

Sheepfold Gleanings

TETZAVEH - YOU SHALL COMMAND

Exodus 27:20 to 30:10

Ezekiel 43:10-27

Romans 12:1 to 13:14

Continued from the last study: Terumah

Review: The Israelites have just betrothed themselves to Yahweh (Exodus 24:1-11) and Moses set himself apart for a time to receive Yahweh's plans for the tabernacle called a *mishkan* in Hebrew. This same word, *mishkan*, is also a reference to the Bridal Chamber. In the last study we learned about the *mishkan* furnishings; this week we look at the garments to be worn by Yahweh's priesthood when ministering before Him in the *mishkan*.

Oil for the Menorah

Exodus 27:20-21

Olive oil is derived from olive trees. Wild olive trees, called *oleaster*, grow throughout most of the Mediterranean countries and bear little fruit. Domesticated olive trees belong to the family of *olea europaea*, flowering flora of which jasmine and lilac are also members. There are hundreds of varieties of olives, and like the grape, the climate and soil in which the trees are grown determine whether the olives they produce will be pressed for oil or used in eating.

The culturing of olive trees requires the patience of generations of agriculturists. The olive tree is green and non-deciduous, with a gray trunk that appears wrinkled and knotty. An olive tree takes twenty-five to fifty years to mature; however, it begins to give fruit six to eight years after planting. This evergreen tree stands anywhere from ten to fifty feet high. The average tree will yield about twenty-two pounds of olives during harvest, and the best yields are often from mature trees exceeding two hundred and fifty years of age.

The leaves of the olive tree live for about three years before dying to make way for new leaves. Olive leaves are paired opposite each other down the branches. They are single and undivided, rather like a willow leaf, lance-shaped, shiny, and leathery.

An olive tree blooms in late spring with clusters of white flowers. Depending on the variety, there can be anywhere from ten to over forty flowers in a cluster, but only one in every twenty flowers will become an olive. Olive trees are self-pollinating by means of the wind.

Olive trees prefer a hilly terrain and grow best at one to two thousand feet above sea level in lime soil. These trees are small, with deep roots, thirsty, with small olives and pits, and a high content of oil particles. In early autumn and spring the soil in the groves is plowed and weeded, and the

trees pruned. Pruning is most important and is labor intensive. You must thin the growth on the crown of the tree so the fruit-bearing branches can be exposed to the sun and air.

There is not one part of this “eternal” tree that a person cannot utilize. Olive trees are resilient—they do not die of neglect, need little water, and produce for decades. During the winter, a tree handpicked by shaking or beating the branches can yield two to four pints of olive oil—thus the finished product is expensive. Olives yield about twenty percent of their weight to oil. Some olive trees live to be more than two thousand years old, however the average is two hundred years.

Exodus 27:20-21 "And you shall command the children of Israel that they bring you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, *to cause the lamp to burn continually*. In the tabernacle of meeting, outside the veil which is before the Testimony, Aaron and his sons shall tend it from evening until morning before Yahweh. *It shall be a statute forever to their generations on behalf of the children of Israel.*" (Leviticus 24:2)



Sons of Fresh Oil
The Parable of the Ten Virgins
Believers in the End Times

Matthew 25:1-10

"Then the kingdom of heaven [*the supreme Messianic term of Yahweh in the flesh, Yeshua; as well as a term for the Messianic/millennial Era also known as the 7000th year, which we are in today*] shall be likened to ten virgins [*references to believers; also to the ten lost tribes of Israel returning to walk in the ways of Yeshua and thirdly to the whole House of Israel*] who took their lamps [*symbol for the Word of Yahweh*], and went out to meet the bridegroom [*their Messiah*]. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. [*Wise: are believers walking in Yahweh's principles, their Marriage Covenant given at Mount Sinai. The foolish/unwise: are believers knowing Yahweh's principles but not walking faithfully in them or their Marriage Covenant*]. Those who were foolish took their lamps and **took no oil with them**, but the wise **took oil in their vessels with their lamps.**"

In the above scripture, oil is a reference to what is produced in a believer's thoughts, heart, walk and lifestyle relative to obedience in Yeshua's commandments. Five is a reference to the five books of Moses (Torah). Moses wrote about Yeshua (John 5:46-47). The five wise virgins are

believers with an adequate supply of oil, who live in accordance with the testimony/covenant of Moses and walk in the Spirit of Yeshua, obeying His Word. The five unwise virgins are believers who lack enough oil in their walk and who, over time, purposefully neglected to appropriate Yeshua's words into their heart and lifestyle. It is a commandment to keep the oil in the lamp burning perpetually. Yeshua is the only oil that produces the light for the menorah. Torah and the commandments on their own cannot produce oil or, therefore, light. Only when Yeshua and Torah come together in our hearts will the oil yield the flow needed to produce the light *in that day*. Walking in the principles/commandments (Torah) of Yahweh in Yeshua is what gives the lamp/menorah its light. The five wise virgins are believers who not only walk in heart relationship with Messiah but keep His principles given at Mount Sinai (John 14:23-24; Psalm 119:105; Proverbs 6:23).

