

Items or articles of clothing worn by the Israelite High Priest (See Exodus chapters 28, and 39)



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Mitre

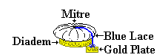
The mitre is a turban, or bonnet. Specifically a linen bonnet, white in color. The mitre contained a diadem at it's base. The Lord included a mitre as part of the temple attire as he said, ".....and thou shalt make the mitre of fine linen...." (Exodus 28:39). The mitre symbolizes the crown of purity and exaltation. It also represents purity of thought.

Ribbon

Ribbons symbolize sovereign or judicial power. It designates the power to bind and to loose. It also symbolizes covenants voluntarily accepted and entered into. The Lord commanded, "And thou shalt put it on a blue lace, that it may be upon the mitre; upon the forefront of the mitre it shall be. 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" (Exodus 28:36-37).



Gold Plate



The golden plate upon the forehead might explain John's repeated reference to having a name written upon your forehead. It symbolized devotion to the name inscribed. "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**. And they tied unto it a lace of blue, to fasten it on high upon the mitre; as the LORD commanded Moses" (Exodus 39:30-31).

Diadem

A crown worn as a sign of royalty. The diadem was the name given to what was referred to early on in the Old Testament as the holy crown. It was closely associated with the mitre. "And thou shalt put the mitre upon his head, and put the holy crown upon the mitre" (Exodus 39:6).

Coat

Over the temple clothes, the priest wore a full-length coat that cover the arms and body fully. "And thou shalt embroider the coat of fine line...." (Exodus 28:39). Coats symbolized protections and security.

Breastplate



A breastplate typically represents protection; however, the breastplate of the High Priests represented the power to judge. "And thou shalt make the breastplate of judgement with cunning work; after the work of the ephod thou shalt make it; of gold, of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, and of fine twined linen, shalt thou make it (Exodus 28:15)." The breastplate was made from the same fabric as the ephod (see explanation of the ephod). The fabric was doubled up and sown together like a large pocket. It was 6.5 inches by 9 inches in size. On the face of the breastplate were attached 12 stones, each set in a gold setting. Each stone represented a tribe of Israel. They are as follows;

Cornelian	Topaz	Emerald
Carbuncle	Sapphire	Onyx
Lugurius	Quartz	Amethyst
Chrysolite	Beryl	Jasper

Note that the stone colors do not reflect the same color that we might associate to the specific stones. In ancient times, the stones might have gone by different names or they might be related to strains of the modern stone containing slightly different or less common coloring. Upon each stone was engraved the name of the corresponding tribe of Israel.

The breastplate had a golden ring on each upper and lower corner. A chain or cord of braided golden strands would attach to the upper ring. They cord would then carry over the priest's shoulder, across his back to the opposite side of his body and attach to the lower ring on the opposite side of the breastplate from whence it started.

The backside of the breastplate contained a pouch or pocket, which held the Urim and Thummim or the two seer stones.

Robe

The robe was a dress like garment that laid under the ephod. *"And thou shalt make the robe of the ephod all of blue. And there shall be an hole in the top of it, in the midst thereof: it shall have a binding of woven work round about the hole of it, as it were the hole of an habergeon, that it be not rent (Exodus 28:31-32)."* It was a long close fitting gown, slightly longer than the Ephod, and containing no sleeves. It was to be seamless and of fine linen. It was a dark blue-purple in color. The hems of the robe, both the neck, arms and lower hem, were to be very strong and prevalent. On the lower hem, the robe was decorated with ornamental pomegranates and golden bells. The



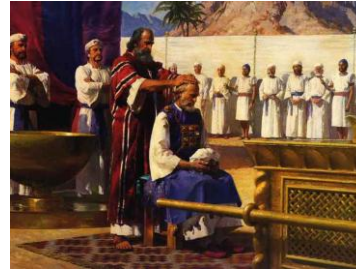
pomegranates were made from yard and alternated between dark blue, dark red, purple and crimson. A robe symbolizes sovereignty. It symbolizes the power of Heaven entrusted to mortal man. It is often phrased, the robes of the priesthood, since the priesthood is the power to act in God's name.

Girdle

The dictionary defines a girdle as a belt or sash worn around the waist. It was made from the same material as the ephod. It is a symbol of strength, consecration, and readiness. The girdle can symbolize one's power. *"And the curious girdle of the ephod, which is upon it, shall be of the same, according to the work thereof; even of gold, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen (Exodus 28:8)."* The girdle was the binding element of the cloths. Symbolically, it represents the binding powers of the covenants that the wearer has taken upon himself.

Ephod

The ephod was a side-waist coat worn by the priest. Its appearance was to be very specific. The Lord tailored it as follows, *"And they shall make the ephod of gold, of blue, and of purple, of scarlet, and fine twined linen, with cunning work" (Exodus 28:6).* Josephus said that the ephod represents the four elements of the universe compounded into one. This might have reference to the fact that the ephod had 4 distinct corners, making it square in nature.



**Moses ordaining
Aaron a High Priest**
(Note Aaron's attire, as well as
the priests in the background)

Bells, Pomegranates, & the Hem

Bells symbolize the connection between heaven and earth. They are often associated with prayer and the voice of God. The pomegranate fruit symbolizes faithfulness. *"And beneath upon the hem of it thou shalt make pomegranates of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, round about the hem thereof; and bells of gold between them round about: A golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, upon the hem of the robe round about (Exodus 28:33-34)."* The hem of a garment represents the persons power and authority.



Breeches

Breeches were undergarments that covered the hips and the thighs. *"And thou shalt make them linen breeches to cover their nakedness; from the loins even unto the thighs they shall reach (Exodus 28:42)."* Most feel that the priest also wore a white, close fitting, linen undershirt with long, loose fitting sleeves woven of cotton yarn. Some go even further to conclude that the undershirt flowed all the way to the priest's ankles. At any rate, we know that they wore breeches. Breeches represent the great power of repentance and the atoning graces of Jesus Christ. They, indeed, cover our nakedness.

Gold

The color gold symbolizes the sun, eternity, exaltation, and royalty. It is often used to represent God. His glory and power are often compared to the luster of Gold.

Purple

The color purple symbolizes royalty, humility and submission. It is often used to symbolize Kings and exaltation.

Blue

The color blue is a symbol of the sky and heaven. It can be used to symbolize the Celestial Kingdom and God's presence.

Scarlet

The color scarlet symbolizes blood and the atonement. It is used to symbolize sin and the removal of sin. It is closely associated with the Savior.

The Clothes of the High Priests in the Ancient Temple

