

# **THE PRIESTS BEFORE GOD'S HOLY THRONE: "CLOTHED IN GLORY AND RIGHTEOUSNESS"**

**THEMATIC THEOLOGY: SANCTIFICATION AND  
GLORIFICATION  
REV. CHARLES R. BIGGS**

## **SCRIPTURE TEXT:**

**28:1-14:** "Then bring near to you Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the people of Israel, to serve me as priests- Aaron and Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. <sup>2</sup> And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, **for glory and for beauty.** <sup>3</sup> **You shall speak to all the skillful, whom I have filled with a spirit of skill, that they make Aaron's garments to consecrate him for my priesthood.**

<sup>4</sup> These are the garments that they shall make: a breastpiece, an ephod, a robe, a coat of checker work, a turban, and a sash. They shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother and his sons to serve me as priests. <sup>5</sup> They shall receive gold, blue and purple and scarlet yarns, and fine twined linen. <sup>6</sup> "And they shall make the ephod of gold, of blue and purple and scarlet yarns, and of fine twined linen, skillfully worked.

<sup>7</sup> It shall have two shoulder pieces attached to its two edges, so that it may be joined together. <sup>8</sup> And the skillfully woven band on it shall be made like it and be of one piece with it, of gold, blue and purple and scarlet yarns, and fine twined linen. <sup>9</sup> You shall take two onyx stones, and engrave on them the names of the sons of Israel, <sup>10</sup> six of their names on the one stone, and the names of the remaining six on the other stone, in the order of their birth. <sup>11</sup> As a jeweler engraves signets, **so shall you engrave the two stones with the names of the sons of Israel. You shall enclose them in settings of gold filigree.** <sup>12</sup> **And you shall set the two stones on the shoulder pieces of the ephod, as stones of remembrance for the sons of Israel.**

**And Aaron shall bear their names before the LORD on his two shoulders for remembrance.** <sup>13</sup> **You shall make settings of gold**

***filigree, <sup>14</sup> and two chains of pure gold, twisted like cords; and you shall attach the corded chains to the settings.***

<sup>ESV</sup> **Exodus 28:31-43:** "You shall make the robe of the ephod all of blue. <sup>32</sup> It shall have an opening for the head in the middle of it, with a woven binding around the opening, like the opening in a garment, so that it may not tear. <sup>33</sup> On its hem you shall make pomegranates of blue and purple and scarlet yarns, around its hem, with bells of gold between them, <sup>34</sup> a golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, around the hem of the robe. <sup>35</sup> And it shall be on Aaron when he ministers, and its sound shall be heard when he goes into the Holy Place before the LORD, and when he comes out, so that he does not die. <sup>36</sup> "You shall make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it, like the engraving of a signet, 'Holy to the LORD.' <sup>37</sup> And you shall fasten it on the turban by a cord of blue. It shall be on the front of the turban.

**<sup>38</sup> It shall be on Aaron's forehead, and Aaron shall bear any guilt from the holy things that the people of Israel consecrate as their holy gifts. It shall regularly be on his forehead, that they may be accepted before the LORD.** <sup>39</sup> "You shall weave the coat in checker work of fine linen, and you shall make a turban of fine linen, and you shall make a sash embroidered with needlework. <sup>40</sup> "For Aaron's sons you shall make coats and sashes and caps. You shall make them **for glory and beauty.**

<sup>41</sup> And you shall put them on Aaron your brother, and on his sons with him, and shall anoint them and ordain them and consecrate them, that they may serve me as priests. <sup>42</sup> You shall make for them linen undergarments to cover their naked flesh. They shall reach from the hips to the thighs; <sup>43</sup> and they shall be on Aaron and on his sons when they go into the tent of meeting or when they come near the altar to minister in the Holy Place, lest they bear guilt and die. This shall be a statute forever for him and for his offspring after him.

### **SCRIPTURE LESSON**

#### ***Psalm Reading/Scripture Lesson***

<sup>ESV</sup> **Psalm 132:8** Arise, O LORD, and go to your resting place, you and the ark of your might. <sup>9</sup> Let your priests be clothed with righteousness, and let your saints shout for joy. <sup>10</sup> For the sake of your servant David, do not turn away the face of your anointed one.

