

Hebrews - A Letter Addressed to Modern-Day Christians

Part 5

The Role of Jesus Christ as our High Priest

Hebrews 2:9-18 [NIV] *“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. He says, “I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises.” And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again he says, “Here am I, and the children God has given me.” Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. **For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.**”*

In this passage of scripture we see that one of the reasons for the Incarnation, God becoming human, in the person of Jesus Christ, the Son of Man was for us to have a merciful and faithful High Priest.

Through Jesus Christ the Godhead can completely identify with humanity.

For us to fully appreciate the role of Jesus Christ as our High Priest we have to look back to the office of the high priest under the Old Covenant.

Hebrews 5:1 [NIV] *“Every high priest is selected from among men and is appointed to represent them in matters related to God, **to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.**”*

The two major functions of a high priest revolve around the offering of gifts to God and a sacrifice for our sins.

Essentially in God’s Word we find that only a priest is qualified to offer gifts and sacrifices to God.

1 Samuel 13:5-14 [NIV] *“The Philistines assembled to fight Israel, with three thousand chariots, six thousand charioteers, and soldiers as numerous as the sand on the seashore. They went up and camped at Michmash, east of Beth Aven. When the men of Israel saw that their situation was critical and that their army was hard pressed, they hid in caves and thickets, among the rocks, and in pits and cisterns. Some Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear. He waited for seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul’s men began to scatter. So he said, “Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings.” And Saul offered up the burnt offering. Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him. “What have you done?” asked Samuel. Saul replied, “When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Michmash, I thought, ‘Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the LORD’s favour.’ So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering.” “You acted foolishly,” Samuel said. “You have not kept the command the*

LORD your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the LORD's command."

Saul lost his kingship over Israel because he offered a sacrifice himself instead of waiting for Samuel the high priest to arrive.

In God's scheme of things there can be no basis for a long-term relationship with God without two things, a high priest and a covenant.

If we desire to have an on-going relationship with God, whether we realise it or not, it is dependent on a high priest, Jesus Christ, and a covenant, the New Covenant that Jesus Christ introduced to humanity just before His death and then ratified with His own blood sacrifice.

Luke 22:14-20 [NIV] *"When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfilment in the kingdom of God." After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "**This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.**"*

Jesus now our High Priest and the New Covenant we are to make with Him as our Saviour.

The two main roles of a high priest:

a) **To offer sacrifices** on behalf of the sins of humans, for until the sin issue is dealt with no-one can have access to God.

Isaiah 59:1-2 [NIV] *"Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; **your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.**"*

God will not compromise or pollute His Holiness by even looking on sin.

The only God-appointed remedy for sin is a blood sacrifice.

Romans 6:23 [NIV] *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

The end result of sin is death, our death or a substitute death to provide the blood sacrifice.

Deuteronomy 12:23 [NIV] *"But be sure you do not eat the blood, because the blood is the life, and you must not eat the life with the meat."*

Our physical life is dependent on the flow of blood in our body, if our blood is shed then we die. Only a priest can make this sacrifice so our access to God is totally dependent on a priest.

b) **The other function of a priest mentioned in this scripture is to receive gifts from people to offer to God.**

In the democratic culture we live in, it seems strange that we have to go through a priest to offer gifts to God, but this is how God has ordered it should be.

We will see the logical reason behind this later in our studies.

Hebrews 8:4-5 [NIV] *“If he were on earth, he would not be a priest, for there are already men who offer the gifts prescribed by the law. They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: “See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.”*”

Jesus as the Son of Man was not qualified to be a priest during his earthly ministry because He was not born of the appointed Levitical tribe.

The Levitical priestly functions were a copy or shadow of what is real in Heaven.

