

Making the Holy Garments for the Priests & Summary of the Building

In chapter thirty-eight we learned about the building of the Altar of Burnt offering, which teaches us how to crucify (put to death) our carnal mind (the heart) which is the part of us that wants to sin and be prideful (our ego). This is essential to do as we first go to God in prayer (through Christ). We need to repent daily for our sins and thankfully, through belief in Jesus Christ we can find forgiveness from God, so long as we are sincere and honest with Him. We also learned about the building of the Brass (copper) Laver, which was a huge basin filled with water for the priests to wash with. This teaches us how we must wash our heart (intentions, desires, feelings) and mind (thought process) through the Word of God and allow His Holy Spirit to point out our sins to us and help us understand His Word. As the Holy Spirit helps us wash our heart and mind, He helps us create a 'new man' within us and gives us the strength and understanding to put down (kill) the 'old man' (the carnal mind / heart) each day. And it is a struggle (Lk 13:24) every day (even for the seasoned Christian) to put down the old man by taking control (dominion) of our soul with the 'new man' and by exercising that 'new man' each day. But, through consistent perseverance and commitment to Jesus Christ, we indeed can truly be formed into a new person with a clean heart and mind, so long as we remain committed firmly to Him.

We also learned how the outer court (walls of hangings), made of fine linen, were built. This symbolizes (as did the inner walls surrounding the Tabernacle) the protection we must have upon our heart and mind. God's Word and His Holy Spirit help us build a wall of protection upon our heart and mind and that wall is built with righteousness, which is what the fine linen symbolizes (Rev 19:8). We then learned the sum (computation) of the amount of gold, silver and brass it took to make the Tabernacle. An amazing number of precious metals was given, not only willingly from the Israelites but also from the atonement money from all adult males (20 years and upward). Of course, the atonement money symbolized how Jesus Christ paid (with His own blood) for the atonement of our soul and it's only by His sacrifice that we can be redeemed to God. We also looked at the spiritual significance of the numbers given for the totals of the precious metals and found that, even Biblical Numerics of the precious metals revealed the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Thus, confirming once again that, the first Tabernacle, symbolized (looked forward to) Jesus Christ and God's beautiful plan of Salvation.

We now move onto the next to the last chapter of this great book of Exodus where we'll learn how the Holy Garments of the priests were made and then get a summary of the items that were made. Let's remember that this book of Exodus is a book that teaches us (through analogy in types) *how to come out of spiritual bondage to Satan (sin)*. The Tabernacle itself teaches us this requires us putting off our sins and coming near to God in our spirit. Paul reminds us of this in Romans when he wrote...

16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.
Rom 6:16-18

Serving God is truly how we find **true** spiritual freedom (John 8:31-21), which is why the Tabernacle also symbolizes Jesus Christ, for He is the one that frees us from our sins. *But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor 15:57).*

Exodus 39

1 And of the blue, and purple, and scarlet, they made cloths of service, to do service in the holy place, and made the holy garments for Aaron; as the LORD commanded Moses.

2 And he made the ephod of gold, blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen.

3 And they did beat the gold into thin plates, and cut it into wires, to work it in the blue, and in the purple, and in the scarlet, and in the fine linen, with cunning work.

4 They made shoulder pieces for it, to couple it together: by the two edges was it coupled together.

5 And the curious girdle of his ephod, that was upon it, was of the same, according to the work thereof; of gold, blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen; as the LORD commanded Moses.

We're now told how the 'cloths of service' were made for Aron, who was the first High Priest. Among them was an ephod that had shoulder pieces and a girdle that were to fasten the Breastplate onto. The 'cloths of service' were made of blue, purple and scarlet and so was the ephod and the girdle; but they also had gold and fine linen woven into them. These garments are greatly symbolic for the spiritual clothing that our true (and eternal) High Priest has on. We learned many details about this in Exodus 28 [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Exodus/182] and in verse 2 it says: *And thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother for glory and for beauty*. The word 'holy' is #6944 and it means: *a sacred place or thing*; rarely abstract, *sanctity*. It comes from #6942, which means: **to be** (causatively, make, pronounce or observe as) **clean** (ceremonially or morally). Remember, the Tabernacle is a physical example (1 Cor 10:11) of what the spiritual Temple is to be (our soul – 1 Cor 3:16, 6:19, 2 Cor 6:16). So, likewise, the physical clothing of the priesthood is an example to us of how to put on spiritual clothing that makes us acceptable to serve God. So, Aaron was to put on 'holy' garments for glory and beauty because ***they were to symbolize the beauty and glory of being spiritually clean.***

