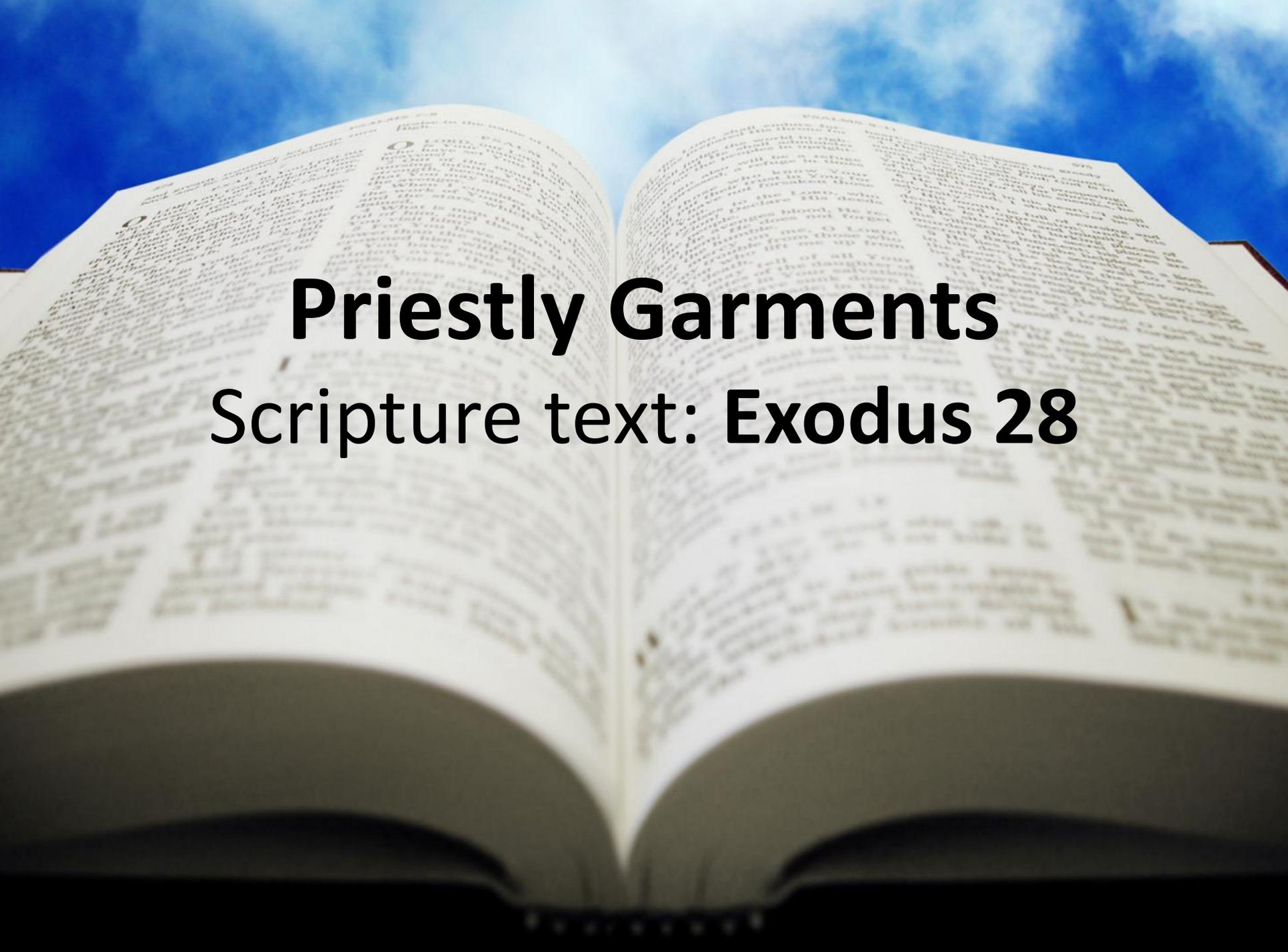


Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!



