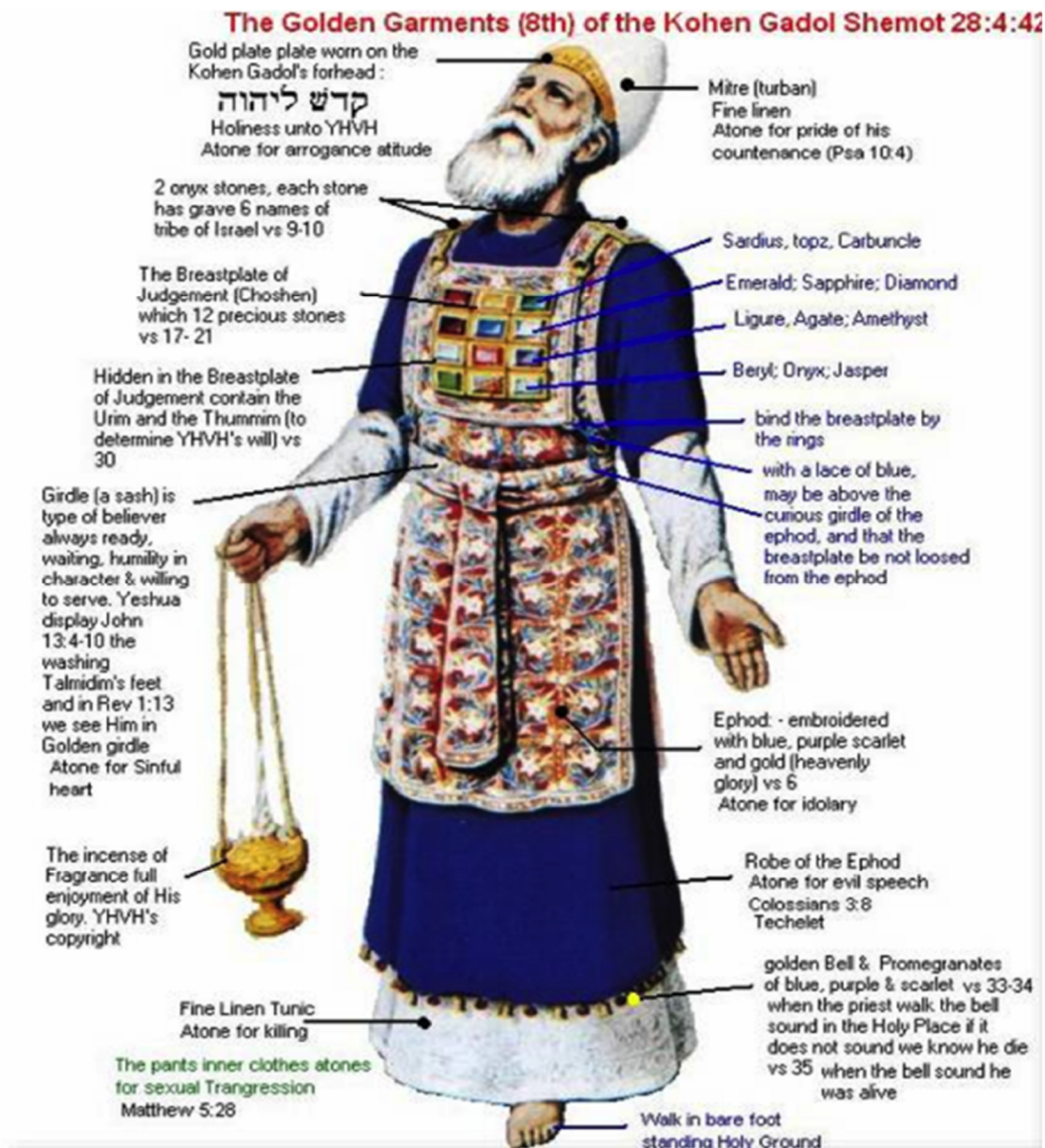


## Exodus 39

**Read Exodus 39:1-7:** Everything that God told Moses to do was to portray an invisible heavenly reality to a worldly people. Moses was responsible to set up God's system of methods to cover sin and restore broken relationships with God. The symbolism in the earthly priests' points to greater reality in heaven.