<sup>ESV</sup> **Psalm 110:1** A PSALM OF DAVID. The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool." <sup>2</sup> The

LORD sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies! <sup>3</sup> Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments; from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours. <sup>4</sup> The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind, "You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek." <sup>5</sup> The Lord is at your right hand; he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath. <sup>6</sup> He will execute judgment among the nations, filling them with corpses; he will shatter chiefs over the wide earth. <sup>7</sup> He will drink from the brook by the way; therefore he will lift up his head.

<sup>ESV</sup> **Genesis 3:21** And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

<sup>ESV</sup> **Zechariah 3:1** Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. <sup>2</sup> And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, O Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?" <sup>3</sup> Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clothed with filthy garments. <sup>4</sup> And the angel said to those who were standing before him, "Remove the filthy garments from him." And to him he said, "Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and I will clothe you with pure vestments." <sup>5</sup> And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD was standing by. <sup>6</sup> And the angel of the LORD solemnly assured Joshua, <sup>7</sup> "Thus says the LORD of hosts: If you will walk in my ways and keep my charge, then you shall rule my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you the right of access among those who are standing here. <sup>8</sup> Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, you and your friends who sit before you, for they are men who are a sign: behold, I will bring my servant the Branch. <sup>9</sup> For behold, on the stone that I have set before Joshua, on a single stone with seven eyes, I will engrave its inscription, declares the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day. <sup>10</sup> In that day, declares the LORD of hosts, every one of you will invite his neighbor to come under his vine and under his fig tree."

<sup>ESV</sup> **Matthew 22:1** And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, <sup>2</sup> "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, <sup>3</sup> and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. <sup>4</sup> Again he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.' <sup>5</sup>

But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business,<sup>6</sup> while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them.<sup>7</sup> The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.<sup>8</sup> Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy.<sup>9</sup> Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.'<sup>10</sup> And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.<sup>11</sup> "But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment.<sup>12</sup> And he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless.<sup>13</sup> Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'<sup>14</sup> For many are called, but few are chosen."

**Hebrews 7:11-28:**<sup>11</sup> Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron?<sup>12</sup> For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well.<sup>13</sup> For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar.<sup>14</sup> For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.<sup>15</sup> This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek,<sup>16</sup> who has become a priest, not on the basis of a legal requirement concerning bodily descent, but by the power of an indestructible life.<sup>17</sup> For it is witnessed of him, "You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."<sup>18</sup> On the one hand, a former commandment is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness<sup>19</sup> (for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God.<sup>20</sup> And it was not without an oath. For those who formerly became priests were made such without an oath,<sup>21</sup> but this one was made a priest with an oath by the one who said to him: "The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, 'You are a priest forever.'"<sup>22</sup> This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant.<sup>23</sup> The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office,<sup>24</sup> but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever.<sup>25</sup> Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.<sup>26</sup> For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained,

separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. <sup>27</sup> He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. <sup>28</sup> For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

<sup>ESV</sup> **Revelation 1:13** and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest.

<sup>ESV</sup> **Revelation 3:5** The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.

<sup>ESV</sup> **Revelation 4:4** Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads.

<sup>ESV</sup> **Revelation 7:9** After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

<sup>ESV</sup> **Revelation 19:13** He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

"What shall I wear?" It's a big date, a big event, a special time to honor someone else- -or perhaps it's your big day and you're being honored!

***"But what shall I wear?"***

Imagine being told that your family had been hand picked by God himself, Maker of Heaven and Earth, to serve him on behalf of the people. You have been elected to serve as priests of God and you will serve in his special covenantal-presence in a way others in Israel (and in fact the world) will not serve him.

***Now the question: "What shall I wear" becomes particularly intense and you are greatly overcome with anxiety. "This is a king"- -I have no clothing fit for a king and for the king's presence!"***

***You're right! But God is gracious as well as holy and he will provide them for you. In fact, like other aspects of God's worship this is "his thing" and he will clothe and dress you according to how he wants you to look!***

***As in the Ancient Near East and in cultures today with royalty,  
YOU DO NOT DRESS YOURSELF FOR ENTRANCE INTO THEIR  
PRESENCE, YOU ARE DRESSED FOR ENTRANCE!***

## **I. Priests in Biblical Redemptive-History and the Ancient Near East**

### **A. Priest-Kings of Creation**

Adam is Priest-King 1.0 assigned to have dominion and guard the Edenic sanctuary of God's dwelling place.