The ephod was a piece of clothing worn outside the robe and kept in place by the 'shoulder piece' and a 'girdle'. Exodus 28 also says it was made of *gold, of blue, and of purple, of scarlet, and fine twined linen, with cunning work*. The word 'cunning' is #2803 and means: *to plait* or *interpenetrate*, i.e. (literally) *to weave* or (gen.) *to fabricate*. So, the ephod was woven of *gold, of blue, and of purple, of scarlet, and fine twined linen* and basically held together by a girdle sewed onto it, with two shoulder pieces that crossed the shoulders, apparently fastened or sown to the ephod in the front. These garments would have been stunningly beautiful and precious (of great value) due to the gold, blue, purple and scarlet threads interwoven with the fine linen. Indeed, this is symbolic of Jesus Christ. His physical appearance was absolutely stunning. As Isa

53:2 explains, *he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him*. But Jesus' beauty is so much more than 'skin deep' for indeed His soul is of great value and beauty because there is no sin, corruption or fault within His Spirit (mind) or Heart (intentions, desires, feelings). Thus, the beautiful clothing also symbolizes the glorious and beautiful character (nature) of our **true** High Priest, **Jesus Christ** (1 Pt 1:3-7) who is full of righteousness, patience, grace, mercy, loving kindness, and fairness - for truly, there is no respect of persons with God or His Son, Jesus Christ (Ex 34:6, Deut 32:4, Neh 9:33, Hosea 14:9, Ps 116:5, 145:8, Joesl 2:13, Jonah 4:2, Deut 1:17, Acts 10:34, Rom 2:11, 1 Pt 1:17).

Exodus 39

6 And they wrought onyx stones inclosed in ouches of gold, graven, as signets are graven, with the names of the children of Israel.

7 And he put them on the shoulders of the ephod, that they should be stones for a memorial to the children of Israel; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Although onyx is typically thought of as a black stone, it actually comes in many colors and it is thought that the stone in the breastplate of the priest was likely an onyx stone that had white and brown layers. It's not known for sure if these stones on the shoulders of the High Priest were the same color or not. But, whatever color they were, there were to be two additional stones made and they were to be engraved with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel; six names for each stone, according to their birth order. Exodus 28:11,13-14, 25 tells us that these were then to be 'set' in 'ouches' of gold. The word 'ouches' is #4865 and means: a *brocade*; by analogy, a (reticulated) *setting of a gem*. The 'brocade' was speaking of what we call embroidering with the gold, scarlet, blue and purple threads. And reticulated meant that it had the threads crossing like a net does. So, basically, these two onyx stones were to be sewn onto the shoulders of the ephod for the express purpose of being a 'memorial' for the twelve tribes of Israel. Importantly, Aaron would be 'bearing' the names of Israel before the Lord (YHVH) *on his shoulders*, for a memorial. This, of course, has great spiritual significance. Even today we still use the phrase of feeling 'weight on your shoulders' when you have a lot of responsibility. So, the High Priest was to 'bear' (carry) the 'weight of the nation' upon His shoulders.

