

THE PRIESTHOOD

Old Testament Lesson #44

God told Moses how the priests were to be attired as they performed duties relating to the worship of the LORD. The garments were for glory and beauty (Exodus 28:2,40). They were to make: "A breastpiece, an ephod (E-fod), a robe, a checkered tunic, a turban, and a sash" (Exodus 28:4).

The ephod was a special garment for the high priest only, and was made of blue, purple, crimson and gold linen. The front and back were joined by shoulder-pieces on which were onyx stones engraved with the names of the tribes of Israel (see Exodus 28:12).

The high priest's attire included a breastpiece. It contained four rows of precious stones (three per row), each engraved with the name of a tribe in Israel. It was called the "breastpiece of judgment" because it had a pocket for the Urim (U-rim) and Thummim (THUM-im) (two small objects), which were used by the high priest to find God's will for the people (see Exodus 28:29-30).

The robe of the ephod was blue and had golden bells and pomegranates around its edge in alternating order. The robe is explained in Exodus 28:31-35, and the importance of wearing it is found in verse 35, "so that he may not die."

The high priest was also to wear a turban with a gold plate that read "Holy to the LORD," fastened to it by a blue sash. The woven tunic was worn under the robe, along with linen undergarments (Exodus 28:42-43).

The high priest's garments were more ornate than those of the other priests. They wore only tunics, sashes, headdresses and undergarments.

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- The whole tribe of Levi was set apart for the work of the LORD, but each segment of the tribe had its own jobs to do. Aaron (Moses' brother) and his sons were appointed as high priest and priests respectively. On the death of the high priest, his eldest son inherited the position. Other Levites assisted the priests.
- Urim and Thummim were probably two pocket-sized objects that each had "yes" and "no" sides. It is thought they were used as follows: The inquirer would ask a question that could be answered yes or no. The priest then cast the Urim and Thummim. If both showed "yes," the answer was affirmative. If both showed "no," the answer was negative. If one was "yes" and the other "no," there was no answer.

The Priesthood

- I. God told Moses how priests should be dressed for their duties.
 - A. The high priests wore a linen garment called an ephod.
 - B. The breastpiece contained precious stones.
 - C. The robe was edged with bells and pomegranates.
 - D. The turban included a gold plate with words that praised God.
- II. Other priests wore plainer garments.

ANSWER KEY:

turban	breastpiece, judgment
Aaron	robe
sons, Aaron	vestments
	ephod



When Moses was on Mount Sinai, God gave him:
...the Ten Commandments,
...instructions for building the tabernacle and
...directions for clothing for the priests.

Add (+) or subtract (-) letters to find these answers.
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

I am worn by the high priest. I have a gold plate. The words "Holy to the Lord" are on my plate.
What am I?
S+1 S+2 T-2 D-2 E-4 K+3

I am the high priest. I wear an ephod, robe, breastpiece and turban. I am Moses' brother.
Who am I?
B-1 C-2 Q+1 N+1 L+2

We are priests. We are of the tribe of Levi. We wear tunics, sashes and headdresses.
Who are we?
R+1 N+1 L+2 T-1
of
F-5 B-1 Q+1 M+2 L+2

I have 12 precious stones on my front side. I am worn by the high priest. I have a pocket for the Urim and Thummim.
What am I?
A+1 T-2 B+3 E-4 V-3 S+1 O+1 G+2 G-2 A+2 F-1

I am worn by the high priest. I am blue. I have golden bells and pomegranates around me. The high priest must wear me in the Holy Place so that he will not die.
What am I?
S-1 N+1 D-2 C+2
of the Ephod.

I am worn by the priests. I am worn for ministering in the Holy Place. I am special for the high priest.
What am I?
U+1 F-1 R+1 V-2 J+3 J-5 L+2 P+4 R+1

I am worn only by the high priest. I am made of purple, blue, crimson and gold linen. Engraved onyx stones hold my front and back together.
What am I?
C+2 Q-1 G+1 M+2 A+3

Name _____

The high priest was God's special servant.

Color the picture.



Name _____