

## SWORD MINISTRIES (Ephesians 6:17)

### THE COMMANDS FOR THE PRIESTHOOD

EXODUS 28, 29 these two chapters contain God's commands for the priesthood; we may glean so much from these instructions. The believer today is the only priest the New Testament teaches of; so, before we begin, let's look at two typological applications:

1. Jesus Christ is our Great High Priest – as we study the commands for the High Priest, we must understand that Jesus fulfills all details for He is our High Priest **HEBREWS 2:16-18; 3:1; 4:14-16; 5:1-10; 6:20; 7:22-26; 8:1-3; 9:11,12; 10:19-23.**

2. The Priesthood of the Believer – the New Testament is adamant about who a priest is today, the born-again believer. Thus, we may learn a great deal of what God commands of His priests: **1 PETER 2:1-9; REVELATION 1:4-6; 5:8-10; 20:4-6.**

### EXODUS 28

(v1) *'And take thou unto thee Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel...'* Aaron was the first High Priest, he and his sons made up the Old Testament priesthood. *'...that he may minister unto Me in the priest's office...'* this too is our call as priests, we are to minister unto God first, as opposed to serving men. We can accomplish that from anywhere, worshipping Him, studying His Word, praying...

(vv2-8) *'And thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother for glory and for beauty.'* The clothing for the High Priest was not to be dull, but beautiful as the High Priest is representing the Lord. *'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 the ephod of gold, of blue, and of purple, of scarlet, and fine twined linen, with cunning work.'* The High Priest's garments were of the same material and colors as the Tabernacle itself; signifying a direct linkage to the priesthood and worshipping the Lord. Notice that God says, *'that he may minister unto Me in the priest's office'* three times in the first four verses. Our first ministry is unto God Himself; important to understand in our walk today. **MARK 12:28-30** *'And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength, this is the first commandment.'*

(v3) *'And thou shalt speak unto all that are wise hearted, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom...'* if it is really done for the glory of the Lord, even practical service, such as the making of the garments here, requires the leading of the Holy Spirit. **PROVERBS 2:1-11; 3:5-8** *'In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.'* If we are to be *'wise hearted'* we must continue to walk with Jesus step by step, even when doing seemingly everyday things.

**EPHESIANS 1 (vv1-8)** just as God called some out to work on the Tabernacle who were wise hearted and filled with the Spirit, He desires to fill us too: *'which*

## THE TABERNACLE (Study #29)

*He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence'* God has lavished upon the believer practical understanding and full intelligence in serving Him. (vv15-19) Paul asks God in prayer to do some amazing things in the believers' lives: *'...the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened ...'*

**JAMES 1:5-8,17,18** *'If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.'* God's will is that we would come to Him and ask for His wisdom in our lives; God's yearns to fill us with Himself!

(vv9-14) the ephod was an apron-like garment, with two sections joined at the shoulders and open at the sides. On each shoulder there was an onyx stone, each stone bearing six names of the tribes of Israel. The priest's first ministry is to the Lord Himself, but a priest is also connected to the people, bearing them symbolically on his shoulders. In applying this to Jesus, our Great High Priest: **ISAIAH 9:6,7** Jesus bears Israel on His shoulders forever, His government will rule from sea to sea.

**ZECHARIAH 6:9-13** the Branch is a title for the Messiah, Zechariah wrote this prophetically of Jesus around 500 BC (**ISAIAH 11:1,2; JEREMIAH 23:5,6; 33:15**). Jesus will rule as High Priest eternally in Israel.

**ZECHARIAH 9:9,10** *'...and His dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth.'* Our Great High Priest will bear us as well as Israel on His shoulders as He rules the world.

**GALATIANS 6:1,2** *'Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.'* As we apply the onyx stones to our own personal priesthood, we too are to help carry one another. **GALATIANS 5:13,14** *'but by love serve one another.'* **ROMANS 15:1-7** *'We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak... Wherefore receive ye one another...'* as priest's today, let's remember to serve God first, but also to love each other and help carry burdens for one another.

**EXODUS 28 (v15)** the breastplate was to be made of the same material as the ephod, it was attached with chains. (v16) a span is generally considered about 9 inches, there were four rows of three stones, each stone engraved with the name of one of the 12 tribes of Israel (vv17-30) *'...and Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel upon his heart before the LORD continually.'*

The Priesthood applied to Jesus – He is our God of love, He will never forget Israel **ROMANS 1:1**. Nor will He ever cease to have compassion (over his heart) for you personally. He sees you as a priceless gem **MATTHEW 13:45,46.**

The Priesthood applied to the believer – Not only are we to have a heart for God, but also for each other and bear each other on our hearts before God **1 PETER 3:8-13**