

# A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS Part 3

## ***Exodus 19:6***

***<sup>6</sup> And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.***

Again, God's *original* plan was for Israel to be a *kingdom of priests*. God has this SAME desire for the Church. He desires that every one in the Church to be to Him a priest!

What does this even mean? Does it mean we're supposed to walk around in long robes? You laugh, but the garments worn by priests in the OT were intended for us. No, they're not an example of how we are to LOOK. They are an example of how God wants us to ACT. In other words, priestly garments that we see in the OT are intended to be understood spiritually, not literally!

## ***Exodus 28:2–3***

***<sup>2</sup> And thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother for glory and for beauty. <sup>3</sup> And thou shalt speak unto all that are wise hearted, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments to consecrate him, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office.***

According to this passage, the purpose of Aaron's garments was not to bring attention to his garments. The purpose of his garments was to EQUIP HIM FOR SERVICE. (Priests, like soldiers, must be equipped for service!)

We should also point out that NOT EVERYONE was allowed to make the garments that Aaron wore. The person making his clothes had to be filled with the Spirit and wisdom. This tells us that NOT EVERYONE can equip God's people for ministry!

## ***Ephesians 4:11–12***

***<sup>11</sup> And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; <sup>12</sup> For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:***

Let's go back and examine the garments of the priest.

## ***Exodus 28:4***

***<sup>4</sup> And these are the garments which they shall make; a breastplate, and an ephod, and a robe, and a broidered coat, a mitre, and a girdle: and they shall make holy garments for Aaron thy brother, and his sons, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office.***



These were the garments worn by the priests:

1. **BREASTPLATE**
2. **EPHOD** (apron)
3. **ROBE** (outer garment)
4. **COAT** (inner garment or tunic)
5. **MITRE** (turban or headpiece)
6. **GIRDLE** (belt)

We should point out that some of these pieces functioned as a *single* unit.

#### **Exodus 29:5**

**<sup>5</sup> 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:**

Notice how several of these pieces are described in relation to the *ephod*. For example, the outer robe is here called the **ROBE OF THE EPHOD**, and the girdle is called the **GIRDLE OF THE EPHOD**. Apparently the robe, girdle, and even the breastplate, was connected to and functioned alongside the ephod! In fact, the ephod (and everything connected to it) was the MAIN EQUIPMENT used by the priest whenever ministered before the Lord.

This is because the *primary* job of any priest was to be a MEDIATOR for the people before God. Whenever a priest ministered before God, he did it representing the people. This is particularly symbolized by the breastplate. The breastplate contained 12 gemstones, each representing a different tribe in Israel. So, every time the high priest appeared before the Lord, he carried these stones (the nation) upon his heart!

This is what we're called to do as priests—carry others on our heart before God!

### **1 Timothy 2:1, 3–5**

***<sup>1</sup> I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; <sup>3</sup> For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; <sup>4</sup> Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup> For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;***

Notice, we're expected to pray, not just for *some* men, but for ALL men!

My question is, “What enables a person to do this?” We might just as well ask, “What enabled the priest to carry the people on his heart?” The answer is—the EPHOD! The ephod supported the breastplate which, in turn, enabled the priest to carry the people before the presence of God!

What enables us to carry (or support) people on our heart today?

### **Galatians 6:1–2**

***<sup>1</sup> Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. <sup>2</sup> Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.***

The “law of Christ” is a reference to LOVE. Therefore, love enables us to carry, not only people in prayer, but it also enables us to carry their burdens! Love even binds and holds everything together, just like the ephod!

### **Colossians 3:12–14**

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

According to Paul, love is the “bond of perfectness”. In other words, love binds all the other virtues (mercy, kindness, humbleness, meekness, etc) together in perfect unity. Love is our MAIN EQUIPMENT in ministry!

I also want to point out that the ephod was NOT the first thing the priest put on.

In the same is true concerning love. Love is not the first thing we put on!

### **Colossians 3:14**

***<sup>14</sup> And above all these things put on charity...***

Apparently, there are other things we need to put on BEFORE love!

The very FIRST thing the priest put on was the coat.



**Exodus 29:5**

***<sup>5</sup> And thou shalt take the garments, and put upon Aaron the coat...***

This coat was a base garment that was white and made of fine line.

It represents the “new man” (regeneration).

**Colossians 3:10**

***<sup>10</sup> And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:***

Putting on the “new man” represents putting on righteousness.

**Ephesians 4:24**

***<sup>24</sup> And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.***

After this, the priest put on the robe.

**Exodus 29:5**

***<sup>5</sup> And thou shalt take the garments, and put upon Aaron the coat, and the robe of the ephod...***

This robe represented an outer garment and the color of it was “blue”. The color blue suggests that this garment was heavenly or spiritual.

**Luke 24:49**

***<sup>49</sup> And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.***

To be “*endued with the Spirit*” means to be clothed with the Spirit. Therefore, we are not ready for service until we are endued or clothed with the Spirit of God. Moreover, you “put on the Spirit” AFTER you “put on the new man”! Finally, once you receive (put on) the Spirit, you are truly ready to put on LOVE (Romans 5:5).