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Exodus 28. These are God's words. Now, take Aaron your brother and his son's with him from among the children of israel that he may minister to me as priest. Aaron and Aaron's sons, nadab abiots are andithamar and you shall make holy garment for air in your brother.

For glory and for beauty. So you should speak to all who are gifted artisans. You might have filled with the spirit of wisdom that they make errands garments to consecrate him. That he may minister to me as priest. And these are the garments, which they shall make. A breastplate an effort, a robe, a skillfully woven tunic.

A turban and assess. So they shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother and his sons. That he may minister to me. As priest. They shall take the gold blue purple and scarlet thread and the fine linen and they shall make the effort of gold. Blue, purple and scarlet thread.

And fine. Woven linen. Artistically worked It shall have two shoulder straps joined at its two edges and so it shall be joined together. And the intricately wasn't banned of the even which is on it shall be of the same workmanship. Made of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet thread and find woven linen.

Then you shall take two onyx stones and engrave on them. The names of the sons of israel. Six of their names on one stone and six names on the other stone and order of their birth. With the work of an engraver in stone, like the engravings of a signet, You saw engrave, the two stones of the names of the suns of israel.

You shall set them in settings of gold. And you shall put the two stones on the shoulders of the effort, as a memorial as memorial stones for the sons of israel. So Aaron shall bear their names? Before y'all went on his two, shoulders, as a memorial. You should also make settings of gold, you shall make two chains, a pure gold, like braided, cords, and fasten, the braided chains to the settings.

You shall make the breast plate of judgment artistically, artistically woven, according to the workmanship of the efid, you saw make it of gold, blue, purple and scarlet, thread and find women linen. You shall make it It should be doubled into a square. A span shall be its length and a span shall be a twit.

And you shall put settings of stones in it, four rows of stones. The first row shall be a sardius. The topaz and an emerald. This shall be the first row. The second row shall be a turquoise. The sapphire and a diamond. The third row adjacent to naggett and Amethyst and the fourth row of barrel on Onyx and a jasper.

They shall be set in gold settings. And the stones shall have the names of the sons of israel 12, according to their names. Like the engravings of a signet. Each one with its own name. They shall be according to the 12 tribes. You shall make chains for the breastplate at the end like braided cords of pure gold and you shall make two rings of gold for the breastplate.

And put the two rings on the two ends of the breast plate. Then you shall put the two braided chains of gold in the two rings which are on the ends of the breastplate, and the other two ends of the two braided chains, you shall fasten to the two settings.

And put them on the shoulder straps of the ephod on the front. You shall make two rings of the two rings of gold and put them on, the two ends of the breastplate on the edge of it, which is on the inner side of the ephod and two other rings of gold.

You shall make and put them on the two shoulder straps underneath the ephod towards its front right at the seam above, the intricately woven band of the ephod. They shall bind the breastplate by means of its rings. To the rings of the ephod using a blue cord so that it is above the intricately woven band of the ephod and so that the breastplate does not come loose from the ephod.

So, Aaron shall bear the names? Of the sons of Israel and the breastplate of judgment over his heart. When he goes into the holy place as a memorial before Yahweh continually. And you shall put in the breastplate of judgment, the Urim, and the Thummim. And they shall be over.

Aaron's heart when he goes before in before Yahweh So Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel over his heart before Yahweh continually. You so make the robe of the ephod all of blue. There shall be an opening for his head in the middle of it and shall be a woven binding all around its opening.

Like the opening and a coat of mail so that it does not tear. And upon it's him you shall make pomegranates of blue purple and scarlet all around its hem and bells of gold between them all around a golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell, and a pomegranate upon the hem of the robe all around.

And then shall be upon Aaron when he ministers and it sound will be heard when he goes into the holy place before Yahweh, and when he comes out that he may not die, You so also make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it, like the engraving of a signet holiness to Yahweh And you shall put it on a blue cord, that it may be on the turban, it shall be on the front.

Of the turban. So, it shall be on Aaron's forehead. That Aaron may bear the iniquity of the holy things which the children of Israel hallow and all their holy gifts, And it shall always be on his forehead, that they may be accepted before Yahweh. You shall skillfully weave the tunic of violet and thread.

