

Tetzaveh  
"You shall command"

Torah Reading: Exodus 27:20 - 30:11

Haftarah Reading: Ezekiel 43:10-27

### Study Questions

1. Explain how the priests were to function representing man before God and God to men.
2. What was placed inside the breastplate? What were they used for? Why are they not used today? How do you feel about this method of ascertaining God's will?
3. Why did the high priest wear stones on his breast and shoulders?
4. Why do you think incense was discussed last?

### Study Notes

#### Outline

- Vestments of Sanctity
- Vestments of Glory
- Vestments of Splendor

#### Vestments of Sanctity

- These garments were to be holy. They are set apart from all in order to serve God.
- Compare this with 1 Corinthians 6:12-20. Do our bodies serve as "holy vestments" for the Spirit?

#### Ephod

- There were other ephods. Gideon made one, the Philistine sanctuary had one.
- The purpose of the priestly one seems to be the "stones of remembrance for the sons of Israel".

#### The Breastplate

- The first purpose was to hold the twelve stones with the names of the sons of Israel. (Shemot 28:29)
- The second purpose was as a pouch containing the Urim and Tummin. The meaning of these two words is "light" and "perfections" respectively. (1 Samuel 14:41).

#### The Robe

- The bells helped the people know the high priest was ministering. (Shemot 28:35)
- It is said that pomegranates have 613 seeds. Is this true? If so, why would it matter here?

#### Vestments of Splendor

- Gold - is the purest of all metals and is often used in connection with royalty.

- Blue - some consider it to represent heaven, is also the color of the tzitzit which God commanded them to wear on the four corners of their garments. The robe of the high priest was blue and may have been a reminder of this command. Numbers 15:37-39 tells us that one purpose of the tzitzit was to remind us to follow the Torah.
- Scarlet - a color which is used to remind us of our human nature. The Hebrew word for red is the same word for man, Adam. While the Hebrew word in this Parasha is not Adam, the color is similar. By wearing this color, the high priest was representing man before the Holy One.
- Purple - a combination between the two. It's symbolism is difficult to determine.
- White - purity.