

12.20 Priests' Garments and Consecration (Exodus 28; 29; 39:1–31; 40:12–16, 30–32; Leviticus 8:1–36)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows.

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- “Life of Moses” Series 2 Flash-a-Cards from A Beka Book and/or pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.
- *Herein Is Love Commentary Series; Exodus, A Commentary for Children*, by Nancy Ganz, Shepherd Press, 2002.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Tips and terms are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *priest*: a man who was a mediator between God and man
- *pomegranate*: (pronounced “POM uh GRAN uht”) an orange-sized fruit with a tough reddish outer skin and sweet red gelatinous flesh containing many seeds [see photo below]; either the pomegranates in this lesson are miniature models of the larger fruit or ✓perhaps refer to the seeds inside the fruit, but they were made of thread/fabric
- *bulls*: male cattle
- *ram*: a male sheep
- *unleavened*: having no rising element like yeast
- *anoint*: to pour, smear, or rub with oil, typically as part of a religious ceremony

Scripture: (NASB)

Exodus 28:1 “Then bring near to yourself Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the sons of Israel, to minister as priest to Me—Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron’s sons. 2 You shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty. 3 You shall speak to all the skillful persons whom I have endowed with the spirit of wisdom, that they make Aaron’s garments to consecrate him, that he may minister as priest to Me. 4 These are the garments which they shall make: a breastpiece and an ephod and a robe and a tunic of checkered work, a turban and a sash. . . .

6 “They shall also make the ephod of gold, of blue and purple and scarlet material and fine twisted linen, the work of the skillful workman. 7 It shall have two shoulder pieces joined to its two ends, that it may be joined. 8 The skillfully woven band, which is on it, shall be like its workmanship, of the same material: of gold, of blue and purple and scarlet material and fine twisted linen. 9 You shall take two onyx stones and engrave on them the names of the sons of Israel, 10 six of their names on the one stone and the names of the remaining six on the other stone, according to their birth. 11 . . . [Y]ou shall set them in filigree settings of gold. 12 . . . Aaron shall bear their names before the LORD on his two shoulders for a memorial. . . .

15 “You shall make a breastpiece of judgment, the work of a skillful workman; like the work of the ephod you shall make it: of gold, of blue and purple and scarlet material and fine twisted linen you shall make it. 16 It shall be square and folded double, a span in length and a span in width. 17 You shall mount on it four rows of stones; the first row shall be a row of ruby, topaz and emerald; 18 and the second row a turquoise, a sapphire and a diamond; 19 and the third row a jacinth, an agate and an amethyst; 20 and the fourth row a beryl and an onyx and a jasper; they shall be set in gold filigree. 21 The stones shall be according to the names of the sons of Israel: twelve. . . . 28 They shall bind the breastpiece by its rings to the rings of the ephod with a blue cord, so that it will be on the skillfully woven band of the ephod, and that the breastpiece will not come loose from the ephod. 29 Aaron shall carry the names of the sons of Israel in the breastpiece of judgment over his heart when

he enters the holy place, for a memorial before the LORD continually. 30 You shall put in the breastpiece of judgment the Urim and the Thummim, and they shall be over Aaron's heart when he goes in before the LORD; and Aaron shall carry the judgment of the sons of Israel over his heart before the LORD continually.

31 "You shall make the robe of the ephod all of blue. 32 There shall be an opening at its top in the middle of it; around its opening there shall be a binding of woven work, like the opening of a coat of mail, so that it will not be torn. 33 You shall make on its hem pomegranates of blue and purple and scarlet material, all around on its hem, and bells of gold between them all around: 34 . . . a golden bell and a pomegranate, all around on the hem of the robe. 35 It shall be on Aaron when he ministers; and its tinkling shall be heard when he enters and leaves the holy place before the LORD, so that he will not die.

36 "You shall also make a plate of pure gold and shall engrave on it, like the engravings of a seal, 'Holy to the LORD.' 37 You shall fasten it on a blue cord, and it shall be on the turban; it shall be at the front of the turban. 38 It shall be on Aaron's forehead, and Aaron shall take away the iniquity of the holy things which the sons of Israel consecrate, with regard to all their holy gifts; and it shall always be on his forehead, that they may be accepted before the LORD.

