



Message 2-24-18
Tetsaveh-You Shall Command
Exodus 27:20-30:10
1 Samuel 15:2-34
Revelation 21:12-14

Introduction

The Torah now moves to establish the *Kahunah*, the priesthood, through Aaron and his sons. They are provided with special clothing and adornments to distinguish them from the other Israelites and to mark them for sacred service. The Kohen Gadol, High Priest, is unique in his attire.

Exodus 28:29-30

29 "Aaron shall carry the names of the sons of Israel in the breast piece of judgment over his heart when he enters the holy place, for a memorial before the LORD continually. ³⁰ "You shall put in the breast piece of judgment the Urim and the Thummim, and they shall be over Aaron's heart when he goes in before the LORD; and Aaron shall carry the judgment of the sons of Israel over his heart before the LORD continually. (NAU)

02833 אֶפְדָּיִת choshen {kho'-shen}

Meaning: breastplate, breast piece, sacred pouch of the high priest designed to hold the Urim and Thummim

Many times, I have wondered about why the Almighty chose Aaron as the first High Priest of Israel after what he had to do with the Golden Calf and the fact that he molded it.

Exodus 32:1 When the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered themselves together to Aaron and said to him, "Up, make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." ² So Aaron said to them, "Take off the rings of gold that are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." ³ So all the people took off the rings of gold that were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. ⁴ **And he received the gold from their hand and fashioned it with a graving tool and made a golden calf.** And they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" ⁵ When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a feast to the LORD." ⁶ And they rose up early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings. And the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play. (ESV)

Aaron was the one who made the Golden Calf and then lied to Moses about it. How Aaron survived the killing that Moses ordered, I would assume we will not know the details until such a time the Almighty shares them with us. Then the Holy One chooses Aaron to be High Priest and minister before Him, but it may be this was Aaron's atonement before the Lord to act as an intercessor between the people and the Almighty. He was to wear a breastplate that contained stones that represented the twelve tribes of Israel. He also had the Urim and Thummim under the breastplate. The Urim and Thummim were to be used by Moses to answer questions that were placed before the Holy One. Initially Moses could seek the Almighty's counsel when he needed it, or the Almighty would call Moses to the Tent of Meeting when He wanted to talk to him. Eventually, this would change and apparently, from Joshua on, they consulted with the High Priest who would use the Urim and Thummim to ask the questions of the Holy One.

It was the breastplate of judgment and the Urim and Thummim were the same. Aaron would bear the Children of Israel before the Lord, intercede on their behalf, and bring to them the judgment of the Almighty. Perhaps this was part of Aaron's judgment for his part in the sin of the Golden Calf? He would be the first High Priest who would enter the Holy of Holies bearing the sins of the people as well as his own. The High Priest would make intercession on behalf of the people and himself, and if all did not go well - we know what could have happened. Aaron had to confront his sin with the making of the Golden Calf as well as his lie to Moses concerning it. He would have to spend the rest of his life thinking about what he had done and the fact that he lost two of sons in the dedication week as priests when they disobeyed the Holy One and paid for it with their lives. The Almighty could be a stern task master, and to disobey Him could result in paying the ultimate price.

1 Samuel 15:22-29

22 Samuel said, "Has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, *and* to heed than the fat of rams. ²³ "For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has also rejected you from *being* king." ²⁴ Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned; I have indeed transgressed the command of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and listened to their voice. ²⁵ "Now therefore, please pardon my sin and return with me, that I may worship the LORD." ²⁶ But Samuel said to Saul, "I will not return with you; for you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel." ²⁷ As Samuel turned to go, *Saul* seized the edge of his robe, and it tore. ²⁸ So Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to your neighbor, who is better than you. ²⁹ "Also the Glory of Israel will not lie or change His mind; for He is not a man that He should change His mind." (NAU)

We can tie this passage to our Torah reading for this week because in the story of Saul, the first king of Israel, we see a man who was determined to do things his own way rather than following the instructions of Samuel. Saul was an impatient man and impetuous. He could not wait, and if something did not happen exactly when he was told it would, he took matters into his own hands and messed it up. Aaron messed things up and spent

the rest of his life atoning for his mistake. Saul would be removed as king, and the divine calling would be passed on to somebody else.

