

Exodus 28:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And these are the garments which they shall make; a breastplate, and an ephod, and a robe, and a broidered coat, a mitre, and a girdle: and they shall make holy garments for Aaron thy brother, and his sons, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office.

Analysis

The garment inventory: breastplate, ephod, robe, embroidered coat, mitre (turban), and girdle (sash). Each piece carries symbolic weight. The breastplate holds the tribes close to the priest's heart; the ephod bears them on his shoulders (strength); the robe displays his approach to God; the coat provides foundational righteousness; the mitre designates holiness; the girdle binds all together. Christ's priestly qualifications include bearing us in love, carrying us in strength, approaching in purity, standing in righteousness, manifesting holiness, holding all together.

Historical Context

These six garment pieces (plus others specified for common priests) comprised the high priest's sacred wardrobe. Only fully vested could he enter God's presence to minister, teaching that approach to God requires complete spiritual preparation.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Which aspect of Christ's priestly qualification (love, strength, purity, etc.) most encourages you today?
2. How does 'complete preparation' for approaching God differ from casual spirituality?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵת	לְהָ	בְּגִדִּי	אֲשֶׁר	יַעֲשֶׂ	וְיַעֲשֶׂ	חַשְׁבָּן
H428	And these are the garments	H899	H834	and they shall make	a breastplate	H2833
וְאֵת	בְּגִדִּי	וְכַתְּנֵת	תְּמִשְׁבֵּץ	מִצְבֵּחַ	אֶתְבָּנָה	וְאֵת
and an ephod	and a robe	coat	and a broidered	a mitre	and a girdle	and a girdle
H646	H4598	H3801	H8665	H4701	H73	H251
וְעַשְׂ	וְעַשְׂ	בְּגִדִּי	לְאַפְרִרְתָּ	לְאַפְרִרְתָּ	אֶחָד	יְ
and they shall make	And these are the garments	H899	holy	for Aaron	thy brother	:
H6213			H6944	H175	H1121	
וְלִבְבָּטְתָּ	לִבְבָּטָתָ					
and his sons	that he may minister unto me in the priest's office	H3547				
H1121						

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 9:17 (Parallel theme): And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone.

Ephesians 6:14 (Parallel theme): Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

Isaiah 59:17 (Parallel theme): For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloke.

1 Thessalonians 5:8 (Parallel theme): But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

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