

1 **“That I May Dwell
With Them”**

Lesson 20:

The Vestments of the Priests

2 **Hebrews 10:7**

- *Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book, it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.*
- Jesus made a point of reminding us that the Old Testament was really written about Him.
 - The 50 chapters of Scripture dedicated to the Tabernacle are really expounding details about our Savior. This is why it is worthy of our prolonged attention.

3 **Exodus 28:40-42**

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

4 **Exodus 28:43**

- *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.*

5 **Exodus 39:27-29**

- ²⁷*And they made coats of fine linen of woven work for Aaron, and for his sons,*
- ²⁸*And a mitre of fine linen, and goodly bonnets of fine linen, and linen breeches of fine twined linen,*
- ²⁹*And a girdle of fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet, of needlework; as the LORD commanded Moses.*
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6 **The Order of the Revelation**

- We have already seen and studied the garments of the High Priest in great detail. The Scripture even took time to discuss the use of the Urim and Thummim.
 - Because the High Priest represents Jesus Christ, he had to be discussed in full detail before describing the garments of the other priests who also ministered there.
- The other priests and their garments represent Christian believers and the ministry which pertains to them.

7 **The Purpose of the Clothing**

- Verse 40 indicates that the purpose of the clothing given to the Levitical priests is “for glory and for beauty.”
 - This repeats the purpose given for the garments of the High Priest as mentioned in verse 2.
 - The garments of the High Priest depict the inherent and essential Excellency’s of our great High Priest – Jesus Christ.
 - The clothes of the Levitical priest represent the graces with which Christ’s people are

endowed by virtue of their association with Him.

8 **Who Are the Priests?**

- All believers are priests.
 - All Christians are consecrated for divine service.
 - All Christians have access to God and a place within the heavenly sanctuary.
 - We are made “kings and priests unto God” (Revelation 1:6).
 - We are a “holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, which are acceptable to God by Christ Jesus” (1 Peter 2:9).
- There is no scriptural basis for separating clergy from laity.

9 **What Do Christian Priests Do?**

10 **1. We worship in a spiritual temple (Hebrews 10:19).**

- *Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus.*
- Requirements:
 - We must be cleansed by Jesus Christ – both judicially (once and forever) and relationally (continually).
 - We must remember our position in Christ.
 - We must claim the blood of Christ in our spiritual battles against the Evil One (Revelation 12:11).

11 **2. We stand at a spiritual altar (Hebrews 13:10).**

- *We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle.*
 - So the privilege of New Testament Christians is greater than that of Old Testament priests.
- Questions:
 - Have you boldly into the presence of God this week?
 - If not, why not?
 - What have you given of yourself as an offering to God on His altar?

12 **3. We offer a spiritual sacrifice (Hebrews 13:15).**

- *By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.*
- Are you continually offering a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to God?
 - Or do you spend more time complaining and whining about the things that are not as you would have them?

13 **Put on the Garment of Praise**

*Beyond all the smiling, or back of the frown,
Are you in weariness? often cast down?
Does your heart long for a true victor's crown?
Put on the garment of praise!*

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*Give to your soul a real cov'ring from sin;
Add the rich warmth of God's presence within.
Fill up with love a lost brother to win--
Put on the garment of praise!*

14 **Put on the Garment of Praise (2)**

*Joy without measure will brighten the day;
Peace, like a river, will flow all the way.
Power abundant is yours, come what may;
Put on the garment of praise!*

*What if there's sadness all strewn down the road?
What if life's troubles invade your abode?
What if earth's treasures begin to corrode?
Put on the garment of praise!*

15 **Put on the Garment of Praise (3)**

*Praise is the power that breaks every hold.
Praise is the method of making one bold.
This is the pathway of glory untold:
Put on the garment of praise!*

16 **The Four Garments of the Levitical Priests**

To be a priest unto God requires that you have holy garments.

17 **1. Their Coats**

- Exodus 39:27 describes the making of these coats– made of “fine linen of woven work.”
 - As elsewhere in the book of Exodus, fine linen represents the righteousness of Jesus Christ.
 - Believers are to put on the righteousness of Christ – because we have no righteousness of our own.
 - It is only through the spotless purity of Christ that we have access to God and the privilege of serving Him.
 - The Great High Priest anoints us to be His priests.

18 **Revelation 1:5-6**

- *⁵And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, ⁶And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

19 **Their Coats (2)**

- Our own righteousness is like a filthy rag (Isaiah 64:6).
- We must be stripped of our own righteousness and put on the righteousness of Christ before we can come into the presence of the Almighty.