You shall make the turban a fine linen and you shall make the sash of woven work. For Aaron's sons, you shall make tunics and you shall make sashes for them and you shall make hats for them for glory and beauty. So, you shall put them on Aaron in your brother and on his sons within You're so anoint them consecrate them and sanctify them.

That they may minister to me. As priests. And you shall make for them. Linen. Trousers to cover their nakedness. They shall reach from the waste to the thighs. They shall be on Aaron and on his sons, when they come into the tabernacle of meeting, or when they come near to the altar, To minister in the holy place.

That they do not incur iniquity and die. It will be a statute forever to him. And his descendants. After him. So far the reading of God's inspired and there it worked. Well, we have here a chapter that at least when we read it in family worship, in our house took A little over seven minutes just to read the passage and it's all about making clothing.

Uh, no, maybe some of you girls are into that or perhaps even A boy might be. Into that, we had some Young men. And my former congregation that were really into leather working and And so forth. Um, but it is not in and of itself, particularly interesting. Um, at least to me.

To read about clothing being made except That as long as clothing has existed. It has been a redemptive object. In fact, the first clothing was a very bad at redeeming or covering You remember the first clothing man was Originally in the garden naked before God and unashamed. And one of the first things that he that happened to him when he fell into transgression.

Was he? He and his wife realized their eyes were open, they realized that they were naked. And they needed to. Hide from one another and they needed to hide from god. And they tried fig leaves which Didn't work very well. It works as well. Just actually it works better than trying to cover.

Uh, yourself with your own works and you know, making up to god by what you do, the, the sin and the guilt that is On you but you remember one of the things, one of the first things that God did after he promised that he would provide a seed to the woman who had crushed.

The serpent said that, not only with the woman have many in whom god replaced, the enmity with himself that we had come into by our sin with an enmity, with the devil and put enmity in their hearts between them and the devil. But he promised that from among The seed of the woman there would be that one seed.

Who would crush the serpent's head and having made that promise. And And adam. And now eve because he named her Eve had a faith in the promised responding to the promise. Of of god. About the seed that would come from her who now was the mother of all the living.

God. Uh, did clothe them, he Clothed them with skins and of course, an animal had to be sacrificed. An animal had to lose his life. For them to be clothed with the skins. So god is revealed himself ever since he proclaimed. The gospel in the first time as a god who covers nakedness and that continues here.

As Aaron comes representing the people. His clothing reminds him that he's representing a people who are being redeemed by God and his clothing, reminds him that god is reversing punishment that he really ought to die if he comes near the living. God, but that god who has provided for him away of coming.

Through which you will not die, and that's not just, you know, all the right sacrifices with all the right blood and all the right procedure and all the right garments but that way of course, is the lord jesus. That the lord has clothed him with clothing. That reminds him that god is the one who is Making it possible for him, providing away of coming near god without dying, reversing punishment and even building into the clothing.

A reminder that he's a reminder that he's not just covering his nakedness and reversing his punishment, but that he is restoring paradise. That the lord jesus restores for us doesn't just remove from us the wrath of god but restores to us fellowship with god, which is the paradise. Of.

Of eden. And so in the first place, the clothing communicates. Um, As he clothes their mediator, he's reminding us that we are going to be clothed. With the mediator, the lord jesus, the great high priest. The one who's priesthood already is in concept from all eternity and into which he comes, Finally in practice when he takes on creaturliness when he becomes a man so that he can be He can be selected from among men.

To do his faithful priestly work, which he entered into around the age of 30. Just as the ironic priests would come into the fullness of their priestly work. That age. And so in the first place, Aaron. Who as high priest would be for Israel, a picture of the great high priest.

Uh, was first of all clothes with clothing that? Communicates representation. Before you always of this long chapter roughly, half of it is spent on the two Onyx stones, each was six. Six of the names of the tribes of Israel on it. That go on the shoulders. And then the 12 stones the breast.

Peace or breast pouch. I know we say breast plate and it's translated breastplate here but it's a fabric thing. It's not a metal thing. The only plate is the thing that goes on the hat that says holiness to always and it's a pouch, it's bent over. It's a square once.