Therefore, it is only logical that when we study the functions of the Old Covenant Levitical priesthood we are being shown the functions of the Heavenly priesthood in **the original, pre-Levitical priesthood of Melchizedek, that is without beginning or end.**

Psalm 110:4 [Jerusalem Bible] *“Yahweh has sworn an oath He will never retract, you are a priest for ever of the order of Melchizedek.”*

A Messianic psalm pointing to the priesthood of Jesus the Son of God, an eternal priesthood.

We find the garments of the Levitical high priest described in Exodus 28. These garments were essential for his duties as a high priest.

Exodus 28:4, 36-37 [NIV] *“These are the garments they are to make: a breastpiece, an ephod, a robe, a woven tunic, a turban and a sash. They are to make these sacred garments for your brother Aaron and his sons, so that they may serve me as priests.” ... “Make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it as on a seal: HOLY TO THE LORD. Fasten a blue cord to it to attach it to the turban; it is to be on the front of the turban.”*

Seven pieces in all.

Exodus 28:5 [NIV] *“Make them use gold, and blue, purple and scarlet yarn, and fine linen.”*

Materials that went into the making of the high priest’s garments each of these materials and colour I believe have symbolic meanings.

Gold – gold never loses its value. We can buy just as much with an ounce of gold today as we could 30-40 years ago, which is more than you can say of any other currency.

Gold is symbolic of the never-changing divinity and holiness of God.

Blue – symbolic of what is heavenly, we all know that the **sky is blue.**

Scarlet – the **colour of blood**, the colour **symbolic of humanity.**

The name of the first man was Adam, made from the dust of the earth.

The **Hebrew** for **Adam** is **“Adamah”**, the Hebrew for blood is **“dam”**, the centre of **“Adamah”**.

Blood is the distinctive feature of our earthly body.

A spirit body does not have blood in it.

Luke 24:39 [NIV] *“Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have **flesh and bones**, as you see I have.”*

Even **Christ after His resurrection** said He had flesh and bones but did **not mention blood.**

Deuteronomy 12:23 [NIV] *“But be sure you do not eat the blood, because the blood is the life, and you must not eat the life with the meat.”*

Our physical life is maintained in the blood that flows around our body.

Purple – is a mixture of blue [heavenly] and scarlet [earthly].

It is also the colour of royalty.

“To wear the purple” was to become the Emperor of Rome.

John 19:2-5 [NIV] *“The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe and went up to him again and again, saying, “Hail, king of the Jews!” And they struck him in the face. Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.” When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!”*

This was a prophetic statement. A crown, a purple robe, and given title of King of the Jews. Also introduced by Pilate as *“the man”*.

Genesis 3:17-18 [NIV] *“To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat of it,’ “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.”*

The curse that was placed on the rebellious Adamic race was symbolised by thorns and **thistles [which have a purple flower!]**

Jesus died after wearing a crown of thorns and a purple robe.

Jesus the Son of Man was the only man who could take on the burden of the curse that rebellious humanity had rightly received from the Creator God.

Galatians 3:13-14 [NIV] *“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.” He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.”*

The curse of the law is the death of all who rebel against God’s principles for holiness.

Christ’s death on a [tree] wooden stake or cross redeemed us from the curse.

Christ by this act also opened up to us the active presence of the Holy Spirit who will produce in us the principles of holiness that is the fruits of the spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23 [NIV] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”*

The major fruit is that of love and love fulfils all the law of God.

Romans 13:9-10 [NIV] *“The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” Love does no harm to its neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.”*

The active Holy Spirit in us is the only way we can fulfil the law of God.

Fine linen – finely twisted [woven] linen is the symbol of purity or righteousness.

Revelation 19:7-8 [NIV] *“Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)”*

Fine, woven linen worn by the bride of Christ is symbolic of the righteous acts of the saints.

This righteousness is not the righteousness credited to us by faith in what God has done for us in Jesus Christ.

Romans 4:22-24 [NIV] *“This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.” The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness, for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.”*

This righteousness is translated from the Greek word **“dikaios” imputed righteousness.**

The righteousness in revelation is translated from the Greek word **“dikaioma” worked out righteousness** – the result of our love for others being a reflection of the love God has for us.

