

Friday, June 16, 2023 ◻ Read Exodus 39:1–31

Questions from the Scripture text: How do vv1–7 compare to 28:6–12? What interesting addition does v3 make? Why would they need to do this (end of v7)? How do vv8–21 compare to 28:15–28? What was this breastplate called (cf. 28:15)? What had 28:29–30 added about how this breastplate would be used? How do vv22–26 compare to 28:31–34? What had 28:35 added? How do vv27–29 compare to 28:39–42? What is left out this time? How do vv30–31 compare to 28:36–37? How does v30 “cap” the entire description of the priestly garments?

What does God teach us in the recounting of the actual making of the priestly garments? Exodus 39:1–31 looks forward to the evening sermon on the coming Lord’s Day. In these thirty-one verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **God gives us all sorts of wisdom for serving Him: obedience to His Word, skill in His world, faith to trust in His provision, and love to value Him above all.**

This is the last section of the actual constructing of the tabernacle: the garments of the high priest and the rest of the priesthood. There is a climax of sorts here because of how *personal* these items are. They are worn by the priest himself, and the people are represented all over the high priest. And in this climax, we see four types of wisdom provision from God.

Word wisdom: obedience. The first part of wisdom is recognizing that God is God, and we are not. Submission to God’s Word, obedience to God’s commands, is the heartbeat of true wisdom. This passage is marked by seven instances of “as Yahweh had commanded Moses.” Here is the greatness of the wisdom in constructing the tabernacle: obedience. Our greatest wisdom is simply to believe and obey the Word of God.

World wisdom: employed in obedience. Comparing this chapter to chapter 28, v3 is an unique addition. It is an ingenious process for the production of thread made out of actual gold to work into the garments. It is just one example of a multitude of skills and processes that had to have been employed in the making of all of these things. In the service of obedience, which is wisdom from the Word, God gave them also artistic skill—wisdom in His world, in service of that obedience. We, too, must seek from God to give us increased knowledge and skill that can be used in service of obedience to Him.

Spiritual wisdom: trusting in grace. How could man be safe in the presence of God? Man’s representative stands as holy before God, having atoned for our sin. And man’s representative is outfitted by God Himself for that work. “Holiness to Yahweh” (v30). God’s mercy and strength have displaced our guilt and weakness. This is spiritual wisdom: to trust in God’s provision of atonement and strength instead of our own.

Eternal wisdom: God Himself in the gospel. This is the great wisdom: to treasure God Himself above all else. And this is what God teaches us by the “uniform” in which he stands before the Lord. All of these precious metals and gemstones... what are they good for? They are merely the clothing that is necessary to stand before God. And the value is infinitely greater at the last, when we are dressed in Christ Himself and His righteousness. He appears in our behalf dressed in His Sonship and His Perfect Obedience.

How are you actively learning what the Bible teaches and commands? How do the approach of your heart and practice of your habits foster submission to His Word? In what fields of knowledge and skill are you proficient and/or increasing? How are you aiming at obedience to God’s Word with this knowledge? How are you trusting God’s provision for righteousness? What shows that God Himself is your greatest treasure?

Sample prayer: Lord, we thank You for giving us Yourself in the Lord Jesus Christ. And we thank You for giving Him to be our Great High Priest. Grant that we would know the greatness of the riches that have been provided to us in Him. Give us Your Spirit to work in us faith and obedience to Your Word. Give us increasing knowledge of the world that You created and skill with which to serve and obey You in it. And give us always to know that the Lord Jesus intercedes for us, we ask in His Name, AMEN!!

Suggested songs: ARP24 “The Earth and the Riches” or TPH508 “Jesus, Priceless Treasure”

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Exodus 39, 1 through 31. These are God's words. Of the blue purple and scarlet thread. They made garments of ministry from ministering in the holy place. And made the holy garments for Aaron as yahweh had commanded Moses. He made the effort of gold blue purple and scarlet thread and a fine woven linen.

And they beat the gold into thin sheets. And cut it into threads to work it in with the blue. Purple and scarlet thread. And the fine, linen into artistic designs. They made shoulder straps for it. A couple it together. It was coupled together at. It's two edges. And the intricately woven band of, His effort that was on, it was of the same workmanship.

Woman of gold, blue purple and scarlet thread. And a fine weaven linen as yahweh had commanded Moses. And they said, onyx stones and closed and settings of gold. They were engraved to signets, are engraved. With the names of the sons of Israel. He put them on the shoulders of the efid as memorial stones for the sons of israel.

That's your way had commanded. Moses. And he made the breastplate artistically woven, like the workmanship of the ephod of gold. Blue, purple and scarlet thread. And a fine. Weaven linen. They made the breastplate square by doubling it. Let's spin, was its length and a spin, it's width when doubled.

