
Pearl Seeking

TREASURING HIS WORD

Let's do a quick overview of the entire Torah portion:

Monday:	Ex. 27:20-28:30	Oil for the lamp; Instructions for making the set-apart garments
Tuesday:	Ex. 28:31-43	Instructions for making the set-apart garments
Wednesday:	Ex. 29:1-28	Instructions for the ordination of the priests
Thursday:	Ex. 29:29-46	Instructions for the ordination of the priests
Friday:	Ex. 30:1-10	Specifications for the altar of incense

* The word 'span' will be introduced today regarding the breastplate. A span is the distance measured by a human hand, from the tip of the thumb to the tip of the little finger. In ancient times, a span was considered to be half a cubit (approximately 9").

In our last Parsha Pearls lesson, we covered the story of the instruction Yahweh gave to Mosheh to take up contributions for making His Dwelling Place, and the specifications regarding the making of the ark of the Witness, the table of showbread and the lampstand. We included 2 verses from this parsha, Tetzaveh, which describes the command regarding the oil for the lampstand. In this week's Parsha Pearls lesson we will learn about the instructions for making the set-apart garments Yahweh wanted Aharon and his sons the priests to wear in His Dwelling Place that Yahweh gave to Mosheh while he was on the mountain. Parsha Pekudei in Exodus 39:1-31 also describes the set-apart garments that were made for Aharon and his sons. We have included them as a 2nd witness. Now, let's read Ex. 28 & 39:1-31.

PARSHA POINTS

- From among the children of Yisra'el, Yahweh identifies the priests (**kohen**) He has chosen to serve Him - Aharon's lineage (a tribe of Lewi) (28:1):

- Aharon
- Nadab
- Abihu
- El'azar
- Ithamar



- Yahweh instructs Mosheh to make set-apart garments for Aharon and his sons that are for 'esteem' and 'comliness' - 28:2, 40
- Yahweh instructs Mosheh to find those wise of heart and filled with a spirit of wisdom to craft these special garments for Aharon - 28:3
- Yahweh tells Mosheh that the garments are to set Aharon and his sons apart, so that they might serve Yahweh as priests - 28:3, 41

- The set-apart garments were made for Aharon and his sons that they would do the service in the Set-apart Place - 39:1
- The set-apart clothing is to be worn by Aharon and his sons so that Mosheh can anoint, ordain, and set them apart for service as priests before Yahweh - 28:41
- The long shirts, girdles and turbans for Aharon's sons are for esteem and comeliness - 28:40-41
- The set-apart clothing is to be worn by Aharon and his sons so that Mosheh might anoint, ordain, and set them apart for service as priests before Yahweh - 28:4-41

Aharon's Set-apart Garments

- These are the 8 (**shmoneh**) pieces of the set-apart garments for Aharon (28:4):
 - shoulder garment (**ephod**) - carries the 2 (**shtayim**) 'stones of remembrance' - connected to the settings on the embroidered band by chains and rings
 - breastplate (**choshen**) - connected to shoulder garment by chains and rings
 - robe (**meil**) - under the shoulder garment - all blue
 - long shirt (**ketonet**) - tunic under the robe
 - turban (**mitznefet**) - also known as mitre
 - girdle (**avnet**) - sash
 - plate of clean gold - 28:36 (crown attached to turban)
 - linen trousers - 28:42 (for modesty purposes, to be worn under robe and long shirt)



Priest's Set-apart Garments

- These are the 4 (**arba**) pieces of the set-apart garments for Aharon's sons (28:40, 42; 39:27-29):
 - long shirts
 - girdles
 - turbans
 - linen trousers



The 8 Pieces of the Set-apart Garments

Shoulder Garment

- Materials (28:5-6; 39:2-3):
 - blue, purple and scarlet material
 - fine woven linen
 - to be crafted by a skilled workman
 - gold - beaten sheets of gold were cut into threads and worked in with the blue, purple and scarlet material and the fine woven linen
- Parts of the shoulder garment (28:7-14; 39:2-7):
 - Shoulder pieces (28:7; 39:4):
 - 2 shoulder pieces shall be joined together at its 2 edges



- Embroidered band (28:8; 39:5):
 - blue, purple and scarlet material
 - fine woven linen
 - gold



- Shoham stones (28:9-12; 39:6-7):
 - the names of the 12 (**shem esre**) sons of Yisra'el shall be engraved on the 2 shoham stones, which are placed in gold settings
 - 6 (**shesh**) names are to be engraved on one stone and the remaining 6 names are to be engraved on the other stone, according to the sons' order of birth
 - the names are to be engraved onto the stones like the engravings of a signet and placed in the gold settings
 - the 2 stones, in their gold settings, are to be fastened upon the shoulder pieces of the shoulder garment
 - these 2 stones are 'stones of remembrance' for the sons of Yisra'el
 - Aharon shall bear their names before Yahweh on his 2 shoulders for a remembrance



- Chains and Settings (28:13-14; 39:15-16):
 - there shall be 2 chains of clean gold, resembling braided cords
 - they are to be fastened to the gold settings



Breastplate

- Specifications (28:15-17; 39:8-9):
 - called the breastplate of 'right-ruling'
 - to be made square-shaped and have doubled fabric
 - its length and width are both to be a span (9")
 - to have stones set into it
 - to be crafted by a skilled workman (like the work of the shoulder garment)