***Adam is sent east of Eden failing in his role as Priest-King.***

Israel is Priest-King 1.5 assigned to have dominion and guard the Edenic sanctuary of God's dwelling place in the Tabernacle-Tent.

***Israel represented by Priest-Kings at the Tabernacle was sent east of Eden failing to fulfill the role of Priest-Kings.***

***The Prophet Isaiah prophesies that one day a Priest will come who will give all God's people special consecrated-glory-priestly-clothing!***

**Isaiah 59:16-17:** He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no one to intercede; then his own arm brought him salvation, and his righteousness upheld him. <sup>17</sup> **He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head; he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak.**

***...but you shall be called the priests of the LORD; they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God;***

**Isaiah 61:10-11:** **I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.** <sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

### **The Redemptive-Historical Development of Priests**

- B. **Patriarch-Priest-Fathers** (i.e. "heads of family) who represented their families (Adam, Cain, Abel, Noah, Abraham, etc. before the Tabernacle was built and before God specifically Aaron and his sons.
- i. Jethro- the "Priest of Midian" who was a polytheist until he believes the gospel that Moses tells him (Exodus 18). He is probably another example (albeit pagan one) of a Patriarch-Priest-Father who represented his clan.
  - ii. Pre-Aaronic Priests- These are in Exodus 24 and go up the mount with Moses as patriarch-

representatives of the people before the actual setting apart and consecration-ordination of Aaron and his sons.

C. **Melchizedek- A Priest-King**- He was the Canaanite Priest-King of Salem (later known as Jerusalem) (Gen. 14).

D. **Aaron and His Sons are Specially Called** for the Task of Serving as Priests in Redemptive-History (the visible church was essentially started with Adam and Eve being covered and clothed by sacrifice and believing God's promises, but this must be ***the formal institution of the visible church***).

i. Formal institution of the Priesthood (Exodus 28-29; Leviticus 8)

ii. Formal clothing of the **High Priest/Priesthood**

i. **Ephod-Apron** (like a waistcoat)- with Precious Stones on the shoulder pieces with the names of the Twelve Tribes of Israel.

ii. **Golden Breast-piece/Breastplate with Precious Stones** (like a square pouch worn over the chest)- with Four Rows of Three Precious Stones (Twelve).

➤ Most attention in Exodus 28 is on the High Priest's Ephod-Apron and the Golden Breastplate with precious stones.

➤ ***Why? Aaron as High Priest was not only his own representative-mediator before God, but a mediator of all the people.***

iii. **Majestic Blue High-Priestly Robe**- Blue was the most expensive dye that could have been used for clothing (the clothing of kings and noblemen)- Embroidered with pomegranates and bells. Worn under the ephod and breast-piece.

iv. **Golden Plate/Diadem-Crown** ("HOLY TO THE LORD"- Ex. 28:36).

v. **Tunic (worn under the blue robe), Turban and Sash**



- **Priests**: Tunic, Turban and Sash
- **NO SHOES**! "Remove your shoes for the place you're serving in is 'holy ground'!"

iii. Ordination of Priests who are Specially Called (Lord willing, next sermon)

### **E. Priest-Kings in the Ancient Near East**

- i. Similar, yet dissimilar
- ii. Remember again: although men are made in God's image, and therefore reflect somewhat God's truth (i.e. they are worshippers, have priests, etc.), they pervert this worship and even though other cultures have priests, they serve false gods, and worship according to man's ways rather than God's that is specially revealed to Moses and his covenant people.

## **II. What Did the Levite-Priests Do for Israel?**

### **A. Represent the People before God**

***Calvin: "...All the splendor of the Tabernacle...would have been an empty parade without the priest, who so mediated as an intercessor, that he reconciled men to God, and in a manner united heaven to earth."***- Calvin's Commentary on Exodus, pg. 191.

