

# The Tabernacle: The House of God The Priesthood

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Session 5

Robert Wall

# The Tabernacle: The House of God

## The Priesthood

(Exodus 28:1)

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**‘Behold, I and the children which God has given me’  
(Heb. 2:13)**

- **Aaron is a type of Christ** who has entered into ‘heaven itself, now to appear before the face of God for us’ (Heb. 9:24)
- He did so ‘by his own blood... having found an eternal redemption’ (Heb. 9:12)
- **Aaron’s sons are a type of all Christian believers** who have liberty of access to God where He dwells because of redemption (1 Peter 2:5; Heb. 2:13; 10:19-22)

# Aaron's Garments

## (Exodus 28:2-3)

- Holy Garments... for Glory and for Ornament
- In the Septuagint the words for glory and ornament are the same Greek words translated glory and honour in Hebrews 2 verse 7



# Aaron's Garments

(Exodus 28:2-3)

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## **'Hallowed' to His service**

- These garments were to 'hallow him, that he may serve me as priest'
- To 'hallow' means to sanctify; to set apart to service
- This was done when the Lord Jesus was 'crowned with glory and honour' after His death, resurrection and ascension to heaven
- 'Thou art a priest for ever according to the order of Melchisedec' (Psa. 110:1, 4; Heb. 7:17, 21)

# Aaron's Garments

(Exodus 28:4, 36-38)

- A Breastplate
- An Ephod
- A Cloak
- A Checkered Vest (or tunic, shirt)
- A Turban
- A Girdle
- A Plate of Pure Gold (for the turban)



# The Materials Used

(Exodus 28:5-6)

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- Aaron's garments show us glories that belong to the Lord Jesus
- The materials used in making them were

Materials:	A type of:
Gold	What is divine
Blue	The heavenly character of Christ
Purple	The universal glory of Christ
Scarlet	The kingship of Christ in Israel
Twined Byssus (fine linen)	The spotless humanity of Christ

# The Ephod

(Exodus 28:5-7)

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- The gold in the ephod may be a double type presenting to us
- The glory of Christ as the eternal Son of God (Hebrews 7:1-3)
- The righteous basis on which Christ as man has entered into the most holy place (Heb. 1:9; 7:2; 10:1-18)
- The other materials speak of glory that has been given to Him as a man
- He is our 'great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God' (Heb. 4:14).

# The Girdle

(Exodus 28:8)

- The girdle was made of the same materials as the ephod
- The girdle reminds us of the humility of the Lord Jesus in taking a place of service (c.f. Luke 12:37; Phil. 2:7)



# The Two Onyx Stones

(Exodus 28:9-11)

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- Two onyx stones had the names of the children of Israel engraved on them
- The names of six were engraved on one stone and the other six on the other stone, according to their birth (Heb. 10:22)
- These engravings were ‘as the engravings of a seal’ and were set on the shoulder pieces of the ephod



# The Two Onyx Stones

## (Exodus 28:9-11)

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- ‘Aaron shall bear their names before Jehovah upon his two shoulders for a memorial’ (Ex. 28:12)
- The shoulders are the emblem of strength (Isa. 9:6, Luke 15:5)
- Christ has omnipotent power and is able to sustain His own whatever their trials and weaknesses may be
- ‘My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness’ (2 Cor. 12:9)

# The Settings and Chains of Gold

(Exodus 28:11-14)

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- The onyx stones were surrounded by enclosures of gold
- There were also two chains of pure gold, of laced work, fastened to the enclosures at one end, and fastened to the breastplate at the other end
- In this context the gold speaks of the righteousness in which believers are 'set' (Rom. 3:22 etc; 4:3, 6 etc)
- The pure gold may speak here of the power and love of God that ensure our eternal security (John 10:28-29)

# The Breastplate

(Exodus 28:15-20)

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- The materials from which the breastplate was made were the same as for the ephod.
  - It was square in shape, with the material doubled, forming a pouch in which the Urim and Thummim were placed (Ex. 28:30)
  - Twelve precious stones were set in the front of it
  - These show that we are always on the heart of our great high priest
  - He sustain us in our communion with Him so that we are always conscious of the love God has for us

# The 12 Stones in the Breastplate (1)

(Exodus 28:17-20)

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Hebrew	Septuagint	King James	J.N.Darby	
Odem	Sardion	Sardius	Sardoin	<b>Ruby</b>
Pitedah	Topazion	Topaz	Topaz	<b>Topaz</b>
Bareketh	Smaragdos	Carbuncle	Emerald	<b>Emerald</b>
Nophek	Antrax	Emerald	Carbuncle	<b>Carbuncle</b>
Sappir	Sappheiros	Sapphire	Sapphire	<b>Sapphire</b>
Yahalom	Iaspis	Diamond	Diamond	<b>Diamond</b>