- Materials (28:15; 39:8):
 - blue, purple and scarlet material
 - fine woven linen
 - to be crafted by a skilled workman



- gold - beaten sheets of gold were cut into threads and worked in with the blue, purple and scarlet material and the fine woven linen



- Stones (28:17-21; 39:10-14):
 - to have 4 rows containing 3 (**shalosh**) stones per row, with each stone placed in its gold setting
 - 1st row: ruby, topaz, emerald
 - 2nd row: turquoise, sapphire, diamond
 - 3rd row: jacinth, agate, amethyst
 - 4th row: beryl, shoham, jasper



- Each stone is to have the name of one of the 12 tribes of Yisra'el engraved on it
 - The engravings are to be similar to that of a signet ring (seal)
- Chains and Rings (28:22-28; 39:15-20):

- there shall be 2 braided chains of corded work, for the breastplate at the ends, fashioned out of clean gold
- there shall be 2 rings of gold that are attached on both ends (top and bottom) on the inner side of the shoulder garment
- One end of the 2 braided gold chains of corded work are to be put into the 2 rings of gold that are on the breastplate
- The other end of the 2 braided golden chains of corded work are to be fastened to the gold settings on the shoulder pieces which are on the shoulder garment in front
- The shoulder garment and the breastplate are to be connected to each other by the rings and gold chain pieces
- The bottom rings of the shoulder garment and the bottom rings of the breastplate are to be bound together by a blue cord which is above the embroidered band of the shoulder garment so that the breastplate does not come loose from the shoulder garment



Connecting the Shoulder Garment and Breastplate (28:24-28; 39:21):

- Aharon is to bear the names of the sons of Yisra'el on the 'breastplate of right-ruling' over his heart when he enters the Set-apart Place, for a remembrance before Yahweh continually - 28:29
- The Urim and the Tummim are to be placed inside the 'breastplate of right-ruling', so that they rest on the heart of Aharon when he goes in before Yahweh - 28:30
- Aharon is to bear the right-ruling of the children of Yisra'el on his heart before Yahweh continually - 28:30



Robe (28:31-35; 39:22-26):

- The robe of the shoulder garment is to be made of woven work, all blue
- The opening of the robe was to be in the middle with a woven binding all around it for reinforcement, like the opening in a scaled armor, to prevent it from tearing
- All around the hem there are to be pomegranates of blue, purple and scarlet material, twined
- The hem is to have bells of clean gold between the pomegranates all around it
- The sequence is: a golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, all around the robe
- The sound of the hem with its bells shall be heard when Aharon goes into the Set-apart Place before Yahweh, so that he does not die



Turban and Plate (28:36-40; 39:28, 30-31):

- The turban is made of fine linen
- The turban is to have a plate made for it, out of clean gold
- The plate is to have engraving on it like a signet ring, with the words:

SET-APARTNESS TO YAHWEH

Kadosh L'Yahweh

קדש ליהוה



- The plate is to be fastened onto the front of the turban with a blue cord
- This gold plate is to be worn on the forehead of Aharon to signify that he 'bears the guilt' of any trespasses on the part of Yahweh's set-apart people, when they present their gifts and offerings before Him
- The gold plate upon the turban shall always be on Aharon's forehead, to show that Yahweh accepts them when they acknowledge guilt and demonstrate repentance
- Turbans are to be made for Aharon and his sons

Long Shirt (28:39-40; 39:27):

- The long shirt is to be made of fine linen, the work of a weaver
- Long shirts are to be made for Aharon and his sons

Girdle (28:39-40; 39:29):

- The girdle for the priesthood is to be made of fine woven linen
 - Aharon's girdle was blue, purple and scarlet
 - Aharon's sons girdles were white



Linen Trousers (28:42-43; 39:28):

- These are to be made for modesty purposes, to cover the areas from the waist to the thighs
- The linen trousers are to be worn by Aharon and his sons whenever they do the following:
 - come into the Tent of Meeting
 - come near the altar
 - attend in the Set-apart Place (Holy Place)
- This is decreed so they will not bear punishment upon themselves and die
- The wearing of linen trousers is a law (**chukkah**) forever to Aharon and to the generations after him



DIGGING DEEPER

Parents/Teachers may choose to use these prompts for further discussion of the Torah portion.

- Discuss the colors of the fabrics used in the garments and their origins. (Ex. 28:6, 15, 31, 33, 37, 39:2, 5, 8, 24)
- Why do you think the stones in the shoulder garment were called 'remembrance stones' for the sons of Yisra'el? Could it be that when Yahweh looked upon it on the Day of Atonement that He would have compassion and mercy upon Yisra'el? Why were the stones on the breastplate also for a remembrance? (Ex. 28:12, 29)
- Research the different stones that were on the shoulder garment and the breastplate. (Ex. 28:9, 17-21; 39:6, 10-13)
- What possible meanings could be connected to the Urim and Tummim? Research and report. (Ex. 28:30; Num. 27:21; 1 Sam. 28:6; Ezra 2:63; Neh. 7:65)
- Why did Yahweh require linen trousers/britches for the priests and Aharon? Could it be that the pagan religious systems during that time did NOT wear anything under their clothing and that this was a way of setting them apart from those around them? (Ex. 28:42-43)

