

THE STORY OF MOSES

Aunt Hattie's Bible Stories

by

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There is a free paraphrase of Scripture passages in use quite frequently throughout this book in the interest of youthful minds.
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CHAPTER TWENTY-NINE

THE GARMENTS OF THE PRIESTS

But what good would the tabernacle, the court, and the furniture be without someone to meet God in it and to commune with Him?

That was all in the mind of God. After He had given Moses the patterns for these things He said,

“And take Aaron, your brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office, even Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons. And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother for glory and for beauty” (Exodus 28:1).

So important were the garments of the priests that God gave Moses a long and detailed description of them.

The materials were of the very richest, gold, blue purple and scarlet.

The under-garments were of linen and consisted of trousers and coat. Over these the high priest wore the robe of the ephod, a long seamless garment made of blue linen and tied at the waist with a girdle.

On the bottom of the robe were embroidered in blue, purple and scarlet, pomegranates (from myrtle tree) which represented fruitfulness. Between these designs of pomegranates were little golden bells whose tinkling could be heard outside of the tabernacle.

Some have thought that the people, as they were gathered outside, were always fearful when the priest went into the presence of God in the Holy of Holies. So long as they could hear the tinkling of the bells upon his robe they knew he was all right.

A short garment called the ephod, made in two pieces, back and front, and reaching to the knees was worn over the robe of the ephod. It was fastened together at the shoulders by two onyx stones (many colored quartz) on each of which were engraved the names of six of the tribes of Israel.

The ephod was made of gold thread, blue, purple and scarlet and was very costly.

Fastened to the ephod by threads of gold and ribbons of blue was the breastplate, a sort of linen case with twelve pockets, in four rows with three in a row. Each pocket contained a precious stone on which was engraved or carved the name of one of the tribes of Israel.

So, you see, when the priest ministered before the Lord he bore upon his shoulders of strength, and upon his heart of love, the names that represented all of his people.

Very curious and mysterious were the Urim and Thummin which were in some way connected with the breastplate. What they were is not at all certain. The words mean "*lights and perfections,*" and may have been used, in some unknown way, to lead the priest to know God's will.

Last of all, the headdress of the priest was called the mitre.

It is hard to know just what it looked like, perhaps something like a turban. It was made of white linen and its only trimming was a band of gold fastened with a ribbon of blue. On the band of gold were the words, "**Holiness to the Lord.**"

The garments for Aaron's sons were the linen coat and breeches with a girdle at the waist. They also wore bonnets which were different from the mitre worn by the high priest.

What did it all mean?

So much it would take too much space to tell it in so small a book. Aaron, too, was a picture of Jesus Christ and even the clothes he wore pictured Christ in many ways.

In the Book of Hebrews, we read that Aaron went into the tabernacle to appear before God for his people, but that Jesus Christ sits upon the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens. That is, as Aaron was an earthly priest for his earthly people Israel, so Jesus Christ is a heavenly Priest in God's presence for His saved or heavenly people.

~ end of chapter 29 ~

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