

For Glory and for Beauty

Exodus Chapter Twenty-Eight

~ We have just been sitting around the tabernacle looking at pictures of the Lord Jesus Christ for the last several reports in our Spiritual Safari; and today will be no different. The Lord Jesus appeared to the disciples after He had risen from the dead on the road to Emmaus where He began to expound unto them all the things in Scripture concerning Himself, you will recall. The Holy Spirit has been doing that ever since that day. The Old Testament is a picture book, and the Book of Exodus is particularly interesting. I think this place inside the tabernacle where we are is just thrilling. All of the lighting and angles are perfect in these pictures. Every single one is fascinating and intriguing; at least, they are to me. I hope they are to you, too.

In this report we will have a fashion show as the high priest is outfitted with new garments. Of course, we have a new garment that God provides today for sinners who trust Christ. Not only does Christ cleanse us from our unrighteousness, but he also adds a robe of righteousness. Too bad we can't have this fashion style show in the church every Sunday, isn't it? We need people wearing the robe of righteousness and manifesting God to the world today. These instructions may seem like a departure from the instructions we have been examining regarding the tabernacle. We have had much detail given to us about the tabernacle and we've seen that every thread and every color suggests meaning of the Person and work of Lord Jesus Christ. Now, we're going to talk about the ones who will serve in this tabernacle and how they are to present themselves.

The Levites will be the chosen family to serve as the priests in the nation Israel; and Aaron will be the first great high priest. Well, Aaron is going to have to have something to wear; and, of course, these garments also all speak of the Lord Jesus Christ. The instructions given here also reveal that Christ is our Great and Holy High Priest in Heaven today. Nothing else in the Bible quite illustrates how Christ meets our needs in such a wonderful way as this. Now, again, I acknowledge this doesn't make for very thrilling

reading. Our safari is just looking at familiar pictures and eating unleavened bread. It isn't tasty. Interestingly, there is more meaning in this dry section of Scripture than just about any other besides Leviticus, which is extremely dry. May I say, if we don't keep our eyes on Christ, we will literally die from boredom here? God gave us all these instructions because the Bible is a picture book, and pictures are the most effective way of teaching children. Most of our super-duper saints today are really just huge overgrown babies - but I digress....

1 And take thou unto thee Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office, even Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons.

2 And thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother for glory and for beauty.

~ There is nothing holy in garments today and there was nothing holy in the garments themselves here. The glory and the beauty are for God, not the priest! We're not talking about some handkerchief that's been prayed over, that's ridiculous superstition. We're talking about that which is set apart for the holy use of God. Beautiful things can be set aside for the service of the Lord. Anything that is set aside for His use is holy. These garments are to be set aside and used for the service of God only! I, personally, resent that Satan gets all the beautiful things today; from cars to woman, it seems. Mankind just doesn't happen to give the Creator of beauty credit for creating His beauty! ~

3 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.

4 And these are the garments which they shall make; a breastplate, and an ephod, and a robe, and a brodered 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.

5 And they shall take gold, and blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen.

6 And they shall make the ephod of gold, of blue, and of purple, of scarlet, and fine twined linen, with cunning work.

7 It shall have the two shoulderpieces thereof joined at the two edges thereof; and so it shall be joined together.

8 And the curious girdle of the ephod, which is upon it, shall be of the same, according to the work thereof; even of gold, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen.

9 And thou shalt take two onyx stones, and grave on them the names of the children of Israel:

10 Six of their names on one stone, and the other six names of the rest on the other stone, according to their birth.

11 With the work of an engraver in stone, like the engravings of a signet, shalt thou engrave the two stones with the names of the children of Israel: thou shalt make them to be set in ouches of gold.

12 And thou shalt put the two stones upon the shoulders of the ephod for stones of memorial unto the children of Israel: and Aaron shall bear their names before the LORD upon his two shoulders for a memorial.

13 And thou shalt make ouches of gold;

14 And two chains of pure gold at the ends; of wreathen work shalt thou make them, and fasten the wreathen chains to the ouches.

15 And thou shalt make the breastplate of judgment with cunning work; after the work of the ephod thou shalt make it; of gold, of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, and of fine twined linen, shalt thou make it.

16 Foursquare it shall be being doubled; a span shall be the length thereof, and a span shall be the breadth thereof.

17 And thou shalt set in it settings of stones, even four rows of stones: the first row shall be a sardius, a topaz, and a carbuncle: this shall be the first row.

18 And the second row shall be an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond.

19 And the third row a ligure, an agate, and an amethyst.

20 And the fourth row a beryl, and an onyx, and jasper: they shall be set in gold in their inclosings.

21 And the stones shall be with the names of the children of Israel, twelve, according to their names, like the engravings of a signet; every one with his name shall they be according to the twelve tribes.

22 And thou shalt make upon the breastplate chains at the ends of wreathen work of pure gold.

23 And thou shalt make upon the breastplate two rings of gold, and shalt put the two rings on the two ends of the breastplate.

24 And thou shalt put the two wreathen chains of gold in the two rings which are on the ends of the breastplate.

25 And the other two ends of the two wreathen chains thou shalt fasten in the two ouches, and put them on the shoulderpieces of the ephod before it.

26 And thou shalt make two rings of gold, and thou shalt put them upon the two ends of the breastplate in the border thereof, which is in the side of the ephod inward.

27 And two other rings of gold thou shalt make, and shalt put them on the two sides of the ephod underneath, toward the forepart thereof, over against the other coupling thereof, above the curious girdle of the ephod.

