## THE HIGH PRIEST -GARMENTS AND HISTORY

Historical Significance and Symbolism



## THE HIGH PRIEST

- Brief Introduction
- Appearance in the VSL
- Garments
  - Biblical Explanations
  - Use in Royal Arch
- Observations



## TRIVIA

- Master of the Chapter in United States
  - Excellent High Priest, King, and Scribe
- In United Kingdom
  - First, Second, Third Principal
- In Ireland
  - Excellent King, High Priest and Chief Scribe





## TRIVIA

- In United Kingdom
  - First, Second, Third Principal
  - Most Excellent Zerubbabel





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# THE HIGH PRIEST

- Master of a Chapter
- Member of the Grand Council
- Past High Priest
  - Wears a distinctive Symbol





#### **ROYAL ARCH - HIGH PRIEST SYMBOL**





- Is the Breastplate of the High Priest of Israel
- Described in Exodus 28
- Created in Exodus 39
- Worn by Aaron in Leviticus 8

## THE HIGH PRIEST OF ISRAEL

- Aaron was the first
  - Exodus 28
- Was to be successive through Aaron's line
  - Aaron  $\rightarrow$  *Eleazar*  $\rightarrow$  Phinehas  $\rightarrow$  Abishua  $\rightarrow$  Bukki  $\rightarrow$  Uzzi
  - **Ithamar**  $\rightarrow$  Eli  $\rightarrow$  Ahitub  $\rightarrow$  Ahijah  $\rightarrow$  Ahimelech  $\rightarrow$  Abiathar
- Solomon
  - Abiathar → Zadok (High Priest at completion of the First Temple)



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## THE FIRST TEMPLE

- David
  - Abiathar and Zadok were High Priests in tandem
- Solomon
  - When Adonijah tries to claim power and kingship
    - Abiathar sides with Adonijah's camp
  - David near death proclaims Solomon his heir to throne
    - Solomon expels Abiathar
  - Zadok proclaimed as the sole High Priest



## THE FIRST TEMPLE

 Zadok anoints Solomon as King of Israel





## RETURN FROM EXILE AND THE END

- Joshua was first High Priest upon return from exile
  - High Priest from 515-490 BCE
  - Inspired people towards reconstruction of the Temple

- Phannias ben Samuel
  - Last High Priest of Israel
  - Revolutionary against Romans and died during destruction of Herod's Temple



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## THE HIGH PRIESTS GARMENTS

- Exodus 28
  - White Tunic
  - Blue Robe
  - Ephod
  - Breastplate
  - Mitznefet





## WHITE TUNIC

#### • Exodus 28:42

 "Make linen undergarments as a covering for the body, reaching from the waist to the thigh"

#### • Exodus 28:43

- "...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"





#### **BLUE ROBE**

- Exodus 28:31-32
  - "Make the robe of the ephod entirely of blue cloth, 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."





#### **BLUE ROBE**

#### • Exodus 28:33-35

"Make pomegranates of blue, purple and scarlet yarn around the hem of the robe, with gold bells between them. The gold bells and the pomegranates are to alternate around the hem of the robe. 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."





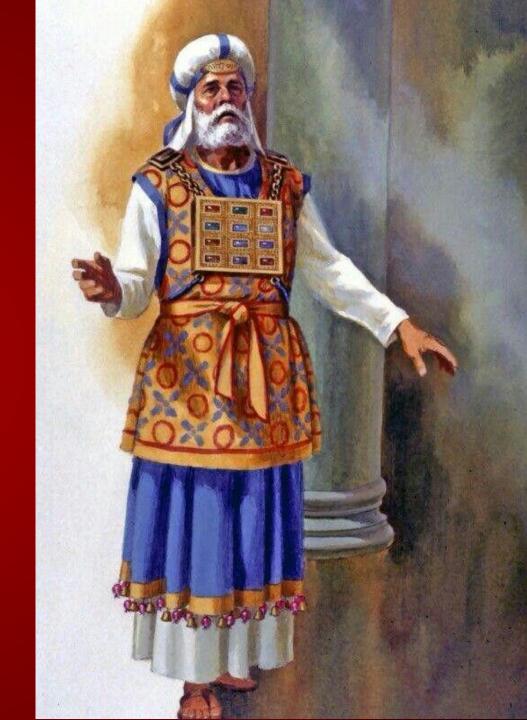
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#### EPHOD

- Exodus 28:6-8
  - "Make the ephod of gold, and of blue, purple and scarlet yarn, and of finely twisted linen—the work of skilled hands.
  - It is to have two shoulder pieces attached to two of its corners, so it can be fastened.
  - 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.



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#### EPHOD

- Exodus 28:9-13
  - "Take two onyx stones and engrave on them the names of the sons of Israel
  - in the order of their birth—six names on one stone and the remaining six on the other.
  - Engrave the names of the sons of Israel on the two stones the way a gem cutter engraves a seal. Then mount the stones in gold filigree settings
  - 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."





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#### MITZNEFET

- Exodus 28:36-38
  - "Make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it as on a seal: HOLY TO THE LORD.
  - Fasten a blue cord to it to attach it to the turban; it is to be on the front of the turban.
  - 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."



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## BREASTPLATE

- Exodus 28:15-21
  - "Fashion a breast piece 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.
  - It is to be square—a span long and a span wide—and folded double.





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## BREASTPLATE

#### • Exodus 28:15-21

- "Then mount four rows of precious stones on it. The first row shall be carnelian, chrysolite and beryl;
- the second row shall be turquoise, lapis lazuli and emerald;
- the third row shall be jacinth, agate and amethyst;
- the fourth row shall be topaz, onyx and jasper. Mount them in gold filigree settings.
- 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."



## BREASTPLATE

- Exodus 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."





# URIM AND THUMMIN

- Exodus 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."





## SYMBOL

- Breastplate
- Working Tools
- Keystone
- Inscription
- Tetragrammaton





# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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