(See 'Gems tell their secret' by J Rouw)

# The 12 Stones in the Breastplate (2)

(Exodus 28:17-20)

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Hebrew	Septuagint	King James	J.N.Darby	
Leshem	Ligurion	Ligure	Opal	<b>Opal</b>
Shebu	Achates	Agate	Agate	<b>Agate</b>
Achlamah	Amathustos	Amethyst	Amethyst	<b>Amethyst</b>
Tarshish	Chrusolithos	Beryl	Chrysolite	<b>Turquoise</b>
Shoham	Berullos	Onyx	Onyx	<b>Sardonyx</b>
Yashepheh	Onuchion	Jasper	Jasper	<b>Jasper</b>

(See 'Gems tell their secret' by J Rouw)

# The 12 Stones in the Breastplate

## (Exodus 28:21)

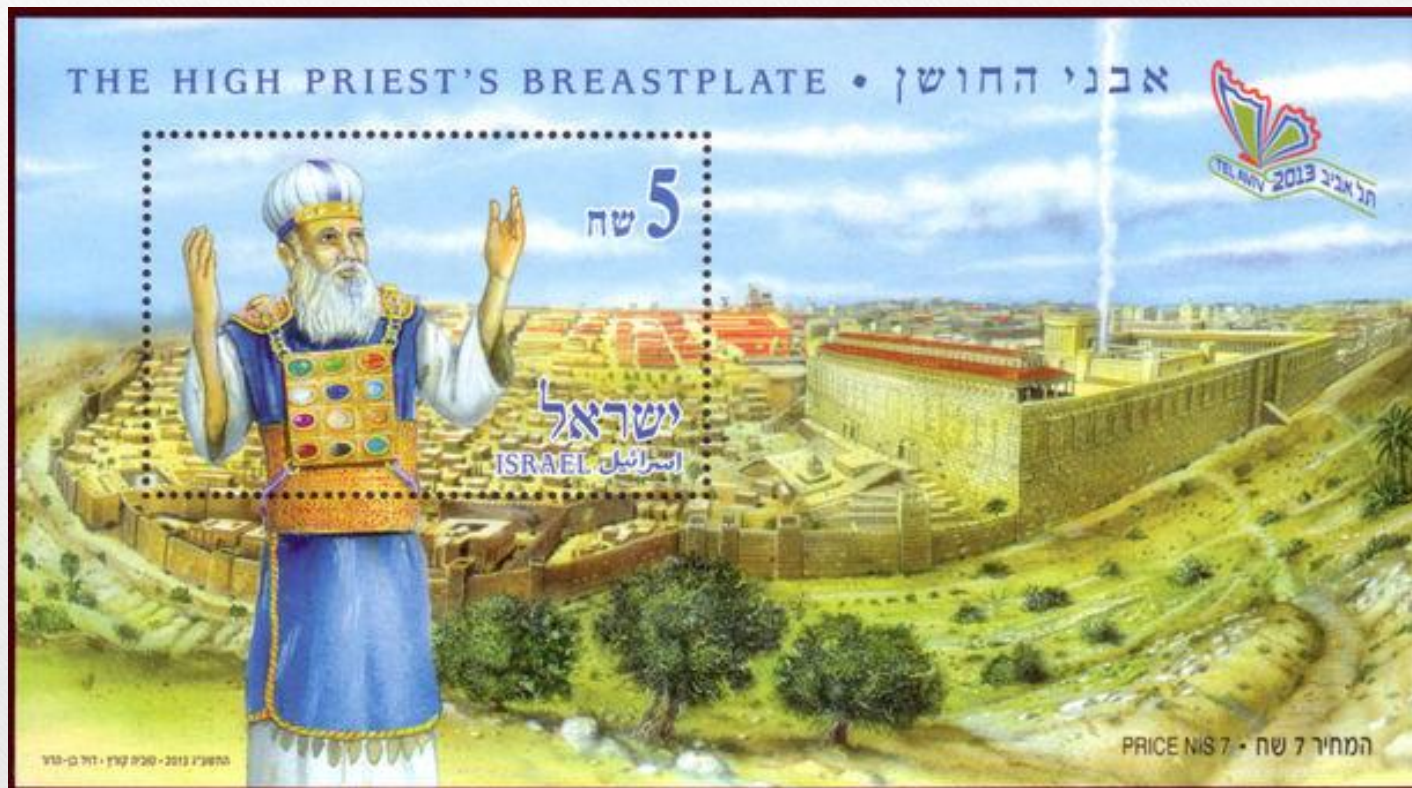
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The columns are arranged from right to left, following the direction of Hebrew script