The priestly ephod was the basic piece of his uniform. The ephod went over a blue robe; which went over a white linen tunic. Linen is a non-sweating material; which is important in the desert with 3 layers on.



The Aaronic priest is the person who is supposed to come before God's throne and offer prayers in the tabernacle. He inherited this right from his Hebrew tribal Levitical ancestry. He needed to pray for his countrymen and the nations' leaders and offer thanksgiving to God. The fate of the whole country rode on his shoulders. He is supposed to intercede for individuals, leaders and his nation who may have sinned. The Aaronic priesthood in Exodus had continual sacrifices over and over to cover the ongoing sins for their people. Yesterday's sacrifice did not cover today's sins. The entire Mosaic Law was a burden; because it only offered temporary coverage (until the next sin).

*For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. <sup>2</sup> He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. <sup>3</sup> Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. <sup>4</sup> And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. (Hebrews 5)*

That unending procession under the Mosaic system of repeatedly covering sin has been superseded by a better system. Jesus is the ultimate intercessor before God.

*<sup>14</sup> Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4)*

Jesus is the ultimate priest. Jesus is a different kind of priest, who is of a higher order. He was able to make a one-time sacrifice for all men. The Aaronic priest could only cover the current and past sin with blood. Jesus can completely remove it from our account, as if it never happened. He can also give us a status of being pre-forgiven.

We are all *servant priests* under Jesus in this new priesthood. He intercedes for us in heaven. The temporary Aaronic priest carried symbols that pointed ahead to Jesus, our Great High Priest in heaven. The blue in his ephod stood for the location: heaven. Purple and gold referred to: the King of Kings (Jesus) royalty. The red spoke to the sacrifice on the cross that Jesus made.

*<sup>5</sup> So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You." <sup>6</sup> As He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek"; (Hebrews 5)*

Abraham me the King of Salem, who was also the most high priest. His name was Melchizedek. There was a lot of mystery around him. His ancestry and descendants are not known. He blessed Abram; which is to say that he is greater. Abram was above the entire Aaronic priesthood; since they were his great, great grandchildren. That makes the *Melchizedek order* of priest's are a one-of-a kind; without ancestry or descendant. He was above the whole Aaronic priesthood. Jesus fulfilled that *type* shadowed by a priest named Melchizedek back in Abraham's day (one of a kind, not of human lineage basis, no end and no beginning).

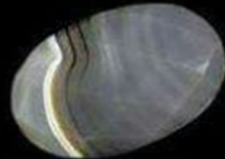
The priest had an onyx stone on each shoulder, with 6 tribes inscribed on each. As he lifted his hands to heaven, he was essentially lifting his people's interests to the LORD. The onyx stone is known for its parallel stripes. The 6 tribes (and all believers) run parallel, but separate courses.



It may seem like an easy job; but not so if you do it right. Prayer can be exhausting. It's hard to sustain it.

*<sup>1</sup> And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. <sup>12</sup> But Moses' hands became heavy; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. And Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. <sup>13</sup> So Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. (Exodus 17)*

**Read Exodus 39:8-21:** The Breastplate was sown into the ephod. It had 12 stones representing the 12 Hebrew tribes on it. Each tribe had a different tribal stone:

| 12 STONES FOR EACH 12 TRIBES/ BREASTPLATE                                                                              |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>REUBEN</b><br><br><b>SARDIUS</b>   | <b>SIMEON</b><br><br><b>TOPAZ</b>     | <b>LEVI</b><br><br><b>CARBUNCLE</b> | <b>JUDAH</b><br><br><b>EMERALD</b>    |
| <b>ZEBULON</b><br><br><b>SAPPHIRE</b> | <b>ISSACHAR</b><br><br><b>DIAMOND</b> | <b>DAN</b><br><br><b>LIGURE</b>     | <b>GAD</b><br><br><b>AGATE</b>        |
| <b>ASHER</b><br><br><b>AMETHYST</b>  | <b>NAPHTALI</b><br><br><b>BERYL</b>  | <b>JOSEPH</b><br><br><b>ONYX</b>   | <b>BENJAMIN</b><br><br><b>JASPER</b> |

A gem is said to have fire if the light shining on it reflects brightly. We do not have a light to share on our own. When we face God, who is light, we have more beauty. Even somewhat unattractive people by nature become attractive in a hard-to-explain way. Likewise, models can be hard to look at when they speak with tongues of devils.