It's been over and it would have the Urim and the Thummim in it and it would have and it had a different stone for each of the tribes of Israel. Each one of them their own stone Urim unique in the type of stone and unique, of course, with their own particular name, put on it and The Lord gives us these, thus Aaron shall.

So Aaron shall there in verse 12, and then Again. In verse, Urim, I'm missing one. Uh, yes, in in verse 30. Oh, right before in verse 29, in verse 29, thus Aaron shall, bear the names first ten. Thus Aaron shall bear the names. Verse 29. And thus, Aaron shall bear the judgment.

Of the children of Israel over his heart, verse 30. And whenever you get, those dusts statements God, the Holy Spirit is helping us understand, pay attention to the significance. What we're supposed to take away from the passage otherwise Yeah, maybe we're really into figuring out which every would you know, which one of those gemstones are and maybe we're really into your textile or artistic person and just figuring out, you know, just how it would look in that super interesting to you.

Well, that may be super interesting to you, but what God wants to interest you in, he often gives us clues in the text and here's one of those clues. And, and he spends roughly half the chapter on the fact that the names of the sons of Israel are going to be born before God by their Mediator.

The gemstones, in particular we already mentioned communicating how personal and individual. Representation would be and not just representation in to a redeemed state but also representation into a council state that we would be saved from the guilt of our sin. And we would also be saved. They would also be saved from the power of their sin.

What a great thing, it would be that they would have Urim. In fact, the Urim and Thummim are not mentioned very often in the rest of Scripture. And a couple of the places that they're mentioned is after they returned from the exile and they have questions that they just can't answer Because they don't have any messengers in high priest, what an advantage it would have been to have God to tell them to give them.

The answer to be able to take the Urim and the Thummim. Ask God. All right the Lord which one and he would make the right one come up. In fact one of the other places, we didn't put all the in. All the occurrences of Urim and Thummim your outline like we did when we had the devotional this week.

But one of the other ones was when God had stopped speaking to his people. And he would not answer whether by Urim or by Thummim, and Thummim and so one of the blessings Of having a mediator who brings you to God as that. You not only have your sin covered.

And so you are personally represented before god. But he also, Also that god is reminding us that he is our counselor that he is. Our teacher, and you see that connection of redemption and council under redemption, And, and council that we sang, it not to Too many minutes ago and we sang psalm 32 and the instruction that god gives to us.

When we've been redeemed asaph and psalm 73 when he realizes that god has redeemed him for himself that the wicked whom he hit ending had been envying, they were in a slippery place, he didn't want to be in their place about to be destroyed suddenly and disastrously And that the god who had redeemed, him was also the one who was taking him by the hand, who is guiding him by his counsel and afterward would receive him into glory.

So even even the the realization that god has made himself our teacher, our guide, our counselor in jesus. We don't deserve that, but he's put away our sin and he has brought us near And, and the representation. Of our Redeemer. And he even He even gives us something better than the Onyx stones and the stones.

On the breast piece. We won't take the time now to look at Song of solomon 86 and Isaiah 49. Verse 16. You always saying I have. Engraved, you upon my hands. Um, And then of course, revelation 2 verse 17, those in the lord has redeeming, the gives them the white stone with The name engraved on that, this is something that the lord communicates to us throughout scripture, That each of us is personally known by him.

Brought near to him in the lord jesus each of us who believe in the lord jesus as brought near by faith. And we have that personal representation before y'all may, i suppose if you're an israelite. And you were aligned with or part of a particular tribe. You would know what your gemstone is and which row it was in on the pouch.

On, on the breast piece. And that was a way of communicating to them that they were personally represented. Uh, well, the lord still wants us to think. That way that not only are his people corporately represented In heaven by christ. But each of you individually are to, to think of yourself, know yourself.

Each of you who believe in jesus, he personally represents you In heaven. Mediates Mediates for you, and then there's this reversal of punishment. They've been Um, closed from heaven. You can see the heaven clothing because it's using the heaven fabric. How often have we seen the the blue red purple and scarlet thread and finally live in linen.

Whether it was On the on the ceiling of the holy place or on the screen. The veil between the holy place and the holy of holies and now it's like heaven itself is clothing, the high priest and and the if it is made out of it in the breast pieces made out of it and the band Um, is made out of those as it were.