And they set in it, four rows of stones arose tip adds. An emerald was the first row. Second row, a turquoise sapphire diamond. The third row adjacent, and agate and amethyst. The fourth row of barrel and onyx and a jasper. They were enclosed in settings of gold, in their mountings.

There were 12 stones according to the names of the sons of Israel. According to their names. Engraved like a signet each one with its own name. According to the 12 tribes. And they made chains for the breastplate at the ends. Like braided cords appear gold. And they also made two settings of gold two gold rings.

Put two rings in the two ends of the breastplate. And they put the two braided chains of gold in the two rings and the ends of the breastplate. The two ends of the two braided chains, a fastened in the two settings, and put them on the shoulder, straps of the front of the, even in the front.

And they made two rings of gold. And put them on the two ends of the breastplate on the edge of it. Which was on the inward side of the event. That made two other gold rings and put them. On the two soldiers traps underneath the ephod toward its front right at the seam above, the intricately woven band of the event.

And they banded the breastplate by means of the rings. To the rings of the effort with a blue cord. So that the breast so that it would be above the intricately woven band of the ephod and that the breast plate would not come loose from the effort. As he offer had commanded Moses.

He made the robe of the effect of woven work, all of blue. And there was an opening in the middle of the robe like an opening in a coat of mail or the weapon binding all around the opening. So that it would not tear. They made on the hem of the robe pomegranates of blue purple and scarlet and to fine weaven linen.

And they made bells appear, gold. And put the bells between the pomegranates and the hem of the robe all around between the pomegranates. La bell and the pomegranate bell and the pomegranate. All around the hem of the robe to minister in. As Yahweh had commanded Moses. They made tunics artistically woven a fine linen.

For Aaron and his son's, a turban of Finland. Exquisite hats. I find linen. Short. Trousers of fine women linen. And a sash of fine woven linen with blue, and purple and scarlet thread made by a weaver. As Yahweh had commanded. Moses. Then they made the plate of the holy crown of pure gold.

And wrote on it and inscription. Like the engraving of a signet. Holiness to your way. And they tied to it a blue cord to fasten it above on the turban. As yahweh had commanded. Moses. So far, the reading of god's. Inspired and inherent word. As the Lord describes. The.

Priestly garments and especially the garments, the high priest. It's very impressive. The amount of literal gold and jewels. That are involved. The great kings throughout history. Will have. Gold and jewels formed into a crown. To put on their head. Some of them have gold in their garments. That really the entire Robe for the hype.

Reest is made out of the crown. The whole thing is gold and jewels. Everywhere, the quote unquote breastplate was a breast. Uh pouch. We'll split them by explain. So this big and full of Four rows of engraved, jewels.

And just astonishing, And yet. Whereas, in other, Another nations, another cultures. That would be the robe of the high king. This is just a servant's outfit. The king of course, is God himself. But as footmen it's dressed. Like the greatest of the kings of the earth. And his people.

Are represent it. In him. So that truly, when we see. The. The royal. Priesthood of the great high priest, and we come into the new testament. And we realize That we have been joined to Jesus by faith and We come with Jesus. Dressed in him and his glory, his righteousness.

Into the holy of holies to be god's servants to And that he has made us. A nation of kings. And priests. That he has elevated us in Christ. Above the highest. Of men. In any other. Circumstance. And if God would bless us to us, By his holy spirit. Uh, we would be Cured.

Of all craving for elevation. And recognition. Notoriety. And praise. For there is nothing so high. Has to be joined to his high priest. And to be welcomed. Into his presence. Well, as he provides this for his people, And we heard about those things. Before back in chapter 28, where all of these things?

We're being described as he provides this for his people. Particularly for Aaron, and for his sons, as the priests of the people, the representatives of the people. We see several sorts of wisdom that he provided by which He provided the garments, for the priesthood, and the, the first sort of wisdom as obedience.

This is the highest sort of wisdom. There is to obey the word of God. He is God and we are not. And if we just have a, proper recognition of that fact Then we will see as the highest knowledge, the best knowledge. Um, coming to understand what he says to be taught by him to be instructed.

By him.

Seven times. In this passage, he says, As yahweh had commanded Moses. Of course, the number seven is very significant in the bible. The number of completeness. A number of divinity. And hear his sewing. That he gave. Exact obedience. To the craftsman. As they. Made the garments for the high priest, the breast patch, the other briefly garments, The turbine, etc.

So, there's the wisdom of the word. Obedience to God, there's also wisdom of the world When you look at chapter 28 and you look at this chapter one of the great differences, Is this chapter includes? Verse 3. They beat the golden to thin sheets and cut it into threads to work it in with the blue purple and scarlet thread, and the finelin and into artistic designs.

The lord gave them. The technology technological skill. To actually make gold thread. Now, we know now. Uh, from other history. From outside the bible that this was something that was actually developed in Egypt. So this is one more thing. That the lord didn't just store the wealth of the world in Egypt, but he had given the Egyptians.

