

# The Tabernacle Priestly Garments

## The High Priest's Attire

- Exodus 28:1-43
- Composed of eight elements. The first four are unique to the High Priest, which are in addition to the standard priestly uniform in the last four.
  - Ephod – 28:6-14
    - Like an apron with shoulder pieces.
    - Made of gold wire/thread and linen of blue, purple, and red.
    - Two onyx stones engraved with the names of the twelve tribes were set in gold, one on each shoulder.
  - Breastplate – 28:15-30
    - Woven of the same material as the ephod.
    - 1 span (9 inches) by 1 span (9 inches) and likely a pouch.
    - Twelve stones are engraved with the names of the twelve tribes and attached with golden settings.
    - The Temple Institute ([templeinstitute.org](http://templeinstitute.org)) relates the colors of the stones to the colors of the flags carried by each tribe (Numbers 1:52) based on a passage in the *Midrash* (Bamidbar Rabbah 2:7). Here is what they believe the modern names of the stones and their colors would be:

<b>Levi</b> Agate <i>Red, White, &amp; Black Striped</i>	<b>Simeon</b> Jade <i>Green</i>	<b>Reuben</b> Ruby <i>Red</i>
<b>Zebulon</b> Quartz <i>Clear</i>	<b>Issachar</b> Lapis-Lazuli <i>Blue</i>	<b>Judah</b> Carbuncle <i>Bluish Green</i>
<b>Gad</b> Agate <i>Grey</i>	<b>Naphtali</b> Amethyst <i>Purple</i>	<b>Dan</b> Turquoise <i>Blue</i>
<b>Benjamin</b> Opal <i>All Colors</i>	<b>Joseph</b> Onyx <i>Black</i>	<b>Asher</b> Aquamarine <i>Blue Green</i>

- Golden chains attach the Breastplate to the shoulder settings on the ephod.
- *Urim* and *Thummim* are placed in the pouch behind the breastplate.
  - These are a great mystery and there is no description of them.
  - I think they are two gemstones that signified “yes/true” or “no/false” through which God communicated His will.

- Robe – 28:31-35
  - Made of blue material (wool?) with sewn edges that would not fray.
  - The bottom edge had golden bells and “pomegranates” made of colored yarn.
- Plate/Crown – 28:36-38
  - Made of gold and worn across the forehead engraved with: קדש ליהוה
- Mitre/Turban – 28:39-41
  - Made of white linen, and part of the priest’s standard uniform.
  - It is believe the High Priest wore his in a different style.
- Coat – 28:39-41
  - Made of white linen, and part of the priest’s standard uniform.
- Girdle/Sash – 28:39-41
  - Made of white linen, and part of the priest’s standard uniform.
- Pants – 28:42-43
  - Made of white linen, and part of the priest’s standard uniform.

## Truths from the Tabernacle

- White linen represents righteousness, implying that even in service to God there was need for more righteousness above their own. – Revelation 15:6, 19:8
- Linen also speaks of authority (see Genesis 41:42 and Esther 8:15 for examples), thus symbolizing the authority granted to the Priests. They did not act in the own power, but in God’s.
- The innermost linen layer represents the righteousness of Christ as our High Priest. Without His righteousness He could never take on the role of Savior and Intercessor. – Hebrews 7:26-27
- The linen breeches I think represent that there is no hidden sin under the righteousness.
- Israel (the twelve tribes) is represented on both the shoulders of the ephod and the breastplate. Christ will rule over Israel (note the use of shoulders in Isaiah 9:6) and reveals Himself through them (see Deuteronomy 7:7-9)
- “HOLINESS TO THE LORD” – The greatest truths illustrated in the Tabernacle involve God’s holiness: its greatness, how it separates sinful man from Him, how it must be respected, how it must not be impugned or infringed, how it must be satisfied for reconciliation with God, how it may be imputed to man, how Christ fulfilled it, and so on. He could have chosen any other words (love, justice, etc.) but chose specifically to again highlight holiness. Never underestimate the importance of God’s holiness.