Further, the word 'memorial' is #2146 and means: a *memento* (or *memorable thing, day or writing*). It comes from #2142, which means: *to mark* (so as to be *recognized*), i.e. **to remember**; by implication, *to mention*; also (as denominative from OT:2145) *to be male*. The High Priest was to 'bear' the names of Israel on his shoulders to as a reminder to God to think of them, to be merciful to them and remember His promises to them. This is explained beautifully in the Scriptures. Isa 59:1-4,12-17 does a particularly good job of explaining why there was such a need for an intercessor. When you study the history of Israel (in the Judges, books of Samuel, Kings and the Chronicles), you'll quickly realize that Israel was obedient to God *only when they had a good leader*. It truly was the leader who directed the moral compass of the nation. Our Heavenly Father knew that Israel would not remain loyal to Him and prophesied of it when He gave Moses the song in Deuteronomy 32 to testify against Israel. It was the job of the High Priest to bear Israel upon His shoulders so to make intercession for them when they needed it... which

turned out to be quite often. Isa 59:16 is revealing because it shows us how God saw no human man was capable of being an intercessor for Israel; so, He prophesied of how He Himself would put on the spiritual clothing needed to save Israel. Spiritual clothing such as... salvation, righteousness, vengeance and zeal – all things used by Jesus Christ to enforce God’s righteous judgment. There are *many* scriptures proving this this point in both the Old and New Testaments but for a beautiful summary, check out Rom 8:24-39. There we learn how the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ now does what the High Priest was *supposed* to do... but Jesus does it with perfection because He can read our heart. Rom 8:27 says that: *he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God*. Jesus Christ helps us even when we don’t know what we need. Indeed, Jesus ‘bears’ the twelve tribes of Israel on His shoulders as He sits at the right hand of God (Rom 8:34, Eph 1:20, Col 3:1, Heb 10:12) but He also does this for anyone of any other race who *truly* believes upon Him and calls upon Him (*in truth*, Ps 145:18, John 4:23-24) for help (Acts 2:21, Rom 10:13). The Holy Spirit of God (and Jesus Christ) gives us strength in our heart and mind (the inner man) and that’s made possible because Jesus Christ (our High Priest) bears the memorial of Israel ‘upon His shoulders’ while He is sitting at the right hand of God...

14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Heb 4:14-16

The point of the High Priest ‘bearing’ Israel’s memorial (the two stones) on his shoulders has always been to help Israel when they needed it. Now that Jesus has died for us and has become our High Priest forever, our prayers are now instantly given to God when we need help. If we call to him *in truth* (Ps 145:18, John 4:23-24), He will help us. This means we must not try to deceive him with ulterior motives (secret reasons); we must be sincere and honest with Him for He alone can read our heart and knows our true intentions for the prayer. But, if we are indeed sincere, He will most certainly help us. But we must have the faith and patience to know the Holy Spirit will send help when, where and how we need it – which may not be what we are expecting. Our faith must protect us from being afraid and teach us to be patient in waiting for God’s answer in due time (1 Pt 5:6).

Exodus 39

8 And he made the breastplate of cunning work, like the work of the ephod; of gold, blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen.

9 It was foursquare; they made the breastplate double: a span was the length thereof, and a span the breadth thereof, being doubled.

10 And they set in it four rows of stones: the first row was a sardius, a topaz, and a carbuncle: this was the first row.

11 And the second row, an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond.

- 12 And the third row, a ligure, an agate, and an amethyst.*
- 13 And the fourth row, a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper: they were inclosed in ouches of gold in their inclosings.*
- 14 And the stones were according to the names of the children of Israel, twelve, according to their names, like the engravings of a signet, every one with his name, according to the twelve tribes.*
- 15 And they made upon the breastplate chains at the ends, of wreathen work of pure gold.*
- 16 And they made two ouches of gold, and two gold rings; and put the two rings in the two ends of the breastplate.*
- 17 And they put the two wreathen chains of gold in the two rings on the ends of the breastplate.*
- 18 And the two ends of the two wreathen chains they fastened in the two ouches, and put them on the shoulder pieces of the ephod, before it.*
- 19 And they made two rings of gold, and put them on the two ends of the breastplate, upon the border of it, which was on the side of the ephod inward.*
- 20 And they made two other golden rings, and put them on the two sides of the ephod underneath, toward the forepart of it, over against the other coupling thereof, above the curious girdle of the ephod.*
- 21 And they did bind the breastplate by his rings unto the rings of the ephod with a lace of blue, that it might be above the curious girdle of the ephod, and that the breastplate might not be loosed from the ephod; as the LORD commanded Moses.*