Emerald Levi	Topaz Simeon	Ruby Reuben
Diamond Zebulun	Sapphire Issachar	Carbuncle Judah
Amethyst Gad	Agate Naphtali	Opal Dan
Jasper Benjamin	Onyx Joseph	Turquoise Asher

# The 12 Stones in the Breastplate

(Exodus 28:21)



# The 12 Stones in the Breastplate

(Exodus 28:21)

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- We are not lost in a crowd
- We are each of us individually known, cared for, ministered to, upheld, represented in all the strength of Divine love in the presence of God' A J Pollock
- Having the divine nature each believer shows some quality that is seen in Christ in fulness of perfection



# The 12 Stones in the Breastplate

(Exodus 28:21)

- It takes all believers to set forth Christ in testimony now, and
- It will take all believers to set forth Christ in the coming day.



# The 12 Stones in the Breastplate

(Exodus 28:17-21)

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- The Diamond (the sixth stone in the breastplate)
- This is referred to four times in the Book of Revelation where it is translated 'Jasper' (Rev. 4:3; 21:11, 18 and 19)
- The wall of the heavenly Jerusalem and its first foundation are made from it
- These references show that it speaks of the absolute holiness of God.
- This holiness will characterise believers then but is to be seen in them now

# The Chains, Rings and Ribbond

## (Exodus 28:22-28)

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- The purpose of the chains, rings and ribbond was to keep the breastplate in its place, 'that the breastplate be not loosed from the ephod' (Ex. 28:28)
- The chains were of pure gold and the rings were of gold
- As noticed already the pure gold may typify the power and love of God that guarantee our eternal security
- The gold rings may express the divine righteousness that is the basis of that eternal security
- The ribbond of blue that attached the rings in the breastplate to the rings in the ephod signifies the fact that our calling is a heavenly one

# The Urim and the Thummim

(Exodus 28:30)

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- The names, Urim and Thummim, are Hebrew words, meaning Lights and Perfection
- The fact that they were placed within the breastplate evidently constituted it 'the breast plate of judgment' (Ex. 28:15, 29, 30)
- Judgment here does not mean condemnation, but discernment and guidance
- How exactly this worked Scripture does not tell us

# The Urim and the Thummim

(Exodus 28:30)

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- The Shoulder Plates spoke of POWER.
- The Breastplate spoke of LOVE.
- The Urim and Thummim spoke of WISDOM.
- (The Tabernacle's Typical Teaching by A J Pollock)

# The Cloak of the Ephod

## (Exodus 28:31-32)

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- The cloak of the ephod, the garment that was immediately underneath the ephod, was 'all of blue'
- This represents the heavenly character of the Lord Jesus
- He is 'the heavenly [one]' who came 'out of heaven' (1 Cor. 15:47-48)
- As such He knows what is suitable to heaven and can sustain His people at the height of their heavenly calling accordingly (Heb. 3:1)
- Any imperfections in the prayers and worship that we bring to God are taken out of the way so that nothing remains but what is of the Holy Spirit

# The Cloak of the Ephod

## The Pomegranates and Bells

(Exodus 28:33-35)

- At the bottom of the cloak there were alternately golden bells and pomegranates of blue, purple and scarlet.
- These speak respectively of testimony and fruitfulness
- They are the result of the priestly activity of Christ in the presence of God



# The Turban and Engraved Plate

(Exodus 28:36-38)

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- The turban speaks of the purity and obedience of the mind of Christ
- The plate of pure gold speaks of 'HOLINESS TO THE LORD'
- It bore witness to righteousness having been already fully accomplished
- Any imperfections in the way that we express the prayers and worship that we bring to God are taken out of the way so that nothing remains but what is of the Holy Spirit

# The Vest of Byssus

(Exodus 28:39)

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- Beneath the cloak of blue was the vest of byssus
- It was ‘woven in checker work’
- It speaks of the spotless, holy humanity of the Lord Jesus
- The One in whom ‘every grace that God as man could show’ was seen
- ‘For such a high priest became us, holy, harmless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and become higher than the heavens’ (Heb. 7:26)

# Linen Trousers

(Exodus 28:42-43)

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- These were to be made for Aaron and his sons ‘to cover their nakedness... that they may not bear iniquity and die’
- This is a statement that applies to Aaron personally but not to him as a type of Christ

# The Garments for Aaron's Sons

(Exodus 28:40-43)

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All the priestly garments of Aaron's sons were of fine linen:

- Coats.
- Girdles.
- Bonnets.
- Linen Breeches for Aaron and his sons

These all speak of the purity necessary if we are to come into God's presence