1 Samuel 13:14 But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought out a man after his own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you." (ESV)

Samuel passes on what the Almighty told him that his kingdom would end because the Holy One sought out a man after His own heart, and this man would be king over Israel. It would be the last time Samuel would see Saul. Samuel was close to Saul, and I am sure it hurt him that the Almighty turned away from Saul, but he knew what Saul had done, and a leader must be in total submission to his Creator. Imagine what could have been for mankind if we had only followed the instructions of the Holy One and turned to His Son Yeshua for redemption? Sadly, Saul is a representative of what man had become and not what man could be. This still continues on today, and there seems to be no end to it.

Revelation 21:12-14

12 It had a great, high wall with twelve gates; at the gates were twelve angels; and inscribed on the gates were the names of the twelve tribes of Isra'el. ¹³ There were three gates to the east, three gates to the north, three gates to the south and three gates to the west. ¹⁴ The wall of the city was built on twelve foundation-stones, and on these were the twelve names of the twelve emissaries of the Lamb. (CJB)

Interesting, in the New Jerusalem there would be twelve gates with the names of twelve tribes on Israel on them. We would have to assume that Joseph is now one of these tribes replacing Ephraim. In the roll call of Revelation, Manasseh is mentioned and Dan left out, but the God of Israel is in control, so we will see what takes place. The wall of the city was built on twelve foundation stones with the names of the twelve emissaries or apostles of the Lamb. I have also wondered which of the twelve emissary's names will be on the foundation stones. The reason I mention this is because the eleven emissaries chose the replacement for Judas, and everyone always focuses on Paul. While most of the books in the Apostolic Scriptures were written by Paul, is he the twelfth Emissary? It's a strong possibility because he was chosen by the Messiah Yeshua on the road to Damascus. No lots were cast for him. Is he the greatest of the Emissaries? Based on writings, one may think so, but we do not have much from the other Emissaries, yet they were very active also.

Acts 9:10 There was a *talmid* in Dammesek, Hananyah by name; and in a vision the Lord said to him, "Hananyah!" He said, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹ The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to Straight Street, to Y'hudah's house; and ask for a man from Tarsus named Sha'ul; for he is praying, ¹² and in a vision he has seen a man named Hananyah coming in and placing his hands on him to restore his sight." ¹³ But Hananyah answered, "Lord, many have told me about this man, how much harm he has done to your people in Yerushalayim; ¹⁴ and here he has a warrant from the head *cohanim* to arrest everyone who calls on your name." ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, because this man is my chosen

instrument to carry my name to the *Goyim*, even to their kings, and to the sons of Isra'el as well. ¹⁶ For I myself will show him how much he will have to suffer on account of my name." (CJB)

No matter who the person is, what they have done, or intend to do, nothing can stand in the way when Messiah reaches out and grabs hold of them. We need to be like Abraham and Moses, who when called by the Holy One answered, "Here I am." Are you a Moses or Aaron? Are you a Saul or David? Are you a Shaul or Elymas? Will you answer the call when it comes from the Holy One of Israel? Are you one of His or someone who sits on the fence? If you are then you have a problem.

Revelation 3:15 "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, **I will spit you out of my mouth.** ¹⁷ For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. (ESV)

You might think that money brings you whatever you want, but the truth is, once you get it, you do not want to let go, and you want more. This is not the Lord's way because the Lord has instructed us to help the widow, orphan, and those in need. There is an adage, and that is, "You can't take it with you." Isn't that the truth!

Torah Man say: "Have a purpose in life, and having it, throw into your work such strength of mind and muscle as God has given you."

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

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TORAH: LEARN IT, LOVE IT, LIVE IT AS YESHUA DID! PSALM 119



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