The Priestly Garments Part 1 Introduction

Priesthood – OT is full of shadows and types of the NT, we learn a great deal about God and his dealings with the people. Paul said in [**Romans 15:4**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+15:4&version=KJV) For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our **learning**, that we through patience and [comfort](http://www.biblegateway.com/keyword/?search=learning&version=KJV&searchtype=all) of the scriptures might have hope.

God used 43 verses to describe in minute detail these garments, there is purpose in them

Priest was man’s representative to God and at times from God to man. There are three basic categories for the priesthood:

1. Priests - sons and descendants of Aaron – serve in the holy things
2. High Priest – Aaron was the first, then his son and so on, there were 80 priests from Aaron till Christ.
3. The Great High Priest – Jesus Christ the one and only – supersedes all others

Throughout the OT the priesthood was progressive:

The first hint was when God slew the animals to cover Adam and Eve.

1. A priest for himself – offered his own sacrifice, Adam taught Cain and Able, Noah, Abe, Isaac and others built altars and offered sacrifices.
2. A priest for his family – Job offers sacrifices in behalf of his family(1:5), father and the Passover lamb, **Exodus 12:3** 3Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house:
3. A priesthood for the nation – Aaron, the tribe of Levi, from Levi to Caiaphas, last one

* God’s intention was for them to represent him and his standard to the world - Exodus 19:4 Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. 5Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: 6And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.
* :5 if you will obey my voice . . . As a result of their sin and rebellion they forfeited that privilege.
* God chose Aaron and his sons – Exodus 28:1
* God graciously provided the office of the priest so that the people, cut off from him by their sin, could have access to him through the mediating priesthood. He would offer gifts and sacrifices for his own sin and for the sin if the people. (Hebrews 5:1, 3)

1. A priesthood called the church – Jesus the great high priest

* Rev. 1:6 And hath **made us** kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.
* 1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;
  + Chosen generation – elect race, we have a new spiritual identity in Christ
  + Royal Priesthood – Office of king and priest never met, when it did bad things happened.
    - Our priesthood is after the great high priest who the bible connects to the priesthood of King Melchizedek. Because Jesus ripped the veil away we can now approach God ourselves.
    - Hebrews 10:19-20 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; 1 Tim. 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;
    - King Saul offered a Sacrifice instead of waiting and the kingdom was ripped from him
    - King Uzziah offered incense in the temple and was smitten with leprosy
  + Holy Nation - set apart nation, different from other, from everywhere and different backgrounds but one people, nation. Pilgrims and strangers passing through, citizenship is in Heaven. 1 Peter 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;
  + Peculiar People – peculiar treasure, a unique possession of God, 1 Cor. 7:23 bought with a price, we are his . . .
  + Our work, to shew forth the praises (to proclaim a broad the excellencies of the Lord, his attributes and his acts) of the one who brought us out . . .

We learn about the priesthood and his garments from Exodus 28 and 29.

1. The Calling if the Priest

* A God instituted priesthood - Exodus 28:1 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.
  + God sees the 5 as one working together and needing each other.
  + Even behind the law God was working to show us his grace as 5 is the number of grace
* There are those who will challenge your calling
  + Num. 6 and 7 – Korah accused Moses off nepotism by putting Aaron in. 250 princes took side with them, a plague came and then God caused Aaron’s rod to bud to prove to them it was God’s appointment.
  + The earth swallowed up Korah and others
  + Ephesians 4:1-2 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,2With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love

The Sanhedrin would meet in the Hall of Polished Stones and interview the potential priest who had to prove his lineage, (Chronicles and Matt. 1 and Luke) If he could not he was veiled and dressed in black and removed but if you could prove it then you would go through another test as to physical limitations list, if you passed then you were given a white robe to wear and your name was inscribed. Rev. 3:5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

1. The Cleansing of the Priest

* Exodus 29:4 And Aaron and his sons thou shalt bring unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and shalt wash them with water.
* This does not represent salvation but the need for a continual cleansing from the Word of God
* John 15:3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.
* Psm. 119:9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.
* Ephesians 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of **water** by the word,

1. The Clothing of the Priest

* Exodus 29:5-6 And thou shalt take the garments, and put upon Aaron the coat, and the robe of the ephod, and the ephod, and the breastplate, and gird him with the curious girdle of the ephod:6And thou shalt put the mitre upon his head, and put the holy crown upon the mitre.
* Jesus at Baptism John announced him as the Lamb of God and then baptized him, then the HS descended in form of a dove and lighted in him . . . mantle of the Holy Spirit came upon him, we need that same clothing, endued with power from on high, clothed . . .look to lean on, filled with flow through . . . .

1. The Consecration of the Priest

* Exodus 28:3-4 3And 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.4And these are the garments which they shall make; a breastplate, and an ephod, and a robe, and a broidered 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.
* The HS anointed those who were to make the garments
* Exodus 29:9 . . . and thou shalt consecrate Aaron and his sons. (10-36 describes this ceremony)
* Exodus 29:20 Then shalt thou kill the ram, and take of his blood, and put it upon the tip of the right ear of Aaron, and upon the tip of the right ear of his sons, and upon the thumb of their right hand, and upon the great toe of their right foot, and sprinkle the blood upon the altar round about.
  + Ear – sensitive to hear the word of God and the needs of the people
  + Thumb – Adonai Bezek, can’t use the bow, incapacitated, opposite, anointed and quickened to handle the offerings of the people and the things of God
  + Big Toe – Hinder their walk, quickened to walk in His ways and to serve the people

1. The Compassion of the Priesthood

* Hebrews 5:2 Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity.
* Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.
* Many times Bible says he was moved with compassion
* Caiaphas and Anais were cruel priests and there were some who were corrupt through the years. Acts 23 Ananias struck Paul in the mouth

The Garments of the High Priest - These Garments represent the character of Christ! 28:2 for glory and beauty. Next couple of weeks we will look closer at each garment and his “tools” and see how they relate to us today!