

### **The Priests' Garments**

**Exo 28:1** "Have Aaron your brother brought to you from among the Israelites, along with his sons Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, so they may serve me as priests.

**Exo 28:2** Make sacred garments for your brother Aaron to give him dignity and honor.

**Exo 28:3** Tell all the skilled workers to whom I have given wisdom in such matters that they are to make garments for Aaron, for his consecration, so he may serve me as priest.

**Exo 28:4** These are the garments they are to make: a breastpiece, an ephod, a robe, a woven tunic, a turban and a sash. They are to make these sacred garments for your brother Aaron and his sons, so they may serve me as priests.

**Exo 28:5** Have them use gold, and blue, purple and scarlet yarn, and fine linen.

**Exo 28:6** "Make the ephod of gold, and of blue, purple and scarlet yarn, and of finely twisted linen--the work of skilled hands.

**Exo 28:7** It is to have two shoulder pieces attached to two of its corners, so it can be fastened.

**Exo 28:8** Its skillfully woven waistband is to be like it--of one piece with the ephod and made with gold, and with blue, purple and scarlet yarn, and with finely twisted linen.

**Exo 28:9** "Take two onyx stones and engrave on them the names of the sons of Israel

**Exo 28:10** in the order of their birth--six names on one stone and the remaining six on the other.

**Exo 28:11** Engrave the names of the sons of Israel on the two stones the way a gem cutter engravés a seal. Then mount the stones in gold filigree settings

**Exo 28:12** and fasten them on the shoulder pieces of the ephod as memorial stones for the sons of Israel. Aaron is to bear the names on his shoulders as a memorial before the LORD.

**Exo 28:13** Make gold filigree settings

**Exo 28:14** and two braided chains of pure gold, like a rope, and attach the chains to the settings.

**Exo 28:15** "Fashion a breastpiece for making decisions--the work of skilled hands. Make it like the ephod: of gold, and of blue, purple and scarlet yarn, and of finely twisted linen.

**Exo 28:16** It is to be square--a span long and a span wide--and folded double.

**Exo 28:17** Then mount four rows of precious stones on it. The first row shall be carnelian, chrysolite and beryl;

**Exo 28:18** the second row shall be turquoise, lapis lazuli and emerald;

**Exo 28:19** the third row shall be jacinth, agate and amethyst;

**Exo 28:20** the fourth row shall be topaz, onyx and jasper. Mount them in gold filigree settings.

**Exo 28:21** There are to be twelve stones, one for each of the names of the sons of Israel, each engraved like a seal with the name of one of the twelve tribes.

**Exo 28:22** "For the breastpiece make braided chains of pure gold, like a rope.

**Exo 28:23** Make two gold rings for it and fasten them to two corners of the breastpiece.

**Exo 28:24** Fasten the two gold chains to the rings at the corners of the breastpiece,

**Exo 28:25** and the other ends of the chains to the two settings, attaching them to the shoulder pieces of the ephod at the front.

**Exo 28:26** Make two gold rings and attach them to the other two corners of the breastpiece on the inside edge next to the ephod.

**Exo 28:27** Make two more gold rings and attach them to the bottom of the shoulder pieces on the front of the ephod, close to the seam just above the waistband of the ephod.

**Exo 28:28** The rings of the breastpiece are to be tied to the rings of the ephod with blue cord, connecting it to the waistband, so that the breastpiece will not swing out from the ephod.

**Exo 28:29** "Whenever Aaron enters the Holy Place, he will bear the names of the sons of Israel over his heart on the breastpiece of decision as a continuing memorial before the LORD."

**Exo 28:30** Also put the Urim and the Thummim in the breastpiece, so they may be over Aaron's heart whenever he enters the presence of the LORD. Thus Aaron will always bear the means of making decisions for the Israelites over his heart before the LORD.

**Exo 28:31** "Make the robe of the ephod entirely of blue cloth,

**Exo 28:32** with an opening for the head in its center. There shall be a woven edge like a collar around this opening, so that it will not tear.

**Exo 28:33** Make pomegranates of blue, purple and scarlet yarn around the hem of the robe, with gold bells between them.

**Exo 28:34** The gold bells and the pomegranates are to alternate around the hem of the robe.

**Exo 28:35** Aaron must wear it when he ministers. The sound of the bells will be heard when he enters the Holy Place before the LORD and when he comes out, so that he will not die.

**Exo 28:36** "Make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it as on a seal: HOLY TO THE LORD."

**Exo 28:37** Fasten a blue cord to it to attach it to the turban; it is to be on the front of the turban.

**Exo 28:38** It will be on Aaron's forehead, and he will bear the guilt involved in the sacred gifts the Israelites consecrate, whatever their gifts may be. It will be on Aaron's forehead continually so that they will be acceptable to the LORD.

**Exo 28:39** "Weave the tunic of fine linen and make the turban of fine linen. The sash is to be the work of an embroiderer.

**Exo 28:40** Make tunics, sashes and caps for Aaron's sons to give them dignity and honor.

**Exo 28:41** After you put these clothes on your brother Aaron and his sons, anoint and ordain them. Consecrate them so they may serve me as priests.

**Exo 28:42** "Make linen undergarments as a covering for the body, reaching from the waist to the thigh.

**Exo 28:43** Aaron and his sons must wear them whenever they enter the tent of meeting or approach the altar to minister in the Holy Place, so that they will not incur guilt and die. "This is to be a lasting ordinance for Aaron and his descendants.

Exodus 28, which details the holy garments for Aaron the high priest, directly foreshadows Jesus Christ as the ultimate High Priest in the New Testament. The priestly garments—representing beauty, glory, and mediation—typify Christ's role in interceding for humanity, carrying believers on his heart, and fulfilling the requirements of holiness.

Key connections between Exodus 28 and the New Testament include:

- **Jesus as High Priest (Hebrews 4:14):** Just as Aaron was chosen by God to mediate between God and Israel, Jesus serves as the supreme mediator for humanity.  
Heb 4:14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.
- Heb 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet he did not sin.

- **Representation of Believers** (**Exodus 28:12, 29**): Aaron wore the names of the tribes of Israel on his shoulders and breastplate, symbolizing Jesus carrying his people before God.
- **Holiness to the Lord** (**Exodus 28:36-38**): The plate on the turban signifies that Jesus perfectly fulfills the requirement of being "holy" for us.
- **The Priesthood of Believers** (**1 Peter 2:5, 9**): Christians are called a "royal priesthood," transitioning from the restricted access of the Old Covenant to direct access to God through Jesus.

**1Pe 2:5** you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1Pe 2:6 For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

1Pe 2:7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,"

1Pe 2:8 and, "A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message--which is also what they were destined for.

- **1Pe 2:9** But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

- **Contrast in Sacrifice** (**Exodus 28 vs. Crucifixion**): While Aaron wore garments for glory, Jesus was stripped of his garments and wore a crown of thorns, bearing the shame of sin to accomplish salvation.

The garments in Exodus 28 were not merely for show, but were "for glory and for beauty" (Exodus 28:2), pointing to the superior, perfect, and everlasting priestly ministry of Jesus Christ.

- Exodus 28-31 • Israel's Priesthood Explained