Philippians 2:12 [NIV] *“Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence, continue to **work out your salvation with fear and trembling,**”*

This is why this command to **“work out”** our salvation.

God expects the love He gives to us as a “fruit” of our intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit to flow out to others in acts of love.

John 7:38-39 [NIV] *“Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, **streams of living water will flow from within him.**” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.”*

The active presence of the Holy Spirit in us cannot be stagnant. This love He generates in us must flow out to others, along with all the other **“fruits”** of the Holy Spirit in us.

Matthew 22:11-14 [NIV] *“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was **not wearing wedding clothes.** ‘Friend,’ he asked, ‘how did you get in here without wedding clothes?’ The man was speechless. “Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ “For many are invited, but few are chosen.”*

The weaving of this wedding garment [worked out righteousness] is essential to our future marriage to Jesus Christ as part of His Church, the saints.

The garments of the high priest

Ephod – Exodus 28:6 [NIV] *“Make the ephod of gold, and of blue, purple and scarlet yarn, and of finely twisted linen, the work of a skilled craftsman.”*

Made up of all the materials mentioned and was a garment **only** worn by priests.

The ephod reached from the breast to the thighs and was held by two shoulder bands and a sash.

The emphasis throughout this description of the garments is that all parts are held very securely together, symbolising unity of God’s people in the presence and worship of our Creator God.

Engraved jewels – Exodus 28:9-14 [NIV] *“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. 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.”*

These jewels representing all of God’s people were on the shoulder bands of the priest’s ephod, so were always before God and on the place of strength which our shoulders depict.

Isaiah 9:6 [NIV] *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the **government will be on his shoulders.** And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*

Shoulders the place of rule, authority and power.

Luke 15:5 [NIV] *“And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders”*

Christ carried the lost sheep on His shoulders indicating total support with all His power and authority.

The breastplate – Exodus 28:15-29 [NIV] *“Fashion a breastpiece for making decisions, the work of a skilled craftsman. Make it like the ephod: of gold, and of blue, purple and scarlet yarn, and of finely twisted linen. It is to be square, a span long and a span wide, and folded double. Then mount four rows of precious stones on it. In the first row there shall be a ruby, a topaz and a beryl; in the second row a turquoise, a sapphire and an emerald; in the third row a jacinth, an agate and an amethyst; in the fourth row a chrysolite, an onyx and a jasper. Mount them in gold filigree settings. **There are to be twelve stones, one for each of the names of the sons of Israel, each engraved like a seal with the name of one of the twelve tribes.** “For the breastpiece make braided chains of pure gold, like a rope. Make two gold rings for it and fasten them to two corners of the breastpiece. Fasten the two gold chains to the rings at the corners of the breastpiece, and the other ends of the chains to the two settings, attaching them to the shoulder pieces of the ephod at the front. Make two gold rings and attach them to the other two corners of the breastpiece on the inside edge next to the ephod. Make two more gold rings and attach them to the bottom of the shoulder pieces on the front of the ephod, close to the seam just above the waistband of the ephod. The rings of the breastpiece are to be tied to the rings of the ephod with blue cord, connecting it to the waistband, so that the breastpiece will not swing out from the ephod. “Whenever Aaron enters the Holy Place, **he will bear the names of the sons of Israel over his heart on the breastpiece of decision as a continuing memorial before the LORD.**”*

Once again all the materials are used with twelve different stones, names of God’s people not only supported on shoulders corporately but also next to his heart individually.

Notice all pieces are fastened together by gold chains or gold rings to make them eternally inseparable from the high priest.

Hebrews 13:5 [NIV] *“Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “**Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.**”*

The promise God has made to His children.

Romans 8:35-39 [NIV] *“**Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”** No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, **nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**”*

The love God has in His heart for us will never change or forsake us.