Heavenly materials. And so heaven is clothing. Man again but this time not god is clothing man, again. But not now with animal skins but with materials that represent a clothing that comes from heaven itself. There is a hint here, isn't there? Of the lord, jesus christ, the blood of bulls, and goats could not attend for sin, it could not consecrate us.

They could not be the sacrifice, and Aaron could not be the priest that we needed nor any of the sons of Aaron. Could they be the priest? Because they had to offer offerings for their own sin? They were in danger of dying because of their sin before god and no such danger was our lord jesus christ.

The only sin he has ever born resorts. And he bore it just for a few hours and he was done with it for it. Had been fully punished upon him and now the clothing does not come Uh, from

animals who are slaughtered with the clothing comes From heaven himself, we get Jesus as our clothing, both in the justification as we've been thinking about just now.

But also in glorification. Remember that the The saints are given garments, which are righteous acts. And we have that, of course, in Revelation, 19 verse 8. And then in Ephesians 5 verse 27, we are clothed with righteousness and there is that language, and a few different places of putting off and putting on.

And it is Christ himself, especially Whom we are putting on it, as he whom this spirit applies to us. As he fits us for heaven, have the Lord, Jesus is not just, not only our justification, all of our righteousness before God, and the sacrifice who has put away our sin.

But from him comes that fitness Because you and I we can't see the Lord, it would not be heaven if we were not holding. And we have to have that holiness without which we cannot see the Lord. And so, He continues to dress us. To enter beyond the veil where he As is preparing us to enter.

And Aaron. And his sons themselves. Uh, you hear in the passage, he actually uses the language that they may not die that they may not die. And he uses the language of covering their nakedness, he's reversing the punishment, he's not just reversing the punishment, the the covering of their nakedness at the end of the chapter, certainly reminds us of Eden, but so also to the pomegranates The other the fruit that would have been, you know, quite out of place in the wilderness when that with this was first given But it reminds them that God is restoring to them.

The fellowship that they had in the garden. Now, maybe you really like pomegranates. Uh, I like the tartness, you know, you might not like it so it doesn't work for you, but I I like the tartness. It's like a little great juice pieces on steroids, you know, their giant you smashing the top top of your mouth and That's wonderful, but the, the The paradise of Eden was not pomegranates or any of the other fruit that was there.

The great paradise of Eden was unbroken unrestrained unashamed fellowship with the living God, the ability. Uh wait a minute, some of you know this Um, In. There's a question in what condition did God make Adam and Eve? Was that the question? He made them holy and happy, didn't he?

And, In order to be in God's presence and be happy, you have to be holy. And the pomegranates were reminding them that. Their time as sinners their days as sinners were numbered your days as a sinner. Dear question. Our numbered. And so, underneath the, the, you know, we wear robes over things but the row actually goes under the event and you'd have that little bit, you know, his head would stick out and they had the stitching to make sure it wouldn't, you know, where out, like the coat of mail and But then on the bottom sticking out from underneath would be the pomegranate, the bell, and the pomegranate and the bell.

And You know the bells are tinkling and what are the bells doing? It's not reminding. God not to kill Aaron. God already remembers not not to kill Aaron. It's reminding Aaron that God has made the way for him to not die and that God is restoring to him that fellowship that he can have with God.

The the one day you and I who have been brought near God in Jesus, Christ will have been conformed to the image of Christ and our fellowship will God will have been perfectly restored will be perfectly holding. We will delight fully in him and we will have fully Him in whom we delighted.

That's a lot of theological weight. Isn't it for the head of a robe to carry? Uh, but they're, they're aaron, is moving around and he can still hear those bells tinkling. And it's literally ringing in his ears that he's in the presence of god and he's not dead. And that the reason is because god is restoring the fellowship of eden.

Through the coming priesthood of the lord jesus christ. And, you know, that the fact that he's not just close from heaven, but as close for heaven is literally written on his forehead. In case, in case he missed it, the gold plate that says holy to yahweh Um, now The perhaps.

In well, probably not in your families, but In my family, my brothers and i, we all had the same socks except for mine had a baby blue. Jay embroidered in the big toe of every one of them and then, you know, victor has had the green v and marks had the red end.