- i. What is a Mediator?
  - i. One who ministers between God and man in God's special presence in Tabernacle-Temple (cf. with other Old Covenant mediators such as prophets and kings who spoke the word of God to the people and ruled on behalf of God over the people).
  - ii. One who ministers to the people as representative of God.
  - iii. One who ministers to God on behalf of the people.
- ii. Offer Sacrifices before God

i. Served at the Bronze Altar and Sacrificed on Day of Atonement in the Most Holy Place

a. For their own sins

<sup>ESV</sup> **Leviticus 16:6** "Aaron shall offer the bull as a sin offering for himself and shall make atonement for himself and for his house.

<sup>ESV</sup> **Leviticus 16:11** "Aaron shall present the bull as a sin offering for himself, and shall make atonement for himself and for his house. He shall kill the bull as a sin offering for himself.

b. For the sins of the people

See Book of Leviticus (especially chapters 1-7)

<sup>ESV</sup> **Leviticus 16:15-16:** "Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering that is for the people and bring its blood inside the veil and do with its blood as he did with the blood of the bull, sprinkling it over the mercy seat and in front of the mercy seat. <sup>16</sup> Thus he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleannesses of the people of Israel and because of their transgressions, all their sins. And so he shall do for the tent of meeting, which dwells with them in the midst of their uncleannesses.

<sup>ESV</sup> **Leviticus 16:19-22:** And he shall sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it and consecrate it from the uncleannesses of the people of Israel. <sup>20</sup> "And when he has made an end of atoning for the Holy Place and the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall present the live goat. <sup>21</sup> And Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the people of Israel, and all their transgressions, all their sins. And he shall

put them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who is in readiness. <sup>22</sup> The goat shall bear all their iniquities on itself to a remote area, and he shall let the goat go free in the wilderness.

- iii. Offer Prayers to God on Behalf of the People
  - i. Served at the Altar of Incense
  - ii. Ever intercedes for Israel
- iv. Point forward to a Heavenly and Perfect High Priest

***Calvin: "We learn that the priestly office was not so instituted by Moses to last for ever, but to direct the people to a better hope."*** Commentary on Exodus, pg. 192.

- i. Inadequacy and Imperfection of the Priesthood
  - a. They were sinners, too!
  - b. Aaron the first High Priest got caught up into idolatry (Exodus 32).
  - c. Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu were killed as priests for their disobedience to God in offering "Unholy" or "Strange" fire before the LORD (Leviticus 10).
  - d. Eli and the corrupt and unconsecrated priesthood:

<sup>ESV</sup> **1 Samuel 2:30** Therefore the LORD the God of Israel declares: 'I promised that your house and the house of your father should go in and out before me forever,' but now the LORD declares: 'Far be it from me, for those who honor me I will honor, and those who despise me shall be lightly esteemed. <sup>31</sup> Behold, the days are coming when I will cut off your strength and the strength of your father's house, so that there will not be an old man in your house. <sup>32</sup> Then in distress you will look with envious eye on all the prosperity that shall be bestowed on Israel, and there shall not be an old man in your house forever. <sup>33</sup> The only one of you

whom I shall not cut off from my altar shall be spared to weep his eyes out to grieve his heart, and all the descendants of your house shall die by the sword of men. <sup>34</sup> **And this that shall come upon your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, shall be the sign to you: both of them shall die on the same day.** <sup>35</sup> **And I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who shall do according to what is in my heart and in my mind. And I will build him a sure house, and he shall go in and out before my anointed forever.** <sup>36</sup> And everyone who is left in your house shall come to implore him for a piece of silver or a loaf of bread and shall say, "Please put me in one of the priests' places, that I may eat a morsel of bread.""

e. Death prevents the priests from continuing in office.