20 **Zechariah 3:3-4**

- *Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel. And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.*

21 **Isaiah 61:10**

- *I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.*

22 A Difference in Roles

- Aaron, the High Priest represented the Lord Jesus Christ bearing upon his shoulders and breastplate the names of his people. He represents his people before the Father.
- The other priests minister at the altar on behalf of the people – not as their representatives – but as their leaders of worship and teachers of the things of God.

23 Heavenly Worship

- In the Revelation 4, all heaven is arrayed in fine white linen.
 - 24 elders have a priestly standing and form a heavenly council.
 - There are 24 orders of priests in the Old Testament.
 - These priests are seated on thrones because they are also kings.
 - They are clothed in white raiment.
 - A heavenly multitude is also clothed in white raiment.
 - A bride is closed in “fine linen, clean and white.”

24 Application

- We must confess our pride whenever we began to believe that God is using us because of some special character attribute or strength that we possess.
- If God is using you, it is only because you have made yourself available to His marvelous grace.
- You are just a bush. That is nothing special. But God can put a miraculous fire within you.
 - Recommended reading: Major Ian Thomas in *The Saving Life of Christ*.

25 2: Their Girdles

- Exodus 28:8 describes the girdle of the High Priest:
 - 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.
- Exodus 39:29 describes the girdles of the other priests.
 - And a girdle of fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet, of needlework; as the LORD commanded Moses.
- Only the High Priest’s girdle has gold.

26 The Purpose of the Girdle

- A girdle prepared one for mobility and instant action.
 - We are to be ready to move when God moves.
 - We are to live in joyful expectation of the return of Christ (Luke 12:35-36).
 - *Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.*
 - An inactive believer is sure to become a worldly believer.

27 The Character of the Girdle

- Ephesians 6:13-14

- *Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;*
- Ephesians 6:12 tells us that we are also to be ready for war with the devil.
 - An essential part of our preparation for this warfare is to continually spend time in God's truth, to meditate upon it, and to practice it.

28 **The Necessity of a Tight Girdle**

- In battle, a warrior depended on a tight girdle to keep from tripping over his garments and to provide him vital support.
 - Meditating on the Word of God gives us the essential support we need to prepare us for spiritual warfare.

29 **The Necessity of a Tight Girdle (2)**

- The girdle of truth also keeps us in proper balance.
 - Christ (Revelation 1:13) has his chest girdled so that in wrath He remembers mercy.
- The girdle of truth fortifies us for difficult tasks.
 - The angels (Revelation 15:6) have their chest girdle to strengthen their heart while executing God 's judgment.

30 **Application**

- The Master's words in His parable of Luke 19 – "occupy until I come" mean that believers are to be busy conquering territory for Jesus Christ until He returns.
- Are you actively serving Jesus Christ, or are you becoming more worldly because you are inactive?

31 **3. Their Bonnets**

- This Hebrew word occurs only four times in the Old Testament and is used exclusively for the head garment of the Levitical priests.
 - The word is derived from the verb signifying "elevation" – often used of a hill.
- This linen garment was bound around the head of the priests. Exodus 39:28 calls them "goodly" meaning they were to adorn the priest with beauty.
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32 **The Purpose of a Head Covering**

- A head covering depicted subjection to authority (1 Corinthians 11:4-10).
 - Orthodox Jews still cover their heads when reading the Word of God in the synagogue or in private.

33 **Application**

- Believers are "elevated" to a position of heavenly dignity as the children of God. We will one day lead the worship of the angels. God will restore us to the position higher than the angels – as He originally created us.
- But we only live in a state corresponding to our standing when we obey the authority of God's Word.
 - It is our subjection to God 's authority that makes us beautiful in the sight of heaven.

34 **4. Their Breeches**

- The primary purpose of these garments is modesty.
 - In fact, Leviticus 8:13 tells us that Moses clothed his nephews with their priestly garments – except for their breeches. These they were to put on themselves – because they were not to appear unclothed even before their own uncle.

35 **The Uncovering of Sin**

- The first result of the entrance of sin was to reveal to man his nakedness (Genesis 3:7).
 - His immediate concern was to be able to appear unashamed before his fellow human beings.
 - Even today, men invent religious activity to appear less ashamed in front of other men.
- Lesson
 - The flesh must be kept out of sight in our priestly activities.
 - “That which is of the flesh is bad anywhere, but it is most of all out of place in the holy service of God.”– Arthur Pink

36 **Application**

- We must identify the works of the flesh and mortify them so that our ego, human devices, and hidden motives do not shape those activities we do in the name of ministry.
- God has already covered us in His righteousness.
 - We must daily acquire the grace of God so that our state can match our standing – so that our practice matches our position.