28 And they shall bind the breastplate by the rings thereof unto the rings of the ephod with a lace of blue, that it may be above the curious girdle of the ephod, and that the breastplate be not loosed from the ephod.

29 And Aaron shall bear the names of the children of Israel in the breastplate of judgment upon his heart, when he goeth in unto the holy place, for a memorial before the LORD continually.

~ These are the garments that Aaron will wear and pass down to his sons. These were all made of the finest materials available. I feel like God should have the very, very best of everything – although we need to be careful about this matter. Several ministries indulge in luxury cars and goods. Well, how they can beg and urge giving all the time and live in luxury is beyond my understanding. Does a preacher need a Rolls Royce and a ten thousand square foot house? Not if he's asking others for money, he doesn't. But if he is honestly doing the Lords work then the means of producing that work should be the best available. The computer I'm working on, for instance; I would use every dime of donations to update this laptop when the time came and I would buy a really good one – the best I could with what I had, to be exact! I hope you understand what I am saying because God is being robbed today. Malachi asked, "... will a man rob God?" And God answered, "Yes, he sure will; every chance he gets."

So, the names of the tribes of Israel were written on a stone and then they were placed on the shoulder of his garment. Remember, when Christ went out and got that lost little lamb, He carried the lamb back on His shoulder! This speaks of the strength of Christ to carry Israel in that way. That's where Christ carries me and you today as we get off on the sidelines from time to time. God is there to put us right back up on His shoulder and carry us! What another great picture we have here and there are many more details that we aren't going into with this garment. The breastplate of judgment means that sin has been judged. We are told to put on the breastplate of righteousness today as believers. It covers our vital parts and wearing it is

the only way we can stand in the presence of God! If He has judged our sins, then the righteousness of Christ is made over to us; that's why we have it called the cunning work.

There were twelve stones in the breastplate; four rows of three with the names of the tribes of Israel written on them. This is a thing of extreme beauty. We find these stones again in Ezekiel and in Revelation; each stone a different color! Christ wears a breastplate and He holds us on His Chest – the place where His heart is! He loves us and we are engraved on His heart. The stone in Revelation that has a new name engraved on it does NOT mean a new name for us; it will be a new name for Him – a new and different meaning He has in our lives. See, Christ means something different to me than He does to you and He has met needs of mine that are different than those you have, friends. There are a whole lot of instructions here and I suggest you read them all a few times after praying for wisdom, judgment and discernment. The minute details are quite meaningful because the Spirit of God is putting His emphasis on what He thinks is important to you and to me....

30 And thou shalt put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim; and they shall be upon Aaron's heart, when he goeth in before the LORD: and Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel upon his heart before the LORD continually.

~ I can find at least twenty different authors that have described the Urim and the Thummim; and I still don't know what they are or were. What we do know is they were tangible and physical creations that had something to do with determining the will of God. Precisely how it worked we do not know. Some people thought they were dice! I doubt that; but I do believe they correctly used whatever they were at that time to determine the will of God for the children of Israel. This is intentionally kept obscure by God because if we had any notion of what the Urim and the Thummim were we would have even more nut-cakes running around all over the place that professed they could tell you everything under the sun that God has to say to you. It's certainly just as well we have no idea what they were. It's also a good thing we don't hear much about them today....

31 And thou shalt make the robe of the ephod all of blue.

32 And there shall be an hole in the top of it, in the midst thereof: it shall have a binding of woven work round about the hole of it, as it were the hole of an habergeon, that it be not rent.

33 And beneath upon the hem of it thou shalt make pomegranates of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, round about the hem thereof; and bells of gold between them round about:

34 A golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, upon the hem of the robe round about.

~ Golden bells speak of witnessing and the pomegranates speak of fruit in our lives. There should very definitely be both! You really should not be handing out Bible tracts unless you are making the right kind of Christian tracks in this world, my beloved. You CANNOT witness effectively for Christ if you don't have a proper life to back it up. Then, there are the others who have a proper life, but they do not witness. We need both a bell and a pomegranate. As we move along, we discover an inscription written over the head of the high priest; because this is the man who has been set aside for God's use! The banner should be out on the helmet of our salvation today - and that should be our testimony also. Holiness To The Lord! ~

35 And it shall be upon Aaron to minister: and his sound shall be heard when he goeth in unto the holy place before the LORD, and when he cometh out, that he die not.

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; upon the forefront of the mitre it shall be.

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.

39 And thou shalt embroider the coat of fine linen, and thou shalt make the mitre of fine linen, and thou shalt make the girdle of needlework.

40 And for Aaron's sons thou shalt make coats, and thou shalt make for them girdles, and bonnets shalt thou make for them, for glory and for beauty.

41 And thou shalt put them upon Aaron thy brother and his sons with him; and shalt anoint them, and consecrate them, and sanctify them, that they may minister unto me in the priest's office.

42 And thou shalt make them linen breeches to cover their nakedness; from the loins even unto the thighs they shall reach:

43 And they shall be upon Aaron, and upon his sons, when they come in unto the tabernacle of the congregation, or when they come near unto the altar to minister in the holy place; that they bear not iniquity, and die: it shall be a statute for ever unto him and his seed after him.

~ So, we have completely covered up from head to toe in this report from our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God. This represents how the world is to see nothing of our works of the flesh. We're going to abruptly leave off there and swing right into chapter twenty-nine when we continue along. Be sure to make a point of reading the text after praying for wisdom, judgment and discernment. I do hope you'll be able to continue with us ~

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