39 "You shall weave the tunic of checkered work of fine linen, and shall make a turban of fine linen, and you shall make a sash, the work of a weaver.

40 "For Aaron's sons you shall make tunics; you shall also make sashes for them, and you shall make caps for them, for glory and for beauty. 41 You shall put them on Aaron your brother and on his sons with him; and you shall anoint them and ordain them and consecrate them, that they may serve Me as priests. 42 You shall make for them linen breeches to cover their bare flesh; they shall reach from the loins even to the thighs. 43 They shall be on Aaron and on his sons when they enter the tent of meeting, or when they approach the altar to minister in the holy place, so that they do not incur guilt and die. . . .

29:1 "Now this is what you shall do to them to consecrate them to minister as priests to Me: take one young bull and two rams without blemish, 2 and unleavened bread and unleavened cakes mixed with oil, and unleavened wafers spread with oil; you shall make them of fine wheat flour. 3 You shall put them in one basket, and present them in the basket along with the bull and the two rams. 4 Then you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the doorway of the tent of meeting and wash them with water. 5 You shall take the garments, and put on Aaron the tunic and the robe of the ephod and the ephod and the breastpiece, and gird him with the skillfully woven band of the ephod; 6 and you shall set the turban on his head and put the holy crown on the turban. 7 Then you shall take the anointing oil and pour it on his head and anoint him. 8 You shall bring his sons and put tunics on them. 9 You shall gird them with sashes, Aaron and his sons, and bind caps on them, and they shall have the priesthood by a perpetual statute. So you shall ordain Aaron and his sons.

10 "Then you shall bring the bull before the tent of meeting, and Aaron and his sons shall lay their hands on the head of the bull. 11 You shall slaughter the bull before the LORD at the doorway of the tent of meeting. 12 You shall take some of the blood of the bull and put *it* on the horns of the altar with your finger; and you shall pour out all the blood at the base of the altar. 13 You shall take all the fat that covers the entrails and the lobe of the liver, and the two kidneys and the fat that is on them, and offer them up in smoke on the altar. 14 But the flesh of the bull and its hide and its refuse, you shall burn with fire outside the camp; it is a sin offering.

15 "You shall also take the one ram, and Aaron and his sons shall lay their hands on the head of the ram; 16 and you shall slaughter the ram and shall take its blood and sprinkle it around on the altar. 17 Then you shall cut the ram into its pieces, and wash its entrails and its legs, and put *them* with its pieces and its head. 18 You shall offer up in smoke the whole ram on the altar; it is a burnt offering to the LORD: it is a soothing aroma, an offering by fire to the LORD.

19 "Then you shall take the other ram, and Aaron and his sons shall lay their hands on the head of the ram. 20 You shall slaughter the ram, and take some of its blood and put *it* on the lobe of Aaron's right ear and on the lobes of his sons' right ears and on the thumbs of their right hands and on the big toes of their right feet, and sprinkle the *rest of the* blood around on the altar. 21 Then you shall take some of the blood that is on the altar

and some of the anointing oil, and sprinkle *it* on Aaron and on his garments and on his sons and on his sons' garments with him; so he and his garments shall be consecrated, as well as his sons and his sons' garments. . . .

(vv. 22–28 describe the wave offering, burnt offering, and heave offering given by Aaron and his sons.)

31 “You shall take the ram of ordination and boil its flesh in a holy place. 32 Aaron and his sons shall eat the flesh of the ram and the bread that is in the basket, at the doorway of the tent of meeting. . . .

