

## Life-Study of Exodus Review - Messages 117-122

### The Priestly Garments – The Expression of Christ

The **priestly garments** as the **expression** of the priests were their **qualification, sanctification, glorification, and beautification**. It is a **life that expresses Christ with the divine glory and the human beauty** that actually sanctifies us and qualifies us to be the priesthood. We are held to the Lord Jesus by such a marvelous expression. If there were not such an expression in this universe, there would be nothing that could either bear us to or fasten us to Christ. We should take the picture in Exodus 28 in an all-inclusive way. We should see that in this chapter there is the picture concerning Christ with what He is bearing, that is, Christ **with** the church.

The expression of Christ signified by the garments is actually a **building**. The ephod was not worn by the high priest to protect him from cold and to keep him warm. Instead, the ephod was altogether for building; it was for the **linking together** of the breastplate and the two shoulder plates. These plates, no doubt, are a sign strongly pointing to the building. The breastplate worn by the high priest signifies the building. The precious stones on the breastplate were set in gold. Then the breastplate itself was linked to the ephod. The two shoulder plates on which were engraved the names of the tribes of Israel were also connected to the ephod. This shows that the ephod is related to the building.

### The Sanctification of Aaron and His Sons to be the Priests – Complete Sanctification

In Exodus 29, the word **sanctify** is used. To sanctify something is absolutely different from ordaining it or consecrating it. To sanctify means to set something apart with a certain **mark**. To be saved and set apart by the Lord is to be sanctified. The Lord's sanctifying always labels us, puts a mark upon us. **This mark is Christ Himself**. In order for someone to be set apart to serve God as a priest, his hands need to be **filled**. This filling up of the hands becomes a mark that sets him apart from everything that is common.

Priests are those who are **fully** sanctified. They are separated to God from **uncleanness**, from **nakedness**, and from their **sinful nature**. They are those who are not **empty-handed** or **empty within**. They have **all** the aspects of the **rich** Christ to be the mark of their sanctification. Sanctification includes being washed and clothed, being redeemed, offering the first ram as the burnt offering, and the second ram as a peace offering. Hallelujah for such a sanctification! After we have been sanctified in this way, we are **filled up with Christ and qualified to serve God as priests**. We are **covered** with Christ **outwardly**, and we are **filled** with Him **inwardly**. Therefore, we have the qualification to serve God as His priests. Moreover, we have something in our hands with which to serve Him: the all-inclusive Christ as the topmost holy portion for God's satisfaction. There is also a portion of Christ for us. All this is included in the peace offering. In the priestly service we enjoy a **peaceful feasting on Christ with God**.

We also need to see the matter of **saturation** and **transformation**. By eating Christ as the peace offering we are saturated with Him and transformed by Him and therefore are no longer **natural**. When the breast of the wave offering and the shoulder of the heave offering are taken into us, we are saturated and transformed. When Christ as the ram of the peace offering gets into us in this way, we are **constituted of Him to become a ram**. Eventually it will become clear to us that God wants to meet with us, speak with us, eat with us, and, eventually, **dwell among us**. This is the **goal** of the sanctification of Aaron and his sons to be priests.