These verses tell us how the breastplate of the High Priest was made. Exodus 28:15 calls it a breastplate ‘of judgment’ and the reason is revealed in Ex 28:30 to be because it held *the Urim and the Thummim*. We learned a bit about these back in chapter 25. Because there is so little written about them, we cannot be sure if they were gemstones, colored rocks or what. Some think these were stones that were either color coded or engraved somehow to provide a ‘yes or no’ but we simply don’t have enough information from Scriptures to know for sure exactly what they were because there’s no record in the Bible of God instructing Moses to make these. But the Bible does tell us they were used at critical moments in Israel’s history when special divine guidance was needed (Judges 1:1-2, 20:18-28, 1 Sam 10:20-22, Numbers 27:21, Ex 28:15,30). Now, of course, these are not needed because Jesus Christ is our intercessor.

The breastplate itself was to be made with ‘cunning’ work and ‘after the work of the ephod’, which means the twelve stones would be woven in with threads of gold, blue, purple, scarlet and fine linen. We learned the spiritual significance of the threads, the gold, and the twelve stones earlier to be God’s righteousness and how He we are to be light bearers for His righteousness, just as stones reflect the light (Matt 5:14-16). We must learn of God’s righteousness, which is found in His Word, and share it with others. As 1 Peter 2:5 explains, *ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ*. The spiritual sacrifices we are to give are sacrifices such as: thanksgiving (Ps 50:7-15, 107:11, 116:17, Jonah 2:9, Amos 4:5), praise (Ps 54:6, Jer 17:26, 33:1) and righteousness (Deut 33:19, Ps 4:5, Heb 13:15).

The breastplate was to be the same length on all four sides (foursquare) and a 'span' long and high. The Companion Bible has an appendix (51, III 2.) that says a span was likely around 10 and a half inches. We covered the precious stones for the breastplate back in Exodus 25, part 3 and learned that it's difficult to know for sure what the stones were because some of the references to stones in the Bible are to gems whose names are obscure and whose identity is uncertain (such as 'adamant' or 'ligure'). And even the etymology of the Hebrew words provides little help in determining the names of the stones. To study these further, see the links below...

Exodus 25, part 3: https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Exodus/166

Picture of what the stones possibly looked like: https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Exodus/167

Each one of these stones had a tribal name dedicated to it and engraved upon it so that the High Priest was to also have the children of Israel 'upon his heart'. The breastplate itself was to be secured to the ephod (shoulder pieces), with chains on either side of it fastened to two rings of gold that would then be bound to the rings of the ephod (the shoulder pieces) interlaced with blue thread. It truly was a beautiful work of art. Truly, Jesus Christ does bear all of Israel upon His heart while He sits at the right hand of God. And it's not only Israel, He also bears upon His heart all those (of any race or gender) who believe upon Him.

Exodus 39

22 And he made the robe of the ephod of woven work, all of blue.

23 And there was an hole in the midst of the robe, as the hole of an habergeon, with a band round about the hole, that it should not rend.

24 And they made upon the hems of the robe pomegranates of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and twined linen.

25 And they made bells of pure gold, and put the bells between the pomegranates upon the hem of the robe, round about between the pomegranates;

26 A bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate, round about the hem of the robe to minister in; as the LORD commanded Moses.

The High Priest was also to a loose garment called a coat but was actually like a modern-day throb (throbe). Then there was to be what is translated as a 'robe' but is much more what we think of as a coat because it was an outer garment. It too was made of the *gold, and blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen*. Then there was to be an ephod and a girdle. We're given specifics here about that 'robe' (coat, outer garment) and it was to be made of all blue (it was surely beautiful) with a hole in the top so it could simply slip over the High Priest's head. It was to be one woven piece. On the bottom were to be 'bells' which had the distinct purpose of making noise so that, when he went into the Holiest of Holies (once a year) to perform the duty of the High Priest (making intercession through blood sacrifice for the sins of the nation), those waiting outside the veil would know he was still alive IF they heard the bells. The fact that the robe (outer garment) was made with bells, specifically as a notifier that the priest was still alive, shows us what a dangerous job this truly was. One could not go in there with an unclean heart; they must be sincere and also very careful to perform the duties as prescribed by Moses. Let's

remember Jesus has done away with all these things when He died for us (Heb 10:10) and rent (ripped) open the vail separating us from God (Mth 27:51, Mk 15:38, Lk 23:45). We now can come directly to God in prayer, through belief in Jesus Christ (John 14:6).