35 “. . . [Y]ou shall ordain them through seven days. 36 Each day you shall offer a bull as a sin offering for atonement, and you shall purify the altar when you make atonement for it, and you shall anoint it to consecrate it. 37 For seven days you shall make atonement for the altar and consecrate it; then the altar shall be most holy, *and* whatever touches the altar shall be holy. [The offering was two one year old lambs each day, one in the morning and the other at twilight. with one-tenth *ephah* of fine flour mixed with one-fourth a hin of beaten oil, and one-fourth hin of wine for a drink offering with each lamb.] . . . 42 It shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the doorway of the tent of meeting before the LORD, where I will meet with you, to speak to you there. 43 I will meet there with the sons of Israel, and it shall be consecrated by My glory. 44 I will consecrate the tent of meeting and the altar; I will also consecrate Aaron and his sons to minister as priests to Me. 45 I will dwell among the sons of Israel and will be their God. 46 They shall know that I am the LORD their God who brought them out of the land of Egypt, that I might dwell among them; I am the LORD their God.

[Exodus 39, 40 and Leviticus 8 are not given here.]

Introduction/Review:

God's instructions to Moses on Mount Sinai were precise. Certain pieces of furniture made out of gold or bronze; certain materials and colors for the fence, coverings, and screens of the tabernacle; even certain kinds of bases and pillars for the structure of the tabernacle were precisely ordered.

Story:

Priestly family

God's instructions continued to be specific regarding even the clothing of the priests of Israel. First of all, though, God said only Aaron, who was the high priest, his sons, and their descendants could be priests. Although Moses in a sense acted as a priest, speaking directly with God and praying to God on behalf of the people, even he, his sons, and his descendants could not be priests.

Priestly clothing

All of the priests had some clothes that were the same. Let's start from the inside out. They all wore white linen “breeches.” They were like long under garments that reached from the waist to below the knees.

The next garment was also white linen and was called a coat, a tunic, or a robe. It “was one long piece of woven work” (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/exodus-28-31.html>).

Holding the garment close to the body was a sash. Sometimes translations use the term *girdle*, which makes us think of a fat lady trying to look slim. However, in that day *girdle* meant a sash or a belt. According to the biblical description and picture [found below] of the high priest, it seems this sash was quite wide, reaching from the chest to the waist.

On their heads the priests wore caps, also called bonnets. According to the definition in *Strong's Concordance*, these sound as if they were skullcaps—“hill-shaped.”

These four items—breeches, linen coat, sash, and cap—dressed all the priests.

High priestly clothing

Now let's take a look at the clothing of the high priest. Who, again, became the high priest at this time? [Aaron.] [Refer to pictures below.] Oh, look. This is quite a fashion show! God said the high priest's

garments were to be “for glory and for beauty,” and they certainly were.

Over the linen robe, the high priest wore a sleeveless, woven, blue robe or tunic that was shorter than the linen robe underneath. At the hem of this robe were golden bells alternating with ✓stiff woven miniature pomegranates of blue, purple, and scarlet—a bell, a blue pomegranate, a bell, a purple pomegranate, a bell, and a scarlet pomegranate—all around the bottom of this blue robe. As the priest walked, those pomegranates knocked against the bells, giving audio proof that the priest was working and still alive.

The most elaborate piece of clothing was the ephod. It was a garment shorter than the blue robe, reaching about to the hips. This garment was truly beautiful, being woven out of blue, purple, scarlet, and gold threads. It was embroidered with intricate designs.

On each shoulder of the ephod was a gold-set onyx-stone ✓button large enough to contain the names of six tribes of Israel in birth order, the first six (Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali) on one shoulder and the other six (Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulon, Joseph, Benjamin) on the other shoulder. A blue ribbon hung from the gold settings to attach to a square piece of doubled blue, purple, scarlet, and gold fabric. Embedded in this fabric were four rows of precious stones, each, again, with a name of the twelve sons of Israel/Jacob. This item was called the breastpiece or breastplate because it was located on the priest’s chest.

Throughout the Old Testament we read of the Urim and Thummim. No one seems to know exactly what these were, but they figured heavily in determining God’s will. Josephus, a biblical historian, believes they were the same as the breastplate (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/exodus-28-30.html>). When we speak of the Urim and Thummim, we will concur with Josephus’ definition.

Two more things completed the high priest’s working wardrobe. His sash or belt was gold, blue, purple, scarlet, and fine twined linen, “and from the gold in it, it was called a golden girdle, to distinguish it from others” (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/exodus-28-8.html>).