## **B. Visibly Showed forth the Heavenly Kingdom and the Hope for Restoration to Edenic Paradise**

i. Beauty and Expensiveness of the Priest's Garments before God and Man- "***for glory-dignity and for beauty***" (tr,a'(p.til.W dAbßk'l. **Ex. 28:1-3**)

*The materials are the **best "money can buy"**, the most beautiful representations of creation.*

- a. Blue Dye
- b. Precious Stones

<sup>ESV</sup> **Ezekiel 28:13** You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared.

c. Same materials as in the Tabernacle

- ii. Relationship of the Priests to the Tabernacle (a microcosm of heaven and the whole earth).
  - i. The Priests “matched” the Tabernacle. God dwells covenantally and specially in Tabernacle, and he will one day clothe man and dwell with man in a special way represented by the Priesthood.
  - ii. The Priests were “mini-Tabernacles” (Longman, ‘Immanuel in Our Place’, pg. 125)- The High Priest was like an incarnation of the glory of the Tabernacle of God.
  - iii. The High Priest was a “Vertical Replica” of the Tabernacle-Temple where God dwelled with his people- Poythress, pg. 53-54

**Professor Vern Poythress writes in 'The Shadow of Christ in the Law of Moses':** “The high priest is crowned with a turban with a gold plate inscribed, “Holy to the LORD” (Exodus 28:36). The high priest himself is in fact a kind of vertical replica of the tabernacle. His garments correspond to the curtains of the tabernacle. His head band with the inscription ‘Holy to the LORD’ corresponds to the Most Holy Place, the representation of heaven. His hands manipulate the blood that mediates between heaven and earth. His feet remain planted on the earth. Ears, hands, and feet are all consecrated with blood, corresponding to the consecration of all parts of the tabernacle. Thus he is not only a human being, sinful like ourselves, **but a human being clothed with the majesty of heaven.**”

- iv. The High Priest represented the people of God as being “in Him”. The people were “in union with their Mediator” who represented them and so as he was clothed in heavenly glory, so they by virtue of his mediation were clothed in glory clothes (he bore the names of the Twelve Tribes on his breast and shoulders).
- **Keil and Delitzsch in their excellent commentary on Exodus writes:** “To show that as mediator he brought the nation to God, the names of the twelve tribes were engraved upon precious stones on the shoulders of the

ephod. The precious stones, with their richness and brilliancy, formed the most suitable earthly substratum to represent the glory into which Israel was to be transformed as the possession of Jehovah (Exodus 19:5)." pg. 195

<sup>ESV</sup> **Exodus 19:5-6:** Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; <sup>6</sup> **and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.** These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

**Exodus 28:36-38:** "You shall make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it, like the engraving of a signet, 'Holy to the LORD.' <sup>37</sup> And you shall fasten it on the turban by a cord of blue. It shall be on the front of the turban. <sup>38</sup> **It shall be on Aaron's forehead, and Aaron shall bear any guilt from the holy things that the people of Israel consecrate as their holy gifts. It shall regularly be on his forehead, that they may be accepted before the LORD.**

### **C. Revealed the Glory and Beauty of God**

- i. How is God's holiness, beauty and glory revealed?
  - i. What is God's glory? Carolyn Custin James writes: "Glory is the uncovering of God's character- -the disclosure of who God is." (Quoted in Ryken, pg. 870).
  - ii. The High Priest revealed to the people of God visually the glorious beauty of God and how the whole earth is full of his glory:

<sup>ESV</sup> **Isaiah 6:3** And one called to another and said: "**Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!**"

<sup>ESV</sup> **Psalms 27:4** One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: **that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.**

<sup>ESV</sup> ***Psalm 29:2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.***

***This is how the clothes of the High Priest revealed God's holiness, beauty and glory.***

- ii. Only those who were "clothed in holiness, beauty and glory" could enter into God's holy presence to serve him.
  - i. To be close to God's special covenantal-presence one had to be glorious and beautiful like God (reflect the radiance and glory of his holy presence).
  - ii. This Glory-Clothing showed what people who dwell in God's presence look like because they are reflections of his glory and Spirit.
  - iii. Clothing by the Holy Spirit would come in time to truly make (from inside-out) the people of God clothed in righteousness and in conformity to Christ.
  - iv. Full holiness and glory would be reached one day by a full clothing of God's Glory-Spirit in Glorification-Resurrection.
- iii. Visible Picture of How All God's People Will Look One Day Clothed in His Glory
  - i. "Return to Eden's Glory-Beauty"- Man in God's Glory-Image will be fully restored.
  - ii. Man will once again be Glorious-Consecrated-Holy and Righteous Priest-King before God.

