   The high priest's holiness made all offerings acceptable to God (28:38)

THE PICTURE OF OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST, JESUS CHRIST

- Christ carries you on His shoulders (cf. Isaiah 9:6-7).
- Christ treasures you over His heart (cf. Heb. 2:14-18; 4:14-16).
- Christ guides you by His light and truth (cf. John 8:31-32; 9:12).
- Christ intercedes for you always (cf. Heb. 7:23-25; Rom. 8:34).
- Christ has borne all your sin on the cross (cf. Heb. 10:1-14).

The vestments that a king might have worn in other cultures were worn by God's high priest in Israel.
—Douglas Stuart

Ephod. Heb., *ephod,* "priestly garment; shoulder-cape or mantle."

The birth order of Jacob's sons is Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulon, Joseph, and Benjamin (cf. Genesis 29:31-30:24; 35:18).

The twelve tribes on the breastplate may have included Joseph's sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, in the place of Levi and Joseph.

The exact identification of the 12 jewels is practically impossible. Recent research suggests the following: carnelian (red), hematite (silver), green jasper, turquoise, lapis lazuli (blue), milky quartz, amazonite (light green), banded agate, red jasper, amber (gold), amethyst (purple), and chalcedony (light blue). [BBR, 27:1, Jan 2017]

God's people are likened to jewels because of their variety. You do not get two jewels alike… Jewels differ, and is it not so with God's people? —Charles Inglis

Plate (28:36). Heb., *ṣîṣ,* "flower." Perhaps a flower-like medallion.

The names Urim and Thummim mean "Lights and Perfections." We aren't sure what they were or how they were used. The best guess is that they were a pair of stones, one light and one dark, and each stone indicated a "yes" or "no" from God. —David Guzik

If I could hear Christ praying for me in the next room, I would not fear a million enemies.
—Robert Murray M'Cheyne