Exodus 39

*27 And they made coats of fine linen of woven work for Aaron, and for his sons,
28 And a mitre of fine linen, and goodly bonnets of fine linen, and linen breeches of fine twined linen,
29 And a girdle of fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet, of needlework; as the LORD commanded Moses.*

Exodus 28:39-40 describes the same thing and we see that Aaron's coat (inner garment covering) and mitre (turban) were made of fine linen while the girdle (belt, strap) was to be made of needlework (from the gold, blue, scarlet and purple threads). Aaron's sons (who were priests but not the High Priest) were also to have throbs (coats) and girdles (belts) made also from fine linen and the gold, scarlet, blue and purple threads. However, the difference in what they wore on their head was different. Aaron's sons were to wear 'bonnets' but this is a rather poor translation. They were actually simple caps (#4021) that were like a bowl (hemispherical). Exodus 28:2, 40 tell us this clothing was to be for 'glory and beauty' (Ps 27:4, Ps 50:2, Ps 90:17, Ps 96:6-10) because true worship (with sincerity and truth, 1 Cor 5:8, Josh 24:14) of God Almighty and His Son, Jesus Christ, is precious and beautiful indeed. So beautiful that it is likened to the most beautiful things on earth: gold, silver, gemstones and the finest threads available. *There is gold, and a multitude of rubies: but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel* (Prov 20:15).

Exodus 39

*30 And they made the plate of the holy crown of pure gold, and wrote upon it a writing, like to the engravings of a signet, HOLINESS TO THE LORD.
31 And they tied unto it a lace of blue, to fasten it on high upon the mitre; as the LORD commanded Moses.*

Exodus 28:38 gives us a bit more information when it says: *And it shall be upon Aaron's forehead, that Aaron may bear the iniquity of the holy things, which the children of Israel shall hallow in all their holy gifts; and it shall be always upon his forehead, that they may be accepted before the LORD.*

So, upon the High Priest's head was to be a 'mitre'. But, this is not a mitre as we think of it today; it was actually a turban (#4701) and was to have a gold plate that had the words 'Holiness to the Lord (YHVH)' engraved upon it. The gold plate was to be put onto the mitre with a blue lace (thread sewn). Thus, Exodus 28:38 tells us specifically that Aaron (the High Priest) would 'bear the iniquity of the holy things' *on his head*. The word 'bear' means 'to lift' (#5375) because He was to 'bear away' or 'carry off' the sins of Israel. This reveals the purpose of the High Priest was to not only atone for Israel's sins but also to cleanse them of their sins. This was to be

always upon his forehead, meaning it was to be ‘on his mind’ all the time. Indeed, Jesus Christ performs this perfectly. Romans 8 explains how Jesus (our true High Priest) does this for us...

24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

*26 Likewise **the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.***

27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

*28 **And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.***

29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

*32 **He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?***

33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

*34 Who is he that condemneth? **It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.***

Rom 8:24-34

Jesus Christ is literally at the right hand of God (Eph 1:20, Col 3:1, Heb 1:3, 1 Pt 3:22) making intercession for us, through His Holy Spirit. He hears our prayers (when we pray to God in His name) and knows how to help us, even when we don't know what we need. 1 John 1:7 declares that: *if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and **the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*** How does the blood of Jesus clean us? Blood is symbolic for our soul (Lev 17:11) and thus Jesus' flesh blood (which He literally shed for us) is symbolic of His Holy Spirit, which was shed 'dispersed' for us (Ps 51:17, Acts 2:33). And it is the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ which cleanses our heart and mind because His Holy Spirit comes into our soul and helps us understand His Word. Jesus said in John 15:3: *Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.* The Word of God cleanses us but it's the Holy Spirit that helps us to understand it and also helps us change inside. The Holy Spirit helps us to kick our sins out (crucify the 'old man') and put on the 'new man' who is *created in righteousness and true holiness* (Eph 4:24) and *renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him* (Col 3:10). When Jesus appeared to Paul on his way to Damascus, Jesus told him...