Last, a turban, folds of linen wrapped around the head (called a *mitre* in the KJV), topped the cap of Aaron. The turban had something very special attached to it with a blue ribbon. Engraved on a strip of gold that covered the forehead part of his turban were the words, “Holy to the LORD” or “Holiness to the LORD.”

Importance of the precious stones

The stones on Aaron’s shoulders and on the breastplate and the gold piece on his turban have special importance. God said the shoulder stones represented the fact that Aaron needed to remember the twelve sons of Israel. The breastplate located on Aaron’s heart was to remind him that when he went before the Lord regularly, he should “bear the judgment of the people of Israel on his heart before the LORD.” As for the gold plate on his forehead stating “Holiness to the LORD,” Aaron was to remember he was to “bear any guilt from the holy gifts that the people of Israel consecrate[d] to the LORD so that they might be accepted before the LORD.”

Separation ceremony

This magnificent wardrobe could not be used in the service of God until the clothing, the tabernacle, and the priests themselves had been consecrated—separated for service to God. This separation ceremony lasted seven days and involved distinct sacrifices of animals and other offerings. (This lesson will skip most of the details regarding these offerings.)

First, regarding the priests. They were to bring one young bull and two perfect rams, unleavened bread and unleavened cakes mixed with oil, and unleavened wafers spread with oil made of fine wheat flour. God told Moses to bring Aaron and his sons to the doorway of the tent of meeting/tabernacle and to wash them with water before dressing them in their priestly garments. Then Moses was to take special anointing oil and pour it on Aaron’s head to anoint him.

Continuing the ritual, Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the bull before Moses slaughtered it

before the Lord right there at the doorway of tabernacle. Moses took some of the blood of the bull and with his finger put it on the horns of the altar and poured out the rest of the blood at the base of the altar. Then they burned certain parts of the animal on the altar but took the other parts outside the camp to burn.

Next came the ritual with the first ram. Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the ram. Moses slaughtered the ram, took its blood, and sprinkled it around and on the altar. After cutting the ram into pieces and washing certain parts of it, he burned the whole of it to God on the altar.

Now it was time to use the second ram in the consecration ceremony of the priests. Again, Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the ram. Moses slaughtered the ram, but this time he took some of its blood and put it on the lobe [Teacher, show your right earlobe] of Aaron's right ear, on the lobes of his sons' right ears, on the thumbs of their right hands, and on the big toes of their right feet. The rest of the blood he sprinkled around on the altar. Then he took some of the blood that was on the altar and some of the anointing oil and sprinkled it on Aaron and his sons and on their garments. These actions consecrated the priests and their garments. Sprinkling the tabernacle itself and all its furniture with oil and with blood also consecrated these things.

In those seven days Aaron and his sons administered other sacrifices called the wave offering, the burnt offering, and the heave offering in which lambs were sacrificed and grain was given. This is what God said about why all this consecration needed to take place: "I will meet with you at the doorway of the tent of meeting to speak to you there, and it shall be consecrated by My glory. I will dwell among the sons of Israel and will be their God. They shall know that I am the Lord their God who brought them out of the land of Egypt, that I might dwell among them; I am the Lord their God." These items needed to be set apart because they would be in the presence of God Himself.

Think of it. God would consecrate worship of Him by showing His glory at the tabernacle, the place that would represent His living among His people. His people would know that He was the Lord their God who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. He was their Lord and God. Is He God and Lord of your life? Do you obey His Word to you?

Lessons from this lesson:

- We see Jesus

Aaron "was a type of Christ, who presents all his people to his divine Father, makes intercession for them, and bears all their burdens, the care and government of them being upon his shoulders" (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/exodus-28-12.html>),

Jesus' coat for which the soldiers gambled at the cross was a seamless garment like that of the priests' white linen coat (John 19:23).

- We must obey God's precise commands.

