

**Design of the Priestly Garments (c. early June – mid July 1446 BC)**

Exodus 28

**Priestly Garments for Aaron and His Sons**

1 “And bring near to you Aaron, your brother, and his sons with him from the midst of the Israelites to serve as priests for me — Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, the sons of Aaron.

2 And you will make holy garments for Aaron, your brother, for glory and for splendor.

3 And you will speak to all *the* skilled of heart, whom I have given a gift of skill, and they will make the garments of Aaron to consecrate him for his serving as my priest.

4 And these are the garments that they will make: A breast piece and an ephod and a robe and a tunic of specially woven fabric, a turban and a sash. And they will make holy garments for Aaron your brother, and for his sons to serve as priests for me.

5 “And they will take the gold and the blue and the purple and the crimson *yarns* and the fine linen,

**The Ephod**

6 and they will make the ephod of gold, blue and purple, *and* crimson *yarns*, and finely twisted linen, the work of a skilled craftsman.

7 It will have two joining shoulder pieces at its two edges, so that it can be fastened.

8 And the waistband of his ephod, which is on it, will be of like work to it—gold, blue, and purple and crimson *yarns* and finely twisted linen.

9 “And you will take two onyx stones and engrave on them the names of the Israelites,

10 *with* six of their names on the one stone and the remaining six on the second, according to their genealogies.

11 *As the* work of a skilled stone craftsman, *with* seal engravings you will engrave on the two stones the names of the Israelites; you will make them mounted *in* gold filigree settings.

12 And you will set the two stones on the ephod’s shoulder pieces *as* stones of remembrance for the Israelites, and Aaron will bear their names before Yahweh on his two shoulder pieces for remembrance.

13 “And you will make gold filigree settings.

14 And you will make two braided chains of pure gold ornamental cord work, and you will put the chains of the ornamental cords on the filigree settings.

**The Breastpiece**

15 And you will make a breast piece of judgment, a work of a skilled craftsman; you will make it like the work of the ephod; you will make it of gold, blue and purple and crimson *yarns*, and finely twisted linen.

16 It will be squared, doubled, a span its length and a span its width.

17 And you will fill it *with* stone mounting, four rows *of* stone, a row of carnelian, topaz, and emerald *is* the first row;

18 and the second row *is* a malachite, a sapphire, and a moonstone;

19 and the third row *is* a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst;

20 and the fourth row *is* a turquoise and an onyx and a jasper. Their settings will be woven *with* gold.

21 The stones will be according to the names of the Israelites, twelve according to their names, *with* seal engravings, each according to its name they will be for *the* twelve tribes.

22 “And you will make on the breast piece braided chains, a work of pure gold ornamental cord.

23 And you will make on the breast piece two gold rings, and you will put the two rings on the two edges of the breast piece.

24 And you will put the two gold ornamental cords on the two rings on the edges of the breast piece.

25 And you will put the two ends of the two ornamental cords on the two filigree settings, and you will put *them* on the shoulder pieces of the ephod at the front of it.

26 And you will make two gold rings, and you will place them on the two ends of the breast piece, on its edge that *is* on the other side of the ephod, to the inside.

27 And you will make two rings and put them on the two shoulder pieces of the ephod below at its front near its seam above the waistband of the ephod.

28 And they will tie the breast piece by its rings to the rings of the ephod with a blue cord to be on the waistband of the ephod, and the breast piece will not come loose from the ephod.

29 And Aaron will bear the names of the Israelites in the breast piece of judgment on his heart, when he comes to the sanctuary, for a remembrance before Yahweh continually.

30 And you will put the Urim and the Thummim on the breast piece of judgment, and they will be on the heart of Aaron when he comes before Yahweh, and Aaron will bear the judgment of the Israelites on his heart before Yahweh continually.

**The Robe**

31 “And you will make the robe of the ephod totally of blue *yarn*.

32 And the opening for his head will be in the middle of it; its opening will have an edge all around, the work of a weaver; it will be like the opening of a sturdy garment for it, *so that* it will not be torn.