A great deal of knowledge of Um, Knowledge and skill. Understanding mathematics understanding. Physics understanding. How to do things, they're the first who made paper. And here. Something that, of course, the Egyptians, That had employed in idolatry in the praise of themselves. And Their pharaohs and their nobility. It comes to be employed in the service of God.

This very, very fine. Um, Finally, beat out. Gold. And then, And getting it into a thin sheet, like we have Aluminum foil, something like gold leaf, gold foil. And then, Uh, cutting very thin strips all off the edge. And manipulating even the strip. So that it is Has a character of a thread.

And then the carefulness necessary not to break the thread. As you weave it. Here is not just wisdom from God's word. It is wisdom from God's world. But notice that the wisdom from his world. Is used in service of the wisdom from his word. They use the skill, the technology.

In order to obey god, it is submitted to him. One of the most dreadful things of what man thinks of us as a wisdom. Is that he is proud of it and he uses it. According to his own rules and for his own purposes. And he shows that even his greatest wisdom is folly.

It becomes. The ultimate demonstration of his wickedness. Not. Uh, Wonderful display. Of receiving wisdom from god. For obedience. There's not just wisdom from the word and wisdom from the world. There is. Spiritual wisdom. That god is the one who can fit a man to be holy to the lord.

And so, the obedience and the service, Is all trusting. That what god says. Literally, On the, on the head on the crown of the high priest is true. That he has set apart to people to himself. And that because he has done this. The atonement that he provides. It's really does take away sin.

The righteousness that he provides really does. Make us right with him. That as The dreadfulness and the wickedness and the guiltiness of our sin. As more and more evidence to us in scripture, More and more evidence to us evident to us and the application in our lives of seeing it come out of our hearts, come out of our mouths, come out in our behavior.

Yet. The forgiveness of god and jesus christ. The righteousness of god, counted to us in jesus christ. That we would be certain that these things are true because he once wrote on the gold crown on the head of a man, Holiness to y'all by your holy to offer. And surely he has done the same.

With us for he has dressed us, not And gold and blue, and purple and scarlet. But he has dressed us in christ.

And if he has dressed us in christ, then surely we are. Truly set apart consecrated as holy to him and if he has consecrated us as holy to him, surely he will make us holy by him. And the spirit applying christ to us. Will give us the holiness that we need to see the lord.

The holiness that we need to be happy in the lord forever. So that heaven will be a heaven to us. And not a hell. And so, there's spiritual wisdom here and may mean by that, is there is trusting in grace, this is spiritual wisdom, spiritual wisdom is not achieving such a high level of theological knowledge.

That you can spiritually advance. Past those who are more ignorant than you are. No, spiritual wisdom. Is to trust that what god has provided is true. To rest upon him for our standing with him. To wrap the rest upon him for our progress, our maturing in grace, and holiness.

And then, of course it is. Eternal wisdom. That. Uh, god himself. Is the great treasure. And, He's worth more than gold. He's worth more than joules. How do we know? Because here, golden jewels are not the treasure. There the uniform. For going and being. Presented before. The one who is the treasure and having him.

Present himself to us. The rest of the world was going after these things. Gold. And, Sardius. Topaz emerald turquoise sapphire diamond. Jason fagot amethyst. Barrel. Onyx. Jasper. And so much gold and blue, and purple, and scarlet, thread, and so forth. The rest of the world was going after those things, as if those things with a treasure But for israel, the lord was showing them that these things.

Are just How to be dressed appropriately? In order to enjoy him, who is the real treasure? And this is the eternal wisdom. That we would not count earthly things. Even These most precious earthly things. As far as man and rarity. And beauty. In the worldly sensor, all concerned. That we would not count earthly things as the treasure.

That he who is from everlasting. And two everlasting. Is. Our treasure.

We are dressed. Of course now not in gold. And so forth, because christ. Who is the treasurer? From all eternity, who has got the sun? Has himself added has added to himself humanity. He is the greatest thing that has ever been in this world. And the lord offers to each of us.

To be clothed in him. And we believe in him. So the lord help us. No, dear family. That we would treasure christ. We would trust in christ. That we would obey his word. And that we would even learn all that we can. About the way his world works. So that we may be most skillful and most useful.

In our obedience to him and our service to

My father in heaven and thank him and praise you for your word. Okay, thank you and praise you for giving yourself to us. You gave Christ for us that you gave Christ to us. And joining us to him, you have given yourself to us and them. Yourself to us by your spirit.

Him, you have made to be with us and to dwell in us. We say the words, lord, but Our minds, our hearts can hardly reach up to the realities of the words represent. Help us by your spirit alone. To grow and the knowledge of the embrace it. These realities.

We ask it all in jesus name. Amen.