Activities:

- Play dough: tunic; plate with "Holiness to the LORD"; sheep; ox
- Snack: Soft Unleavened Flatbread (Here is the source that gives the following recipe and also shows a video about how to make the flatbread: <https://www.recipetineats.com/easy-soft-flatbread-yeast/>).

2 cups all purpose flour, unsifted; keep 1/4 cup extra for dusting & adjusting dough

1/2 tsp salt

3 1/2 tbsp butter

3/4 cup milk

1/2 tbsp oil (for cooking)

Combine butter and milk and heat until butter is just melted - on stove or in microwave.

Combine 2 cups flour, salt, butter and milk.

Sprinkle work surface with flour then knead for a few minutes until it is smooth. . . .

Wrap with plastic wrap and let it rest at room temperature for 30 minutes or so.

Dust bench top with flour, cut dough into 4 [or more] pieces, roll into balls; then roll out into about 1/8" thick rounds.

Heat 1/2 tbsp olive oil in a non stick pan over medium heat - or lower if you have a heavy based skillet.

Place one flatbread in the pan, cook for around 1- 1½ minutes. It should bubble up; then flip and cook the other side, pressing down if it puffs up. There should be smallish golden brown spots on both sides.

Stack the cooked bread and keep wrapped with a tea towel; the moisture helps soften the surface. . . .

Continue to cook remaining pieces.

For "oiled cakes," brush or spray bread with olive oil or melted butter.

- Sing "Stop! It's the Law!" found in Lesson 12.15 "God Gives Laws," or on the songs page at teachingthebibletokids.org, where an audio and visuals are available.
- Sing the following to the tune, "Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes":
Ear lobes, right thumbs, right big toes; right big toes, right big toes.
Ear lobes, right thumbs, right big toes. Blood applied by Moses.
- Play Hangman with the Ten Commandments. Find the tools for this game on the Lessons page, Lesson 12.15k, at teachingthebibletokids.org.
- Review questions: (Game: For playing with two teams, print two copies—hopefully enlarged—of "The Priest's Holy Garments" paper doll at <https://practicalpages.wordpress.com/2010/02/12/bible-study-priests-garments/>. Each correct answer allows a student to place a piece on the priest's paper doll.)
 1. Name two colors found in the high priest's clothing. [Blue, purple, scarlet, white, gold.]
 2. Name three pieces of clothing the high priest wore. [Linen breeches; white tunic; blue cloak; ephod; breastpiece; cap; turban.]
 3. What was engraved on the gold piece on the high priest's turban? ["Holiness/Holy to the Lord."]
 4. What were on the high priest's shoulders? [Onyx stones.]
 5. What was written on the onyx stones and on the jewels of the breastpiece? [The names of the twelve sons of Israel.]
 6. Why were the names of the children of Israel written on the shoulders and on Aaron's "heart"? [So that he would remember that he bore the guilt and memorial of the people before God.]
 7. What was on the hem of the high priest's blue cloak? [Alternating pomegranates and gold bells.]
 8. What two animals were offered in the priests' consecration ceremony? [A bull; two rams; lambs.]
 9. How many days did the consecration ceremonies take place? [Seven days.]
 10. On what parts of the priests' body was the blood put? [Right ear lobe, right thumb, right big toe.]

Memory Verse[s]:

- Continue to learn Exodus 20:1–17. An enlarged copy is in Lesson 12.15; motions are in Lesson 12.16.

Handwork:

- For each student print a copy of "The Priest's Holy Garments" paper doll found at <https://practicalpages.wordpress.com/2010/02/12/bible-study-priests-garments/>. Glue card stock to the back side of the paper-doll priest to strengthen it. Students will color, cut out, and play with these items.

priest

pomegranate

bulls

ram

unleavened

anoint

Garments of the High Priest בגדי כהן הגדול



קעצפת טורבן

צ'קן קרונה

אבני השמה Onyx Stones

כתונת תשבץ Linen Tunic

אפוד Ephod

אורים ותומים Urim veTumim

חושן משפט Breastplate

מעיל תכלת Blue Robe

פעמוןי זהב Golden Bells

רימוןיים Pomegranates

מכנסייים Linen Pants (not visible)