33 And you will make on its hem pomegranates of blue and purple and crimson *yarns* on its hem all around and bells of gold in the midst of them all around,

34 a gold bell and a pomegranate, a gold bell and a pomegranate, on the hem of the robe all around.

35 And it will be on Aaron for serving, and its sound will be heard at his coming into the sanctuary before Yahweh and at his going out, so that he will not die.

#### **The Golden Diadem**

36 “And you will make a pure gold rosette, and you will engrave on it with seal engravings: “A holy object for Yahweh.”

37 And you will place it on a blue cord, and it will be on the turban, at the front of the turban it will be.

38 And it will be on the forehead of Aaron, and Aaron will bear the guilt of the holy objects that the Israelites will consecrate for all their holy gifts, and it will be on his forehead continually for acceptance for them before Yahweh.

#### **The Coat, Turban and Sash**

39 “And you will weave the tunic of fine linen, and you will make a turban of fine linen, and you will make a sash, the work of an embroiderer.

40 And for the sons of Aaron you will make tunics, and you will make for them sashes and headdresses; you will make them for glory and for splendor.

41 And you will clothe them—Aaron, your brother, and his sons with him—and you will anoint them and ordain them and consecrate them, and they will serve as priests for me.

#### **Undergarments for Modesty**

42 And make for them undergarments of linen to cover naked flesh; they will be from loins to thigh.

43 And they will be on Aaron and on his sons when they come to the tent of assembly or when they approach the altar to serve in the sanctuary, so that they will not bear guilt and die. *It is* a lasting statute for him and for his offspring after him.

## Instructions for the Priestly Ordination Ceremony (c. early June – mid July 1446 BC)

Exodus 29

### **Instructions for Consecration of Aaron and His Sons as Priests**

1 “And this *is* the thing that you will do for them to consecrate them to serve as a priest for me: Take one young bull and two rams without defect

2 and unleavened bread and unleavened, ring-shaped bread cakes mixed with oil, and wafers of unleavened breads smeared with oil. You will make them *with* finely milled wheat flour,

3 and you will put them on one basket, and you will bring them on the basket and *bring* the bull and the two rams.

4 And you will bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance of the tent of assembly, and you will wash them with water.

5 And you will take the garments and clothe Aaron with the tunic and the robe of the ephod, and you will fasten to him the ephod and the breast piece with the waistband of the ephod.

6 And you will set the turban on his head, and you will put the holy diadem on the turban.

7 And you will take the anointing oil and pour it on his head and anoint him.

8 And you will bring his sons and clothe them with tunics.

9 And you will gird Aaron and his sons *with* sashes and wrap headdresses on them. And priesthood will be theirs as a lasting rule, and you will ordain Aaron and his sons.

### **A Bull as a Sin Offering**

10 “And you will bring the bull before the tent of assembly, and Aaron and his sons will lay their hands on the head of the bull.

11 And you will slaughter the bull before Yahweh *at* the entrance of the tent of assembly.

12 And you will take *some* of the blood of the bull and with your finger put it on the horns of the altar, and you will pour out all the blood at the base of the altar.

13 And you will take and turn into smoke *on* the altar all the fat covering the inner parts and the lobe on the liver and the two kidneys and the fat that *is* on them.

14 And the flesh of the bull and its skin and its offal you will burn with fire outside the camp; *it is* a sin offering.

### **A Ram as a Whole Burnt Offering**

15 “And you will take the one ram, and Aaron and his sons will lay their hands on the head of the ram.

16 And you will slaughter the ram and take its blood and sprinkle *it* on the altar all around.

17 And you will cut the ram into pieces and wash its inner parts, and you will put its legs with its pieces and with its head.

18 And you will turn into smoke *on* the altar all of the ram; *it is* a burnt offering for Yahweh; *it is* a smell of appeasement, an offering by fire for Yahweh.