16 But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

*17 Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,
18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which **are sanctified by faith that is in me.***

Acts 26:15-18

When Jesus revealed Himself to Paul, He declared that it was *faith in Him* that sanctifies (cleanses) our soul because ***faith is what allows the Holy Spirit in us.*** But people must know what to have faith IN or it does them no good. We must have faith in Jesus Christ and we cannot know Him without studying His Word (2 Tim 2:15). That's why Jesus said: *Take my yoke upon you, **and learn of me;** for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls* (Matt 11:29). Taking Christ's 'yoke' upon our heart and mind is done by studying His Word and allowing His Holy Spirit to help us change inside. From this process comes *the peace of God, which passeth all understanding and it shall keep [protect] your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus* (Phil 4:7). Therefore, it's vital that we, who serve Jesus Christ, share the Gospel (truth), when the opportunity arises, because *faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God* (Rom 10:17). Paul knew it was his duty to preach and teach the Gospel to allow people to accept Jesus Christ and open their hearts to Him through believing the truth...

*That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, **being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.***

Rom 15:16

But it was not only Paul's duty to share the Gospel; it is our duty as well. But we must first study God's Word (2 Tim 2:15) so we know what it is we are to share. When people hear to truth (the Gospel of Jesus Christ) *and believe it*, they begin to offer spiritual sacrifices such as thanksgiving, praise and (when they are sincere) they also work to bring sacrifices of righteousness, *by learning to do what's right according to God's Word.* This means they seek truth in His Word and try to obey it from the heart. A change of heart cannot be faked because God sees our heart (Ps 11:4, Jer 17:10). But cleansing the heart is what sanctifies us and that's what Jesus Christ does for us. Faith in Jesus Christ is the opposite of hardening your heart. Faith in God's Word (Jesus Christ) opens your heart to truth. Heb 10:10-17 explains that the duty of the High Priest is to cleanse the people spiritually, and this is done through writing God's Words into (upon) our heart and mind. Again, this cannot be faked. Our fruits reveal the truth about who we truly are. *And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts* (Gal 5:24).

So, we see how this beautiful 'mitre' of the High Priest symbolizes the purity of truth and knowledge that Jesus Christ's Holy Spirit passes on to us. He helps us to put on the 'mind of Christ' (1 Cor 2:16, Phil 2:5-8). The Holy Spirit, through Peter, explained it really well...

*1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, **arm yourselves likewise with the same mind:** for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;*

2 That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

3 For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

4 Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:

5 Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.

6 For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

7 But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

8 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

9 Use hospitality one to another without grudging.

10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1 Peter 4:1-10

Arming ourselves with the mind of Jesus Christ is symbolic of Aaron's beautiful 'mitre' because Jesus Christ helps us to put on His mindset by putting off the 'old man' and putting on the 'new man' which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness (Eph 4:24). So, while we might start with the simple 'bonnet's (round hats) that the priests had, we learn to put on that same 'mitre' that Jesus Christ was by putting on the mind of Christ, which is the 'new man', who is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him (Col 3:10). It's an essential part of putting on the spiritual clothing needed to serve God (and have eternal life through Jesus).

Exodus 39

32 Thus was all the work of the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation finished: and the children of Israel did according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so did they.