*<sup>29</sup> Now it was so, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the Testimony were in Moses' hand when he came down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone while he talked with Him. (Exodus 34)*

**Read Exodus 39:22-31:** The priests blue under-robe had bells and pomegranates on the hem. They are celebratory. Pomegranates are eaten during Rosh Hashana. The pomegranate can have the approximate number of seeds as there are Mosaic Laws (613). The *land of plenty* is described as rich in produce, including the pomegranate. Pomegranates abundant seeds speak of fertility. The bible identifies 7 species of food in the land of Israel: pomegranate, wheat, barley, grapes, figs, olives, and dates.

*<sup>7</sup> For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, that flow out of valleys and hills; <sup>8</sup> a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; <sup>9</sup> a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing; a land whose stones are iron and out of whose hills you can dig copper. <sup>10</sup> When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you. (Deuteronomy 8)*

Bells are also symbols of not dying. Its proof of life to what is unseen. If the priest was in sin, and he goes into the tabernacle, God would kill him. It has been said that they would tie a rope around the foot of the priest when he went in, so that they could pull him out. As long as you heard those bells, he was still alive. In an abstract sense, they speak of unending living.

*<sup>34</sup> a golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, all around on the hem of the robe. <sup>35</sup> It shall be on Aaron <sup>[v]</sup> when he ministers; and its sound shall be heard when he enters and leaves the Holy Place before the Lord, so that he will not die. (Exodus 28:35)*

Why put the pomegranates and bells on the hem of the robe, and not on a lapel or around the neck, or someplace else?

1. **The Law of Tassels:** The commandment regarding the hem is found in the Torah, where the Israelites were instructed to attach tassels to the corners of their garments. [Numbers 15:38-39](#) states, "Speak to the Israelites and tell them that throughout the generations to come, they are to make tassels for the corners of their garments, with a blue cord on each tassel. You will have these tassels to look at so that you will remember all the commands of the LORD, that you may obey them and not prostitute yourselves by chasing after the lusts of your own hearts and eyes."

2. **Symbol of Authority and Identity:** The hem of a garment could signify the authority and status of the wearer. In [1 Samuel 24:4-5](#), David secretly cuts off a corner of Saul's robe, symbolizing his potential to usurp Saul's authority, yet he later regrets this act as a sign of disrespect towards the Lord's anointed.

3. **Healing and Faith:** The hem of a garment is also associated with miraculous healing in the New Testament. In [Matthew 9:20-21](#), a woman suffering from a bleeding disorder for twelve years approaches Jesus, believing, "If I only touch His cloak, I will be healed." Her faith in touching the hem of Jesus' garment results in her immediate healing, demonstrating the power and authority of Jesus.

4. **Cultural Significance:** The hem served as a visual reminder of the covenant between God and His people. It was a daily, tangible expression of their commitment to follow God's commandments and live a life set apart for Him. The blue thread in the tassels was particularly significant, symbolizing the divine and heavenly nature of God's law.

#### Theological Implications

The hem of a garment, as described in the Bible, underscores the importance of obedience to God's commandments and the recognition of divine authority. It serves as a reminder of the covenant relationship between God and His people, emphasizing the need for holiness and dedication to God's laws. The act of touching the hem of Jesus' garment in faith highlights the belief in His divine power and the accessibility of His healing and grace to those who seek Him earnestly.

In summary, the hem in biblical context is a multifaceted symbol that conveys themes of authority, identity, faith, and covenantal relationship with God. It reflects the deep spiritual truths embedded in the everyday lives of the Israelites and the transformative power of faith in the New Testament.

One big difference between eastern societies and western societies views relate to the identity and authority of a person. The eastern cultures believe that you are the product of those who have done the heavy lifting in prior generations. In western culture, our identity is completely separated from our family and our roles. Jesus is the uniquely anointed and empowered and prophesied as the one to be able to handle the momentous job.

**Read Exodus 39:32-43:** One thought that comes to my western mind is that all of this equipment and procedure and material is a lot of paraphernalia and effort. It is the opposite of my western mindset of just getting things done, with function over form. It really comes down the hidden reality. God let's us sweat and work at life with limited giftings and opportunities. Behind all of that business and activity is God handing us our daily manna. We cannot lose track of which world and effort is more virtual and which is the unseen reality behind all that we see.