

A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS Part 5

We've been talking to you about the importance of being New Testament *priests*. Recently, we've been focusing our attention on the garments worn by the priests, not because we think God wants us to dress or *look* like priests. Instead, because we believe the garments worn by the priests show us the kind of *qualities* and *attributes* every priest needs in order to minister.

Exodus 29:5–6

⁵ And thou shalt take the garments, and put upon Aaron the coat, and the robe of the ephod, and the ephod, and the breastplate, and gird him with the curious girdle of the ephod: ⁶ And thou shalt put the mitre upon his head, and put the holy crown upon the mitre.

There are six (6) different articles of clothing listed in these verses.

1. The *first* article of clothing the priest was instructed to put on was the **COAT**.



The “coat” was a white robe made of fine linen. It was worn underneath all the other garments and represents **RIGHTEOUSNESS**. Righteousness allows every priest to come before the presence of God without fear.

Hebrews 10:22

²² Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

2. The *second* article of clothing they were instructed to put on was the **ROBE**.



The “robe” was a *blue* sleeveless robe worn over the white linen robe. This robe represents being clothed with **THE SPIRIT**. Every priest must be *endued* with the Spirit in order to offer up *spiritual* sacrifices to God!

3. The *third* article of clothing they were instructed to put on was the **EPHOD**.



The “ephod” was an apron-like garment worn on top of the blue robe. It enabled the priest to perform his service in the sanctuary. The ephod represents **LOVE** because love enables us to perform our tasks!

Colossians 3:12–14

¹² Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. ¹⁴ And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

4. The *fourth* article of clothing they put on was the **BREASTPLATE**.



The “breastplate” was a thick panel of fabric containing 12 different gem stones. (Each stone represented one of the 12 tribes of Israel.) The breast represented the priest’s most important job—MEDIATION. Whenever the priests went into the presence of God, he represented the people. This allowed him to mediate and intercede for them!

1 Timothy 2:1–2

¹ I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; ² For kings, and for all that are in authority...

Notice, we’re expected to intercede or pray, not only for God’s people, but for ALL men. Moreover, we’re to do this ‘in love,’ or while keeping them on our heart like Aaron!

Exodus 28:28

²⁸ And they shall bind the breastplate by the rings thereof unto the rings of the ephod with a lace of blue, that it may be above the curious girdle of the ephod, and that the breastplate be not loosed from the ephod.

Notice, the breastplate was NEVER to be detached from the ephod. This is a reminder that our intercession should never be detached from love!

1 Timothy 2:8

⁸ I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

The statement “without wrath” is a reminder that we should never pray with anger or resentment in our heart.

5. The *fifth* article of clothing they were instructed to put on was the **GIRDLE**.



The “girdle” was a sash worn around the waist of the priest like a belt. The girdle was important because it held both the ephod and the breastplate *close to the priest’s body*. This enabled the priest to perform his work/service without any hindrances or limitations!



We must understand that although the breastplate was attached to the ephod, the ephod itself was not attached to anything. As a result, without the girdle the ephod and breastplate would get in the way.



Basically, the girdle gave the priest freedom of movement and kept him from potential hazards (like vestments swinging or catching on other fixtures like the altar or lampstand).

Matthew 16:21–23

21 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. 22 Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. 23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me...

Notice how Jesus describes Peter as an “offense” (i.e. stumbling block or potential hazard)! Why was Peter being called a stumbling block?

Matthew 16:23

23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

To “savor” means to “set your mind on” or *to think about* something. Peter was apparently *stumbling* over Jesus’ words (duty to the Father) BECAUSE he was thinking about the situation like natural men rather than like God! Thus, Peter was not READY to obey God because he did not have his mind set on the right things.

Colossians 3:2

2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

This is what the “girdle” represents. It represents PREPARING ONE’S MIND to perform the service or work of God!

1 Peter 4:1

1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind...

The word “arm” means *to equip* (or prepare) *yourself* to perform a service. Therefore, “arming” ourselves to think like Christ thinks is a sign that we’re girded and prepared for service!

In that day, you could always tell when someone was prepared to perform some service because they would “gird” themselves (or secure their loose garments with a belt or girdle). When you girded yourself you were announcing to the public, “I’m ready for service/battle!”

This is equivalent to “rolling up your sleeves” or “tying your hair back,” or even “removing your jacket”! When you do these things, you’re announcing to the public “I’m ready for work!” Well, how we think is announcing to others whether or not we’re ready for work!