



# Exodus

## COVENANT WORSHIP: CONSECRATION OF PRIESTS

### Exodus 28:1-29:46

[www.thesacramentaljourney.org](http://www.thesacramentaljourney.org)

#### Covenant Worship (Exodus 25:1-31:18; 35:1-39:43)

Exodus 25-31 contains specific instructions from God to Moses concerning the construction of the Tabernacle. After a brief historical interruption, Exodus 35 commences with the actual implementation of the construction of the Tabernacle. Exodus 39 ends with the completion of the project. These two sections of Scripture are highly repetitive but have enough nuance to merit examination separately.

#### The Priesthood

God had called Israel to be a “kingdom of priests” (Exodus 19:6). This would prove to be quite the challenge! However, God chose a group of servants to function as priests to the people of God. They were to represent the people before God - and represent God to the people.

#### The Sacred Garments

The priests were to be adorned with holy clothing as they served before the LORD. The priestly garments were to give them dignity and honor. The materials paralleled the materials used in the construction of the Tabernacle. These garments reflected the holiness and sacredness of both the function of the priests and the place in which those functions occurred (the Tabernacle).

#### The Sacred Garments

- Undergarments - obviously, no detail was left undone!
- Tunic - fine linen
- Blue Robe - gold bells attached, adorned with pomegranates

- Ephod – sleeveless apron, made of gold – blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, finely twisted linen. It was held together by 2 clasps on the shoulders of the priest, decorated with two onyx stones with the names of the 12 tribes of Israel engraved. There were to be gold settings and two gold chains that attached to the shoulder clasps.
- Breastpiece – used for decision-making! Made of precious metals, yarn and bejeweled with precious jewels that represented the 12 Tribes of Israel. It also contained the Urim and Thummim.
- Waistband – the ephod and breastpiece attached to it.
- Turban – attached to the turban was a plate of pure gold with the inscription, *Holy to the LORD*.

### Urim and Thummim

The best rendering of these two terms in English may be “light and dark.” No one knows for sure how these stones were used. We do know that the High Priest could use them as somewhat of a “last resort” in determining God’s guidance for Israel. Their use was limited but Israel understood exactly how they were to be used. Interestingly, they appear in several Old Testament passages (Lev. 8:8; Num. 27:21; Deut. 33:8; Ezra 2:63; Neh. 7:65; 1 Sam. 14:41; Hosea 3:4). Even more interestingly, Urim and Thummim appear on the official crest of Yale University!

### Consecration of the Priests

The Priests had to be consecrated before the LORD through a detailed regimen of sacrifice and worship.

### Role of the Priests

The priests ministered to the LORD. The priests served the people. The priests carried the “weight” of the people on their personhood. The priests served in the daily sacrificial regimen in the Tabernacle.