

The Tabernacle, Christ, and the Church

-A study through the second half of the book of Exodus-

Lesson 7-The Priesthood (Exodus 28)

Who are to be Priests?

-Those who were to be priests were selected from _____ the _____ (they had to be one of the people). It was not an angel that God sent down from heaven that was to act as priest before Him, but it was to be a man-one who could sympathize with the people in their weakness. God chose one man and his family who were to serve as priests before Him (Ex. 28:1). This was not a position that was achieved by human efforts but by the sovereign choice of God. The Lord decided who would serve Him as priests.

“First, mark the call. It is most clear. No human mind selects the Priest. No self-called man usurps the work. The service is ordained by God.”-Law

Christ foreshadowed

“Therefore He had to be made like His brothers in every respect, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.”-Hebrews 2:17

“What has not been assumed has not be healed”-Gregary of Nazianzus

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.”-Hebrews 4:15

“And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt Himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by Him...”-Hebrews 5:4-5a

Jesus Christ was _____ by God as the High Priest for His people. There is much comfort here. When your soul is troubled by your sins remind yourself that the one serving on your behalf before God is the very One that God Himself has chosen and approved of.

“Hence all poor sinners may repose, without one fear, on Christ. He comes commissioned to discharge a settled service. He saves according to decree...Let Christ, then, take the Priesthood for His people. He has full worthiness. No sin has ever stained Him...He is perfect as God is perfect...He is the holiest man who sees by faith the most of Christ.”-Law

-Aaron was the head of the priesthood. Jesus Christ is the head of a greater priesthood. All those who are priests before God are so because of their _____ with Christ.

What are they to wear?

-While the priest(s) was to be chosen from amongst the people he was also to be set apart as _____ from the people. To set apart the priest(s) from others God had special clothing made that the priest was to wear. These garments were to be made “for glory and for beauty”. These robes serve to both cover the man acting as priest and to publicly show the glory and beauty of the office.

“Despite all their similarity to their fellow Israelites, the priests were set-apart men. ‘The holy garments were not only supposed to conceal his faults but also to represent the incomparable adornment of all virtues.’-Hyde

-Ephod-woven garment that covered the chest that had two onyx stones (one on each shoulder) attached to it. On these two stones were written the _____ of the 12 tribes.

-Breast piece-Over the Ephod was a breast piece that was attached by two gold chains to the Ephod. On this breast piece were 12 precious stones each one bearing the _____ of one of the tribes of Israel.

-Robe-This was to be made of blue material and was to go under the Ephod. On the bottom of this piece were to be alternating pomegranates (made of yarn) and golden _____.

-Turban-On the front of the turban was to be a piece of gold with the inscription “_____ to the Lord” engraved on it. This golden inscription must be on the priest’s forehead.

-Coat and sash-the coat was to be made of checker work and was to be the _____ item of clothing (there was an undergarment that was under this).

Christ foreshadowed

-The glory and beauty of these garments were a picture of the glory and beauty of Christ. He did not need these garments because what they pictured He was. While Jesus is truly one of us, He is also distinct from us. We would not _____ Him if He were just a man.

-The Ephod and breast piece teach us that Christ _____ bears the names of His people before the presence of God. God cannot look at Christ and not see the saints!

“O my soul, what streams of comfort issue from this sight! Your name, your very name appears on high, uplifted on the shoulders of your Lord. How then can foes work harm? They may assail, they will assail. But you are high above their reach. Can they scale heaven? The thought is folly.”-Law

-While the priest needed to have a golden plaque on his forehead identifying him as “Holy to the Lord”, Jesus Christ _____ the Holy One.