This is symbolised by the blue [heavenly] cords that hold together all the garments of the high priest.

Ephesians 4:4-7 [NIV] *“There is **one body and one Spirit**, just as you were called to **one hope** when you were called, **one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.***”

Individuality must stem out of corporate unity.

Seven basic things that give us unity in the body of Christ, the church, are followed by the individuality that we have in this corporate unity.

This picture we have of the high priest is one of total commitment to God’s people and faithfully representing them before God the Father.

This is the job of Jesus Christ the High Priest of the New Covenant we have with God the Father.

Urim and Thummin – Exodus 28:29-30 [NIV] *“Whenever Aaron enters the Holy Place, he will bear the names of the sons of Israel over his heart on the breastpiece of decision as a continuing memorial before the LORD. Also put the Urim and the Thummim in the breastpiece, so they may be over Aaron’s heart whenever he enters the presence of the LORD. Thus Aaron will always bear the means of **making decisions** for the Israelites over his heart before the LORD.”*

Used for making decisions or judgements, by some form of supernatural response to prayer. Traditionally these were two precious stones that God caused to light up, one for yes and one for no.

The robe – [the garment underneath the ephod].

Exodus 28:31-32 [NIV] *“Make the robe of the ephod **entirely of blue cloth**, with an opening for the head in its centre. There shall be a woven edge like a collar around this opening, so that it will not tear.”*

Blue indicating a heavenly ministry.

Hebrews 9:24 [NIV] *“For **Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God’s presence.**”*

Christ now the Heavenly High Priest.

He is our “urim and thurrim” when we go to Him for guidance in the decisions we make and He speaks to us through His Word [The Christian Bible] and His Representative on earth at this time, the Holy Spirit.

The bells and pomegranates – Exodus 28:33-35 [NIV] *“Make **pomegranates of blue, purple and scarlet yarn** around the hem of the robe, with **gold bells** between them. The gold bells and the pomegranates are to alternate around the hem of the robe. Aaron must wear it when he ministers. The sound of the bells will be heard when he enters the Holy Place before the LORD and when he comes out, so that he will not die.”*

A bell symbolises a testimony or confession.

The sound of bells is often used to draw attention to something that will be beneficial to hear or see.

The pomegranate is a fruit.

What lesson is there for us to learn?

Don’t have a bell unless we have a pomegranate.

That is, don't try to give a testimony unless God has already produced "fruit" of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

The bell also speaks of holiness, that is the presence of the Holy Creator God.

Are we in a constant state of holiness?

That is, do we constantly have an active presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives?

Every move we make in life must be "sounding out Holiness" like a constant ringing bell.

1 Timothy 2:5 [NIV] *"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,"*

Note when referring to **Jesus as our High Priest He is still called "the Man Christ Jesus."**

When Jesus the Son of God became the Son of Man it was not for just 33 years, it was forever.

There is now a man at God's right hand, a fact we should meditate on.

Jesus is the ultimate mixture of scarlet [human blood] and blue [heavenly] making purple [the colour of royalty and authority].

Jesus has always, as The Word been God.

John 1:1-5, 14 [NIV] *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it." ... "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."*

Now Jesus as our High Priest is the firstborn of a new race, the Immanuel race [God and human joined as one].

All are the mixture of scarlet and blue [purple] and born to rule.

Our being "born again" of the Holy Spirit causes us to be born into the same new Immanuel race, leaving behind our old Adamic nature.

Romans 6:3-11 [NIV] *"Or don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin, because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus."*

Revelation 5:10 [NIV] *"You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."*

One thing which all this description of the garments of the high priest impresses on us is that God demands total holiness in all people who approach His Holy Presence.

The plate – Exodus 28:36-37 [NIV] *“Make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it as on a seal: HOLY TO THE LORD. Fasten a blue cord to it to attach it to the turban; it is to be on the front of the turban.”*

As this plate was attached to the front of the turban headdress **the first thing that God saw when the high priest entered into His presence was a gold plate declaring “Holy to the Lord”** [“consecrated to Yahweh” Jerusalem Bible].