While back in chapter 32 many Israelites had a rebellious heart, we see how God purged out the rebels (through the plague, Ex 32:35) and those who remained literally had the 'fear of God' put into them. This is important because it's *by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil* (Prov 16:6). This proverb also says that, *by mercy and truth iniquity is purged*. We see this part (mercy and truth) fulfilled in Israel as God gave them mercy and did not kill all of Israel off (only those who were truly hard hearted and would not repent). Then, God gave them truth when He had Moses again give them His commandments, with a few more added (like, don't make a molten image!). But it also shows us that, when we are first convicted by sin, we have to repent sincerely. But that's not the end. We must study God's Word and strive hard to obey it. We have to keep kicking out our sin, as the Holy Spirit reveals it to us (and keep it out). We need to let His Holy Spirit help us learn His Word and change our heart so we actually obey Him from the heart, with sincerity and discipline. While many people think love is merely an emotion, the truth is that the emotion (feeling) of fondness for God is only part of love. True love is a combination of

will and action (Mk 12:30). We *must* want to obey God and *strive hard to do it*. As we continue to do this we'll learn how to incline (bend) our heart back to God's Word, as the Psalmist explains...

36 Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness.

37 Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way.

Ps 119:36-37

And guess what happens when we strive (day in and day out) to incline (bend) our heart back to God? When you bend your heart to God, you bend it 'upwards'... this produces... a heart that is 'upright'! But when you separate yourself from God, by lusting after sin and pride, your heart gets crooked. The Word of God speaks so much about this it's truly another study for another time [**Incline Your Heart** <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/980>] but consider just a few Scriptures...

16 How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!

*17 **The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul.***

18 Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

19 Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.

Prov 16:16-19

*20 They that are of a froward heart are abomination to the LORD: but **such as are upright in their way are his delight.***

Prov 11:20

*25 With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful; with an **upright** man thou wilt shew thyself upright;*

26 With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself froward.

Ps 18:25-26

God judges and treats us according to who we are and what we do but it's always in accordance to his Word (John 12:48). In Matt 7:2 Jesus said, *for with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again*. That's why He cautions us not to judge according to the appearance (John 7:24) but to get the beam out of our own eye so we can see clearly to help others (Mth 7). But, He only shows mercy to those who sincerely repent and try to do what's right, according to His Laws. Ps 119:155 says that *salvation is far from the wicked: for they seek not thy statutes*. As we continue to strive to put off that 'old man' and put on the 'new man' we will **turn our heart back to Him, which is what creates an upright heart**.

So, Israel was able to do and finish the work on the first Tabernacle because they obeyed God. This is a beautiful type (and reminder) for us today that it takes a clean and willing heart to serve

God and to help do our part in building the true Tabernacle of Jesus Christ, which is the Body of Christ. And you first must make your own soul a Temple for God to dwell in (1 Cor 3:16, 6:19, 2 Cor 6:16) before you can help others come to be a part of the Body of Christ (Mth 7:1-5).

Exodus 39

33 And they brought the tabernacle unto Moses, the tent, and all his furniture, his taches, his boards, his bars, and his pillars, and his sockets,

34 And the covering of rams' skins dyed red, and the covering of badgers' skins, and the vail of the covering,

35 The ark of the testimony, and the staves thereof, and the mercy seat,

36 The table, and all the vessels thereof, and the shewbread,

37 The pure candlestick, with the lamps thereof, even with the lamps to be set in order, and all the vessels thereof, and the oil for light,

38 And the golden altar, and the anointing oil, and the sweet incense, and the hanging for the tabernacle door;

39 The brasen altar, and his grate of brass, his staves, and all his vessels, the laver and his foot,

40 The hangings of the court, his pillars, and his sockets, and the hanging for the court gate, his cords, and his pins, and all the vessels of the service of the tabernacle, for the tent of the congregation,

41 The cloths of service to do service in the holy place, and the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and his sons' garments, to minister in the priest's office.

Notice all the words 'and' in these verses? The Companion Bible has a note explaining that this is actually a Hebrew figure of speech called a 'Polysyndenton' (apx. 6) and it emphasizes each separate detail, impressing the fact that nothing was omitted (Rev 22:18-19). This same Hebrew figure of speech was used back in chapter 25 when God was explaining what items were needed to make the Tabernacle, of which there were fifteen. That showed that all numbers connected with the Tabernacle are multiples of five (apx. 10) denoting *grace* because *grace* the symbolism of the number five. Again, Biblical Numerics [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/960>] is truly woven into the very fibers of God's Word as a second witness to us (Mth 18:16, Dt 19:15).

