

Exodus 40:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt put upon Aaron the holy garments, and anoint him, and sanctify him; that he may minister unto me in the priest's office.

Analysis

Clothing Aaron in 'holy garments' (בגדי הקֹדֶשׁ, bigdei haQodesh) and anointing him consecrates him for priesthood. The sequence—washing (v. 12), clothing, anointing—teaches purification, covering, and empowerment. The holy garments, detailed in chapter 28 and constructed in chapter 39, represent righteousness enabling ministry. Aaron's anointing prefigures Christ, anointed with the Spirit (Acts 10:38), who clothes believers in His righteousness (Isaiah 61:10). The phrase 'that he may minister unto me in the priest's office' connects consecration to function—holiness enables service.

Historical Context

Aaron's anointing as high priest (Leviticus 8:12 specifies abundant oil poured on his head, running down his beard, Psalm 133:2) distinguished him from his sons (who received lesser anointing). This unique consecration emphasized the high priest's singular mediatorial role between God and Israel.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does the washing-clothing-anointing sequence illustrate salvation's order (justification-sanctification-empowerment)?
2. What does Christ's anointing with the Spirit teach about His qualification for high priestly ministry?

Interlinear Text

וְהִלַּבְשָׁתָּ	אֶת	אֶהָרִי	אֶת	בְּגָדֵי	הַקֹּדֶשׁ	וּמָשַׁחְתָּ
And thou shalt put	H853	upon Aaron	H854	garments	the holy	and anoint
H3847		H175		H899	H6944	H4886
אֶת	וְקִדְשָׁתָּ	אֶת				
H853	him and sanctify	H853				
	H6942					
	וְכִהְיֶה					לִי
	him that he may minister unto me in the priest's office					H0
	H3547					

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 28:41 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt put them upon Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him; and shalt anoint them, and consecrate them, and sanctify them, that they may minister unto me in the priest's office.

1 John 2:20 (Holy): But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

1 John 2:27 (Parallel theme): But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.