

A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS Part 6

We've been studying the various garments of the priests.

Exodus 29:5

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...the curious girdle...

We said to you that each of these garments represents a different virtues EVERY priest needs to have to perform their service to God. For example, the priest was commanded to put on...

THE LINEN COAT



We said to you that this “linen coat” represents *righteousness*. We cannot serve God as priests UNLESS we have been clothed in His righteousness!

Hebrews 9:14

¹⁴ How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

The second garment the priest was commanded to put on was...

THE BLUE ROBE



We said to you that putting on this “blue robe” represents the *Holy Ghost*. No priest can serve God without being clothed or endued with the Spirit. How else can we offer up spiritual sacrifices to God (*1Peter 2:5*)?

The third garment the priest was commanded to put on was...

THE EPHOD



Putting on the “ephod” represents putting on love. Everything we do as priests must be done in love. Paul said, “If I have not love, I am a sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal” (*1Corinthians 13:1*).

The fourth garment the priest was commanded to put on was...

THE BREASTPLATE



The breastplate allowed the priest to perform his MOST important ministry—mediation or intercession. We’ve been given a similar ministry, only we perform this ministry for ALL MEN.

1 Timothy 2:1

1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

The fifth garment (or piece) the priest was instructed to put on was...

THE GIRDLE



The girdle was a belt that was worn around the waist of the priest. This girdle was for function, not fashion. In that day a person would “gird” himself by gathering up his loose garments and securing them under his belt.

This was a way of “preparing” oneself for work or even battle. Thus, the “girdle” represents a kind of *readiness* or *mental preparation* every priest needs in order to prepare themselves and meet the demands of ministry!

We come now to the sixth and FINAL piece of clothing the priest was commanded to put on—

THE GOLDEN MITRE

Exodus 29:6

6 And thou shalt put the mitre upon his head, and put the holy crown upon the mitre.



This “golden mitre” was a white turban or headpiece that had a golden plate fastened to the front of it. This gold plate contained the inscription “holiness to the Lord.”

Exodus 28:36–37

36 And thou shalt make a plate of pure gold, and grave upon it, like the engravings of a signet, HOLINESS TO THE LORD. 37 And thou shalt put it on a blue lace, that it may be upon the mitre...

What virtue or attribute is represented by this mitre?

Exodus 28:38

38 And it shall be upon Aaron's forehead, that Aaron may bear the iniquity of the holy things, which the children of Israel shall hallow in all their holy gifts; and it shall be always upon his forehead, that they may be accepted before the Lord.

First of all, the mitre teaches us...

#1—WE'RE CALLED TO BEAR THE INFIRMITIES OF OTHERS

By wearing the *mitre* Aaron “bore” any iniquity (or guilt) the people incurred upon themselves while offering their gifts and sacrifices.

Exodus 28:38 Good News Bible

38 Aaron is to wear it on his forehead, so that I, the Lord, will accept all the offerings that the Israelites dedicate to me, even if the people commit some error in offering them.

Therefore, God was willing to receive their gifts (or forgive the people) if Aaron was willing *bear their iniquities* by wearing the mitre!

Romans 15:1

1 We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

The “weak” in this verse are people who lack the moral strength to stand where you’re standing! We’re called “bear” with these people.

We should understand that *bearing* with people is not the same as *tolerating* them. When you *tolerate* someone, your goal is to simply avoid conflict. However, when you *bear* with someone, the goal is to HELP them!

Romans 15:2

2 Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification.

Also, when you bear with someone, you accept the COST of dealing with them.

Romans 15:3

3 For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.

“Reproaches” are the *consequences* that come with dealing with people who are failing. It represents the cost of your time, energy, patience, being mistreated, misunderstood, etc.

#2—WE'RE CALLED TO REMAIN HOLY

Again, the mitre worn by Aaron contained the inscription “holiness to the Lord”. Notice what I DIDN'T say. I did not say that it read, “Holiness FROM the people.” The inscription read, “Holiness TO the Lord!”

This means, we are to remain *holy* while we bear with the infirmities of others. We cannot allow people's failures to cause us to fail or lose our *hat*!

Leviticus 10:1–2, 6a

¹ And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the Lord, which he commanded them not. ² And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord.

⁶ And Moses said unto Aaron, and unto Eleazar and unto Ithamar, his sons, Uncover not your heads...

Notice, after the death/judgment of Nadab and Abihu, Aaron and his *remaining* sons were commanded not to “uncover their heads” (take off their turbans).

Why? Because Aaron and his sons still had a job to do! We can't allow the failures of others (even members of our own family) cause us to “remove our hat” or abandon our responsibilities. Moreover, our **FIRST** responsibility is to remain holy! [*The “white hats” in the old Western movies and TV shows.*]

There are **OTHER** responsibilities, besides being holy, that the priest had.

Leviticus 10:6

⁶ And Moses said unto Aaron, and unto Eleazar and unto Ithamar, his sons, Uncover not your heads, neither rend your clothes; lest ye die, and lest wrath come upon all the people...

Aaron and his sons were expected to intercede against the wrath of God which, apparently, was still a threat!

Leviticus 10:11

¹¹ And that ye may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the Lord hath spoken unto them by the hand of Moses.

Aaron and his could not remove their hats because someone needed to teach the people the statutes of God.

1 Peter 3:8–10, 15

⁸ Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

⁹ Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. ¹⁰ For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: ¹⁵ But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Who's going to believe our "answer" (testimony) concerning our faith when we're committing the same failures they're guilty of?