### **A Second Ram’s Blood—the Ram for Consecration**

19 “And you will take the second ram, and Aaron and his sons will lay their hands on the head of the ram.

20 And you will slaughter the ram and take *some* of its blood and put *it* on Aaron's *right* earlobe and on the right earlobe of his sons and on the thumb of their right hand and on the big toe of their right foot, and you will sprinkle the blood at the base of the altar all around.

21 And you will take *some* of the blood that is on the altar and *some* of the anointing oil, and you will spatter *it* on Aaron and on his garments and on his sons and on his sons' garments with him, and he will be sacred, and his garments and his sons and his sons' garments with him.

#### **Offering the Second Ram**

22 And you will take from the ram the fat and the fat tail and the fat covering the inner parts and the lobe of the liver and the two kidneys and the fat that is on them and the right thigh, because it *is* the ram of ordination.

23 "And one loaf of bread and one ring-shaped bread cake of oiled bread and one wafer from the basket of unleavened bread that *is* before Yahweh—

24 you will put *them* all on the palms of Aaron and on the palms of his sons, and you will wave them as a wave offering before Yahweh.

25 And you will take them from their hand and turn *them* to smoke on the altar beside the burnt offering as a fragrance of appeasement before Yahweh; it is an offering made by fire before Yahweh.

26 "And you will take the breast section from the ram of ordination that *is* for Aaron, and you will wave it *as* a wave offering before Yahweh. It will be your portion.

27 And you will consecrate the wave offering breast section and the thigh of the contribution that was waved and that was presented from the ram of the ordination that *is* for Aaron and for his sons.

28 And it will be for Aaron and for his sons as a lasting rule from the Israelites, because it is a contribution, and it will be a contribution from the Israelites from their sacrifices of fellowship, their contribution to Yahweh.

29 "And the holy garments that *are* for Aaron will be for his sons after him in which to anoint them and to ordain them.

30 Seven days the priest who replaces him from among his sons will wear them, who comes to the tent of assembly to serve in the sanctuary.

#### **Eating the Second Ram**

31 And you will take the ram of ordination and boil its meat in a holy place.

32 And Aaron and his sons will eat the meat of the ram and the bread that *is* in the basket at the entrance of the tent of assembly.

33 And they will eat them—the *things* by which atonement was made for them to ordain them to consecrate them—and a stranger will not eat *them* because they are holy objects.

34 If any remains until morning from the ordination meat or from the bread, you will burn the remainder in fire; it will not be eaten, because it *is* a holy object.

#### **Length of the Consecration Ceremony**

35 And you will do so for Aaron and for his sons, according to all that I have commanded you; seven days you will ordain them.

36 "And you will offer a bull for a sin offering every day for the atonement; and you will offer a sin offering on the altar when you make atonement for it, and you will anoint it to consecrate it.

37 Seven days you will make atonement for the altar, and you will consecrate it, and the altar will be a most holy thing. Anyone who touches the altar will be holy.

#### **The Daily Offerings**

38 "And this is what you shall offer on the altar: Two one-year-old male lambs every day continually.

39 The first lamb you will offer in the morning, and the second lamb you will offer at twilight.

40 And a tenth of finely milled flour mixed with a fourth of a hin of beaten oil, and a fourth of a hin of wine as a libation with the first lamb.

41 And the second lamb you will offer at twilight; you will offer a grain offering and its libation like that of the morning for a fragrance of appeasement, an offering made by fire for Yahweh.

42 *It will be* a burnt offering of continuity throughout your generations *at* the entrance of the tent of assembly before Yahweh, where I will meet with you to speak to you there.

43 "And I will meet with the Israelites there, and it will be consecrated by my glory.

44 And I will consecrate the tent of assembly and the altar, and Aaron and his sons I will consecrate to serve as priests for me.

45 And I will dwell in the midst of the Israelites, and I will be their God.

46 And they will know that I *am* Yahweh, their God, who brought them out from the land of Egypt in order to dwell in their midst. I *am* Yahweh their God.