An open Bible is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with text, and the background is a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text is centered on the pages.

Priestly Garments
Scripture text: **Exodus 28**

This chapter focuses on the clothing of the priests, while **chapter 29 deals primarily with the consecration of the priests**. As you study these two chapters, **keep in mind that all of God's people are priests** (1 Peter 2:5, 9); therefore, the **Aaronic priesthood can teach us much about the privileges and obligations we have as God's priests**.

(Our Lord's priesthood comes from the order of Melchizedek and not the order of Aaron. See Heb. 7–8.) Note that **the priests ministered first of all to the Lord**, even though they also ministered to the Lord's people.

1 Peter 2:5-9 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.** For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. **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.**

Hebrews 7:12-17 For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. **This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek,** who has become a priest, not on the basis of a legal requirement concerning bodily descent, **but by the power of an indestructible life. For it is witnessed of him, "You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."**

Hebrews 7:22-26 **This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant.** The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but **he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever.** 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.** For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.

The priests represented the people before God and ministered at the altar, **but their first obligation was to serve the Lord** (vv. 1, 3, 4, 41).

If we would serve the people rightly, we must serve the Lord acceptably.

The innermost garment of the priests was a pair of linen breeches (v. 42), which was covered with a fine linen coat (vv. 39–41). Over these the high priest wore the blue robe of the ephod (vv. 31–35), and over that the ephod itself and the holy breastplate (vv. 6–30).

The high priest also wore a linen turban (mitre) with a golden plate on it that read “**holiness to the Lord**” (vv. 36–38).

The Ephod (28:6–14)

“Ephod” is a transliteration of the Hebrew word that describes a particular garment—a sleeveless coat **made of the same material and colors as the hangings in the tabernacle.** It was held together at the shoulders by special clasps, and on each clasp was an onyx stone engraved with the names of six of the tribes of Israel. **The high priest carried his people on his shoulders as he served the Lord.**

The high priest wore a beautiful girdle around the ephod as a reminder that he was a servant.





The Breastplate (28:15–30)

This was a beautiful cloth “pouch” that had twelve precious stones on the outside and the Urim and Thummim in the pocket. **It hung over the high priest’s heart**, held by golden chains and blue lace. The high priest **carried the twelve tribes not only on his shoulders, but also over his heart**. Jesus Christ, our high priest in heaven, **has His people on His heart and His shoulders as He intercedes for us and equips us to minister in this world**.

The names of the tribes on the two shoulder stones were positioned according to their birth order (v. 10), while the order on the breastplate was according to the tribal order established by the Lord (Num. 10).



1 John 2:1-6 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. And **by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.** Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but **whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected.** By this we may know that we are in him: **whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.**

God sees His people as precious jewels—each one is different, but each one is beautiful. Urim and Thummim mean “**lights and perfection**” in Hebrew. It is generally thought that these were stones that were used to determine God’s will for His people (Num. 27:21; 1 Sam. 30:7–8). In the East, it was common to use white and black stones in making decisions. If the person drew a white stone out of the bag, it meant “Yes,” while the black stone meant “No.” It is unwise to be dogmatic about this interpretation because we do not have enough information to guide us. **Suffice it to say that God provided His Old Covenant people with a way to determine His will, and He has given us today His Word and His Holy Spirit to direct us.**

Numbers 27:18-21 So the LORD said to Moses, "Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him. Make him stand before Eleazar the priest and all the congregation, and you shall commission him in their sight. You shall invest him with some of your authority, **that all the congregation of the people of Israel may obey.** And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, **who shall inquire for him by the judgment of the Urim before the LORD.** At his word they shall go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he and all the people of Israel with him, the whole congregation."