This plate was fastened to the turban by a blue cord, that is something established in heaven that nothing on earth can change.

Exodus 28:38 [NIV] *“It will be on Aaron’s forehead, and he will bear the guilt involved in the sacred gifts the Israelites consecrate, whatever their gifts may be. It will be on Aaron’s forehead continually so that they will be acceptable to the LORD.”*

The plate will deal with any guilt we may have so that any gifts we offer to God will be acceptable as part of our worship of Him as our Creator.

Our gifts are only accepted by God the Father because of the Holiness of our High Priest.

What gift from us does our Creator really desire as an act of worship?

Romans 12:1 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

The Greek word translated here as “bodies” is “soma” meaning the whole physical body, mind and human spirit [**Job 32:8; Proverbs 20:27; 1 Corinthians 2:11**].

The Old Testament sacrifice indicated is the “burnt offering” sacrifice in which all the animal was burnt up on the altar not one part was given to priests or the person making the offering!

Without a high priest we can have no relationship with God the Father.

John 15:5 [NIV] *“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”*

This statement made by Christ should now have even greater meaning for all of us.

Also remember the reverse is just as true.

Philippians 4:13 [NIV] *“I can do everything through him who gives me strength.”*

With Christ in us by the active presence of the Holy Spirit, there is no limit to what God can do through us.

John 14:12-14 [NIV] *“I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”*

Claim this promise from Christ our all powerful High Priest.

Tunic – Exodus 28:39-43 [NIV] *“Weave the tunic of fine linen and make the turban of fine linen. The sash is to be the work of an embroiderer. Make tunics, sashes and headbands for Aaron’s sons, to give them dignity and honour. After you put these clothes on your brother Aaron and his sons, anoint and ordain them. Consecrate them so they may serve me as priests. **“Make linen undergarments as a covering for the body, reaching from the waist to the thigh.** Aaron and his sons must wear them*

whenever they enter the Tent of Meeting or approach the altar to minister in the Holy Place, so that they will not incur guilt and die. "This is to be a lasting ordinance for Aaron and his descendants."

Although the tunic was not seen because it was covered by the other garments it had to be made of fine woven linen, the outworking of righteousness and purity.

The only people who knew if the priest was wearing this undergarment was God and the high priest himself.

There are parts of our lives only known to God and ourselves, yet God expects purity in these areas also.

The area covered by this undergarment could also indicate that sexual purity is demanded by God on sentence of death.

Dressing for the office of High Priest

Exodus 28:41 [NIV] *"After you **put these clothes on** your brother Aaron and his sons, **anoint and ordain** them. **Consecrate** them so they may serve me as priests."*

- a) **Put the garments on** – the personal qualifications.
- b) **Anointed** – a gift of supernatural grace.
- c) **Ordain** – two Hebrew words meaning *"to fill the hand"* indicating authority, means and direction.
- d) **Consecrated** – set apart, dedicated and proclamation of their task.

I feel all of us at some time must go through these four phases in our Christian life if we are to be used as God has called us to be used in His Service.

Ephesians 2:8-10 [NIV] *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no-one can boast. **For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**"*

We have been saved by grace not by works but for works that God has prepared for us before our calling.

As we have seen in this study, God does not leave us guessing what is expected of us if we are to be acceptable servants of His.

Matthew 5:48 [NIV] *"Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."*

This is only accomplished by a complete surrender to the will of the Holy Spirit and total commitment to Jesus Christ.

But what wonderful rewards await those who accept this invitation and challenge.

Romans 8:16-18 [NIV] *"The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs, heirs of God and **co-heirs with Christ**, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."*

Attaining this glorious inheritance will involve pain, suffering and self-denial but the reward is beyond anything we can imagine.