Um, and i don't know who picked the colors, but those were and left an impression. I still remember my color, not just my letter. Um, but those socks were set apart to me, i know who's they were. I knew whose saksas were because they were mine and you know came in handy.

When you did things later, like go to camp and they're 10 million kids and God, labels. Aaron's clothing. Because he has set the people that he has redeemed apart to himself. This one is mine. Holy. To your way. And, And it's that it's the front of the top of his hat and it's attached.

And this is an actual plate, it's a gold plate. Um, that is engraved. Holy. Holy to y'all way. Paradise is being restored. It's not just clothed from heaven. But he's clothed for heaven. That we may enter into the holiness of god. And not just be say, but happy know that we belong there.

That that's home. For us. As to be holy. Onto your way. And you know, it's interesting one of the The concluding part of the passage that Uh, gives people such theological difficulty. It shall be a statute forever to him and his descendants after him. And they say, aha. You know, israel was supposed to continue forever.

Well They knew that. There was another priesthood coming. We just sang it with them. Yeah we sang Psalm 110 and solidarity with at least a thousand years Jews. Um, Between david and And the resurrection. Rejoicing over the priest who would be priest forever after the order of Melchizedek? And, you know, the apostle in Hebrews says, you knew that when the priest came, the law would come That, that priesthood and that ceremonial law's days were numbered.

Because they meant to look forward to him whose blood could actually take away sin him. Who came from heaven to become a man to be a man. So that he could be our priest and he who has returned to heaven as our anchor, and our forerunner and has taken up his position and the holy of holiness and secured for us our position.

In the holy of holies. And his priesthood is forever. And if the nation of israel was to understand that they had been saved for heaven by a golden plate attached to a hat on the forehead of their high priest who had died. How much more? We to know and rejoice in the fact that we have been redeemed for heaven.

By the fact that we are clothed in christ himself and his clothing is priest is himself. In him, we have been set apart. To god and we saw come surely into everything. Um you know when it says that he lives forever to intercede for us by the power of his indestructible life and that therefore he is able to save us to the uttermost that intercession is not merely verbal.

That intercession is the fullness of all that he does. As our representative christ himself is not only the mediator, he is. The mediation. And so, i ask you. First. Uh, are you a believer in jesus? So, have you been clothed with christ in your justification? Because the moment that you have believed in jesus christ, you are as righteous before god as you will be on the day.

When you are when jesus returns, you stand before him, like we're hearing this morning and you're declared righteous in him. You've already been declared righteous in him if you're a believer and so your clothed in christ's righteousness, that way. Uh, but if your clothing, christ's righteousness, that way. Then you have a perfect priest already.

And he is further clothing. You now not only with his righteousness, counted for you, but when he has done with you, You will look just like him morally. Spiritually before god. That is what Those whom God are saving, were predestined for. To be conformed to the image of christ.

So that those whom he justified, he also glorified and it was so sure when paul wrote it that he could write it and passed since he even though it was still for the vast majority of us a future event. How marvelous? That we Have had christ as our representative christ, who reversed our punishment and christ to restores us at last to the paradise of perfectly.

Holy unashamed unfettered fellowship with god. Let's pray. We thank you, father for How merciful you were to your people in the church under age? Uh, with so much less instruction and revelation about who jesus would be and what he will have done. And yet you gave them these pictures.

That would communicate so much. About what jesus would accomplish. Um, so we praise you for the way you are, merciful to them and gave them that Um, In part lord, because Although, we have many more details. We are very slow of understanding. And slow to appreciate and lay hold of what we understand.

And so we ask that your spirit Uh, would Um, Bless us with an increased knowledge of and grasp and Enjoyment of Each of our personal representation in your son. Our lord jesus. And, And the reversal of our punishment in him. Um, And the restoration of our paradise. In him.

Oh, lords do give us the joy. Of the lord jesus, that you would be our great delight. And that this would be expressed in loving you with all the hearts all mind and strength. And, Even more, particularly expressed than in the perfect obedience that comes from that o lord, we hate our disobedience and large part.

Because of what it says about the imperfection of our love towards you, But you chose us that we will be holy and blameless before you in love. And so keep doing that work. We pray even that you have pictured to us in this passage even using our hearing. Of this passage preached in that part of your work.

So we ask it in jesus name, amen.