1 Samuel 30:5-8 David's two wives also had been taken captive, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel. And **David was greatly distressed**, for the people spoke of stoning him, because all the people were bitter in soul, each for his sons and daughters. But **David strengthened himself in the LORD his God**. And David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelech, "**Bring me the ephod.**" So Abiathar brought the ephod to David. And **David inquired of the LORD**, "Shall I pursue after this band? Shall I overtake them?" He answered him, "**Pursue, for you shall surely overtake and shall surely rescue.**"

Romans 12:1-2 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. **Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.**

John 8:31-32 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

The Robe of the Ephod (28:31–35)

This was a **seamless blue garment** with a hole for the head and golden bells and fabric pomegranates decorating the hem. The fabric pomegranates kept the bells from hitting each other. As the high priest ministered in the holy place, the **bells would jingle** and let the outsiders know that their holy representative was still serving them and the Lord.

The bells suggest **joyfulness as we serve the Lord**, and the pomegranates suggest fruitfulness.

Note that the high priest laid aside these glorious robes when he ministered on the annual Day of Atonement (Lev. 16:4).

Leviticus 16:4 He shall put on the holy linen coat and shall have the linen undergarment on his body, and he shall tie the linen sash around his waist, and wear the linen turban; these are the holy garments. He shall bathe his body in water and then put them on.

On that day, he wore the simple linen garments of the priest or Levite, a **picture of Christ's humiliation** (Phil. 2:1–11).

Philippians 2:1-7 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, **complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.** Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but **in humility count others more significant than yourselves.** Let each of you look **not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.** Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, **though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing,** taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

Philippians 2:8-13 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and **bestowed on him the name that is above every name**, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling**, for it is God who works in you, **both to will and to work for his good pleasure**.

The Holy Crown (28:36–39)

The turban (mitre) was a simple white linen cap, perhaps not unlike the cap worn by a modern chef, only not as high. On the turban, held by a lace of blue, was a golden plate that said “**holiness to the Lord.**” It was called “**a holy crown**” (29:6; 39:30; Lev. 8:9) and emphasized **the fact that God wanted His people to be holy** (Lev. 11:44; 19:2; 20:7). The nation was accepted before God because of the high priest (v. 38), just as God’s people are accepted in Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:6). Because of Jesus Christ, **God’s people today are a holy priesthood (1 Peter 2:5) and a royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9).**



Exodus 29:6 And you shall set the **turban on his head** and put the **holy crown on the turban**.

Exodus 39:30 They made the **plate of the holy crown of pure gold**, and wrote on it an inscription, like the engraving of a signet, "**Holy to the LORD.**"

Leviticus 8:9 And he set the **turban on his head**, and on the turban, in front, he set **the golden plate**, the **holy crown**, as the LORD commanded Moses.

Leviticus 11:44 For I am the LORD your God. **Consecrate yourselves** therefore, and **be holy, for I am holy**. You shall not defile yourselves with any swarming thing that crawls on the ground.

Leviticus 19:2 "Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, **You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.**

Leviticus 20:7-8 Consecrate yourselves, therefore, and be holy, for I am the LORD your God. Keep my statutes and do them; I am the LORD who sanctifies you.

Exodus 28:38 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.

Ephesians 1:3-10 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who has blessed us in Christ** with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, **that we should be holy and blameless before him.** In love he predestined us **for adoption** as sons through Jesus Christ, **according to the purpose of his will**, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. **In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us,** in all wisdom and insight **making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose**, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, **to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.**

1 Peter 2:5-9 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.** For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. **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.**

The Garments for the Priests (28:40–43)

Aaron's sons served as priests and had to wear the assigned garments.

The fine linen of all the garments reminds us of the righteousness that ought to characterize our walk and our service. If the priests did not wear the proper garments, **they were in danger of death**. The priests of the heathen cults sometimes conducted their rituals in a lewd manner, but **the Lord's priests were to cover their nakedness and practice modesty**.

Matthew 22:9-14 Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.' 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. "But when the king came in to look at the guests, **he saw there a man who had no wedding garment**. And he said to him, '**Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?**' And he was speechless. 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.**' For many are called, but few are chosen."

Revelation 3:17-22 For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, **so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen,** and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. **The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."