### **III. Priests as "Glory-Replicas"**

- 1) **Ethical Glory**: Purity and holiness like God.
- 2) **Kingly Glory**: Dominion over the earth.

- 3) **Eschatological-Transfiguration Glory**: Glory of New Creation- Gloriously pure and "fit for heaven" (Resurrected bodies of 1 Corinthians 15:42-49).

#### **IV. Christ Our High Priest (-King and Prophet)**

- 1) Christ is a Perfect and Eternal High Priest *after the order of Melchizedek*- - Christ is ***both priest and king!***
- 2) Jesus is the One and Only Perfect Mediator between God and man- 1 Timothy 2:5
  - a. Jesus Christ offered himself up as a perfect sacrifice as High Priest *and victim*.
  - b. Jesus prays for and knows those who are his own *specifically* as the High Priest had the names of the Twelve Tribes on his garment, so Jesus bears the names of all his elect.

The Priest who ministered or served in the Tabernacle-Tent pointed to the fact that a Mediator was needed to serve in the real Tabernacle-Tent-Dwelling Place of God in heaven. Until a Mediator could serve there as High Priest, the earthly types and copies continued to point man's faith to God's provision in a priest according to order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 5-8).

***Jesus was clothed in shame, dishonor, and blood, so that we could be clothed in glory, honor, and life-immortality!***

***On the cross Christ exchanged our "filthy rags" of righteousness with his own glorious clothing of righteousness. Christ was punished for our transgressions, and we were given robes of righteousness to cover our sins.***

***Christ, who was clothed in glory-life was the one who gave his glory so that we might be a glorious people. Glory and holiness were part of who Jesus***



***Christ was as the "radiance of the glory of God" and the "exact imprint of God's nature"!***

<sup>ESV</sup> **Hebrews 1:1-5:** Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup> He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup> having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. <sup>5</sup> For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"?

***The very holiness, beauty and glory of heaven was incarnate in Jesus Christ! In Him was found the righteous clothing of righteousness of all who believe to become priests of God in service to him!***

***In Christ as our Great and Perfect High Priest, we are made a royal priesthood in him clothed in garments of glory!***

***"You will be to me a holy nation and a royal priesthood."***

- 3) Jesus Christ serves God as our High Priest-King in the Heavenly Tabernacle.
- 4) Jesus clothes us as his people in his righteousness and glory-immortality.

<sup>ESV</sup> **Luke 24:49** And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

<sup>ESV</sup> **Romans 13:14** But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

<sup>ESV</sup> **Galatians 3:27** For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

<sup>ESV</sup> **Ephesians 4:24** and to put on the new self, **created** after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Adam is Priest-King 1.0 assigned to have dominion and guard the Edenic sanctuary of God's dwelling place.

***Adam is sent east of Eden failing in his role as Priest-King.***

Israel is Priest-King 1.5 assigned to have dominion and guard the Edenic sanctuary of God's dwelling place in the Tabernacle-Tent.

***Israel represented by Priest-Kings at the Tabernacle was sent east of Eden failing to fulfill the role of Priest-Kings.***

Jesus is Priest-King 2.0 who takes dominion over the heavens and the earth ("all authority", Matt. 28:18) through death and resurrection, is installed as Priest-King at the right hand of the Father after crushing the head of the serpent who relentlessly and continues to threaten the sanctuary of God with death and sin.

***Only Jesus fulfills his role as Perfect and Faithful Priest-King who then makes his people a holy nation and royal priesthood who are consecrated for his service and await the full glorification in heaven, reflecting the Glory of Christ as we behold his face! As 1 Peter 2 teaches us:***

<sup>ESV</sup> **1 Peter 2:4** As you come to him, *a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious,* <sup>5</sup> *you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ....*

<sup>9</sup> *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.* <sup>10</sup> *Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.* <sup>11</sup> *Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.*

<sup>ESV</sup> **Hebrews 3:1** Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession...

<sup>ESV</sup> **Hebrews 4:14** Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

**Hebrews 6:18b-20** ...We who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. <sup>19</sup> *We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain,* <sup>20</sup> *where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.*