Exodus 39

42 According to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so the children of Israel made all the work.

43 And Moses did look upon all the work, and, behold, they have done it as the LORD had commanded, even so had they done it: and Moses blessed them.

After the children of Israel did all the work according to how God commanded them, Moses blessed them. The word 'blessed' is #1288 in the Hebrew and means: *to kneel*; by implication *to bless God (as an act of adoration)*, and (*vice-versa*) *man (as a benefit)*; also (by euphemism) to curse (God or the king, as treason). This verbal blessing from Moses was a way to show his approval for Israel obeying God. But the true blessings come from God Himself, as Lev 26 and Deut 28 testify to. In those two chapters, God clearly lays out to Israel what they need to do in

order to be blessed by Him. But they also clearly explain what would happen to them if they did not obey God – they would receive the cursings. This is important for us to remember too because these blessings and cursings are truly applicable to every person and every nation in every generation. IF we do things God's way, He blesses us; but if we do not, He curses us. Even if we disobey Him out of ignorance, we still reap the cursings. Just look at what happened to Uzzah when the children of Israel failed to carry the Ark of the Covenant the way they were supposed to (1 Sam 6:6-7, 1 Chron 13:9-10). David and the elders of Israel *thought* they were obeying God but they were not, and Uzzah died because he touched God's throne (the Mercy Seat on top of the Ark of the Covenant). So, what did they do? They studied God's Word to see what they were doing wrong (1 Chron 15:11-15). Imagine that! Well, *we should do this today too*. Although God sometimes punishes us less when we sin out of ignorance, He expects us to work hard to learn of Him (Mth 11:29, 2 Tim 2:15) and change our ways. Acts 17:30 says: *And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent*. Luke 3:8 also says that *we must bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance*. James 4:17 finishes this thought with: *therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin*. The priests were supposed to have known how to bear (carry) God's Ark. That was their job! So, some things He simply won't tolerate, as was the case with Uzzah. Once again, this is why studying His Word is so very important so we can *learn how to obey Him* (from the heart), which is what brings blessings. And who does not want blessings in life? Remember what Jesus taught us about this?

1 And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:
2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,
3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.
5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.
6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.
7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.
8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.
9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.
10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.
12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.
 Matt 5:1-12 [study more on this: <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/397>]

We *must* take God's Word (both the Old and the New Testament) *to heart* and strive to do it. That's what brings blessings. Deuteronomy promises...

*1 And it shall come to pass, **if** thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, **to observe** [#8104] **and to do** all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:*

*2 And **all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if** thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.*

Deut 28:1-2

And while most people think of blessings in the physical realm, truly, the best blessing are the spiritual blessings *for wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it* (Prov 8:11). The Proverbs also says...

13 Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

14 For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.

15 She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.

16 Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour.

17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

18 She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her.

Prov 3:13-18

In his letter to the Ephesians [<https://t.me/BibleStudyBooksEphesiansGalatian/4>] Paul also did a good job at reminding us of the best kind of blessings...

*3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:***

4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

*5 **Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself,** according to the good pleasure of his will,*

6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

*8 Wherein **he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;***

9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

*10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times **he might gather together in one all things in Christ,** both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:*

*11 **In whom also we have obtained an inheritance,** being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:*

12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

*13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, **ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,***

14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

Eph 1:3-14

He further explained it to the Philippians... [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Peter/315]

17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

Phil 3:17-21

What shall we say then?

22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

*25 But if we hope for that we see not, **then do we with patience wait for it.***

Rom 8:22-25 [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Romans/39]

So, let's continue to study God's Word (2 Tim 2:15) and strive to obey it with all our heart. After all, God has set us up for success through Jesus Christ. All we have to do is 'claim' His promise by *obeying them from the heart*. He has given us so many examples (1 Cor 10:11) to help us understand and learn how to obey Him...

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

1 Peter 1:3-7 [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Peter/263]

Blessed be the LORD for evermore. Amen, and Amen.

Ps 89:52

AMEN.