

God's Plan

Later Israel would be given a king after God's own heart and eventually that line would lead to Jesus

But it was not enough

In spite of all God's effort, the Jewish nation time and again went after other gods

And of all the pieces of the priestly uniform he mentions specifically, the Ephod



What's an Ephod?

An apron or long vest style garment worn to show submission or service to God

An item of ceremonial, sacred significance, much like an idol or other special item to be worn or used

Anything can become an Ephod

Not all Ephods are a good thing



Other Ephods

Young Samuel was ministering before the Lord in an Ephod (1 Samuel 2:18)

In 1 Samuel 22 the 85 priests Saul had killed were identified as wearing linen ephods

And who could forget (2 Samuel 6:14)
Wearing a linen ephod, David was dancing before the Lord with all his might.



The Priest's Ephod

"Make the ephod of gold, and of blue, purple and scarlet yarn, and of finely twisted linen—the work of skilled hands. It is to have two shoulder pieces attached to two of its corners, so it can be fastened. Its skillfully woven waistband is to be like it—of one piece with the ephod and made with gold, and with blue, purple and scarlet yarn, and with finely twisted linen. "Take two onyx stones and engrave on them the names of the sons of Israel in the order of their birth—six names on one stone and the remaining six on the other.

The Priest's Ephod

Engrave the names of the sons of Israel on the two stones the way a gem cutter engraves a seal. Then mount the stones in gold filigree settings and fasten them on the shoulder pieces of the ephod as memorial stones for the sons of Israel. Aaron is to bear the names on his shoulders as a memorial before the Lord. Make gold filigree settings and two braided chains of pure gold, like a rope, and attach the chains to the settings.

Exodus 28:8-14

The Making of...

Unlike other pieces we don't get a lot of facts on the design look

Specifically, it was a woven garment like much of the other pieces

Intricate Detail (Skilled)

Four colors

- Gold the color of purity
- Blue the color of law
- Purple the color of royalty
- Scarlet the color of sacrifice



The Making of...

All four of these color's meaning can be easily connected to Jesus

Gold: He lived a pure sinless life

Blue: He was the fulfillment of the law

(Matthew 5:17)

Purple: He was from the house and line of God's chosen king

Scarlet: He was to be God's perfect sacrifice



The Making of...

The weaving process for this garment would have been more how light armor was made

The gold would have been made into wire (Exodus 39:3)

The thread would have been twisted around the wire and then made into "fabric"



The 2 Onyx Stones

Each stone was to contain six names of the tribes of Israel

They were then to be fixed on the garment on top of the shoulders

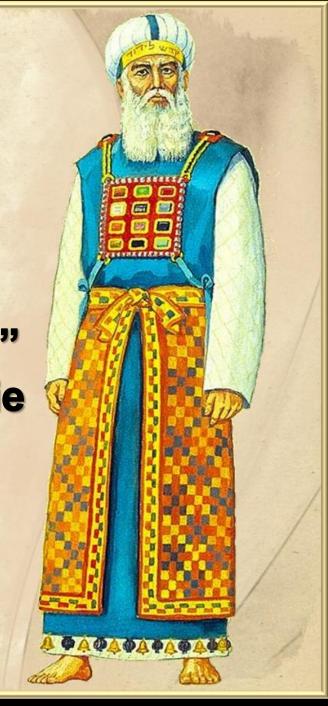
Symbolically every time the priest would wear the garment, he took the weight and responsibility of the entire nation on his shoulders



The 2 Onyx Stones

When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."

1 Peter 2:23-24



Where it Fits

Ephod would have been that piece that went over the robe but was the connecting point for the breast plate

The robe we discussed as the symbol of God's law and our testimony

The breastplate of discernment

What is that piece of our faith that goes between what God said, How We Live, and Understanding God's will

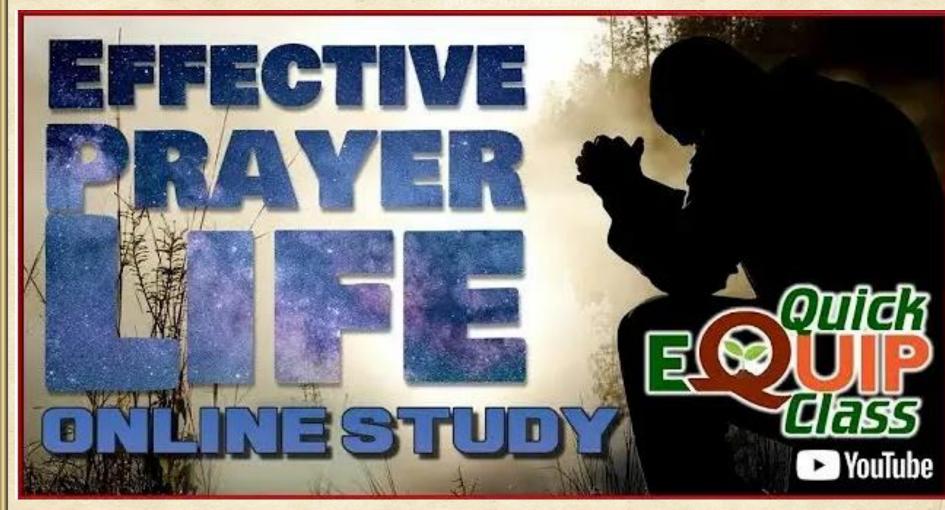


Prayer Bring me the Ephod!

When David learned that Saul was plotting against him, he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod." David said, "Lord, God of Israel, your servant has heard definitely that Saul plans to come to Keilah and destroy the town on account of me. Will the citizens of Keilah surrender me to him? Will Saul come down, as your servant has heard? Lord, God of Israel, tell your servant."

1 Samuel 23:9-11

Prayer





To be an effective prayer your motives should be pure in seeking God

When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

James 4:3



To be an effective prayer your conscience should be clear under God's law

Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective

James 5:16



To be an effective prayer you must be willing to submit to God's authority in your life

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14



To be an effective prayer you must be willing to offer completely; think a sacrifice

May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.

Psalm 141:2



