

As we come to the end of the Book of Exodus, we see the culmination of a great work. God had given the pattern on the mountain, and now we see the finished product—the garments of the priesthood and the completion of the Tabernacle.

Let's look at this together, verse by verse, as we see how every thread points us to the person and work of our Savior, Christ Jesus.

### **The Beauty of the High Priest (Exodus 39:1-7)**

As we begin chapter 39, we see the preparation of the holy garments for Aaron. Notice the repetition of the colors: blue, purple, and scarlet. In these colors, we see a beautiful picture of our Lord.

- Blue speaks of His heavenly origin—He is the Son of God who came down to us.
- Purple is the color of royalty—He is the King of kings.
- Scarlet reminds us of His sacrifice—the suffering Servant who shed His blood.
- Fine Linen speaks of His perfect, sinless humanity.

Woven into the ephod were threads of gold. This is unique. They had to beat the gold into thin sheets and cut them into wires to weave them in. Gold in the Tabernacle always speaks of deity. Here is the mystery of the Gospel: Jesus is fully man (the linen) and fully God (the gold), woven together in one perfect Person.

### **Strength and Love (Exodus 39:8-21)**

On the shoulders of the High Priest were two onyx stones, and on his chest was a breastplate with twelve precious stones, each engraved with the names of the tribes of Israel.

Think about that for a moment. When the High Priest went before God, he carried the names of God's people on his shoulders—the place of strength—and over his heart—the place of affection. Friends, this is exactly what Jesus does for you today. He bears your burdens with His infinite strength, and He holds your name close to His heart in His infinite love. You are never forgotten before the Father because your Great High Priest is there representing you.

### **Fruit and Testimony (Exodus 39:22-26)**

Under the ephod was a robe of blue, and on its hem were golden bells and pomegranates. This is a practical lesson for us. The bell makes a sound—that is our testimony, what we say. The pomegranate is a fruit—that is our character, who we are.

In the life of a believer, there must be a balance. If you have bells but no pomegranates, you're just a *"clanging cymbal."* If you have fruit but no bells, your light is hidden under a basket. Our Great High Priest had a perfect balance of witness and fruit, and by His Spirit, He wants to reproduce that in us.

### **Clothed in Righteousness (Exodus 39:27-31)**

Before the "garments of glory" could be put on, the priests first wore the fine white linen. This is the order of God's grace. We cannot be "glorified" until we are first "justified."

On the High Priest's turban was a plate of pure gold engraved with: "*HOLINESS TO THE LORD*." This was there so that he could "bear the iniquity of the holy things." Even our best worship and our most sincere service are stained by our flesh. But as we offer our lives to God, Jesus—our Holy High Priest—takes our imperfect prayers, purifies them by His merit, and presents them as a sweet fragrance to the Father.

### **The Work Finished (Exodus 39:32-43)**

The Tabernacle was finally finished. Moses inspected the work and found that the people had done "*as the LORD had commanded*." Because they were obedient to the pattern, the blessing of God followed.

### **Practical Application**

The Tabernacle was not built by one person, but by a community whose hearts were stirred by God. Are you building your life according to the "pattern" of the Word, or are you trying to wing it? When we follow His Word, we find His blessing.

### **A Challenge for the Believer**

Are you resting in the finished work of Jesus? He is your High Priest. Stop trying to "earn" your way into the Holy of Holies. He has already carried your name into the presence of the Father on His shoulders and His heart. Your job is to walk in the "linen" of His righteousness today.

### **An Invitation to the Unbeliever**

Perhaps you feel the weight of your sin and the "iniquity of your holy things." You cannot wash yourself clean. But two thousand years ago, Jesus Christ went to a cross. He shed His precious blood to pay for every sin you have ever committed. He died, but He did not stay dead. He rose again, declaring once and for all that He is God, Savior, and Lord.

If you will turn from your way and put your trust in Him, He will clothe you in His righteousness and give you a new life. Will you receive Him today?