🌿 **Zechariah 4:11-14** “Then I answered and said to him, “What are these two olive trees -- at the right of the lampstand/*menorah* and at its left?” And I further answered and said to him, “What are these two olive branches that drip into the receptacles of the two gold pipes from which the golden oil drains?” Then he answered me and said, “Do you not know what these are?” And I said, “No, my lord.” So he said, “These are the two anointed ones [*House of Israel and the House of Judah*], who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth.” (Jeremiah 31:31-33; Hebrews 8:8-10)

“Now while the bridegroom was delaying [*preparing a place for the bride*], all the virgins got drowsy and began to sleep” (Matthew 25:5).

Sleep is a reference to a believer having the principles/Torah but not appropriating them into their lifestyle or walk, thus scripture references them as one who is sleeping. We are reminded that the bride is to be “watchful” and to keep her lamp burning continually. The decorations on the lampstand/*menorah* in the tabernacle were fashioned after the almond blossom. The word for ‘almond’ in Hebrew shares the exact same spelling as its verbal root, *shaqad*, which means ‘watchful’ or ‘sleepless’. Thus to keep our menorah burning oil continuously we are to remain active in His word and not be found sleeping or our lamp may go out. (Isaiah 56:10).

“And at midnight a cry was heard [*reference to the sound the trumpet makes when proclaiming an announcement. In this parable the trumpet was used to proclaim the first sighting of the New Moon/Rosh Chodesh at the beginning of the seventh month but primarily to announce the Feast of Blowing/Yom Teruah which falls on the first day of the seventh month. It is this Feast that declares...*] ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’ [*On this Feast of Blowing/Yom Teruah the doors open to allow the Bride and Groom to enter*] Then all those virgins [*believers*] arose, and trimmed their lamps [*menorahs*]. And the foolish [*believers*] said to the wise [*believers*], ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise [*believers*] answered, saying, ‘No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’ And while they [*foolish believers*] went to buy [oil], the bridegroom came, and those [*wise believers*] **who were ready went in with him to the wedding**; and the door was shut. [*The doors close on the next feast ten days later called the feast of Atonement/Yom Kippur – the Bride’s wedding day*] Afterward the other virgins [*unwise believers*] came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ (Matthew 25:6-12).


- 🌿 **Proverbs 13:9** “The light of the righteous rejoices, but the lamp of the wicked will be put out.”
- 🌿 **Luke 13:25-28** "When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open for us,' and He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know you, where you are from,' then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.' "But He will say, 'I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.' "There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out.”
- 🌿 **Revelation 22:12-15** “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha [*Aleph*] and the Omega [*Tov*], the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last. *Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.*”
- 🌿 **Psalms 51:10-12** “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit.”
- 🌿 **Isaiah 62:1** “For Zion's sake I will not hold My peace, And for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, Until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, And her salvation as a lamp that burns.”

There is so much symbolism when reading about the olive tree. Yahweh has charged the “sons of Israel,” all twelve tribes, to bring clear, beaten olive oil to keep their lamps burning continuously. The responsibility falls on those who have betrothed themselves to the Messiah to bring the oil for their menorahs. The true Bride is motivated and unwavering in her heart commitment to her Bridegroom, thus she brings extra oil for her lamp. The foolish will try to buy their oil, but oil for these lamps cannot be purchased.

Oil is produced by walking in obedience to the ways of the Messiah, knowing the difference between clean and unclean, holy and unholy, **and** worshipping with Him at His Feast Days/*moedim*. These are called the ‘*paths of righteousness*’ that we are called to walk in. The unwise virgins were lukewarm in their pursuit of Torah; therefore the appointed Feasts of the King and His Sabbaths were not important to them. They were totally ill-prepared and consequently did not have enough oil for their lamps. In this context, we need to realize that the foolish virgins disqualified themselves and missed out on being *the bride* at the return of the Messiah. (Ezekiel 22:26; 44:23-24).

- 🌿 **Revelation 3:14-22** [*Yeshua said to believers/the Bride,*] "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ' These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the

Beginning of the creation of God: I know your works [*your walk*], that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' -- and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked [*not had a heart to walk after Yeshua's Principles prepared for the Bride nor come to His Appointed Feast Days*]- I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed [*the priestly wedding garment needed to enter the Bridal Chamber*]; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears [*obeys*] My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him [*the Wedding Supper of the Lamb*], and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the [*ekklesia/ assembly*] churches."

 **Matthew 7:24-27** "Therefore whoever hears [*obeys*] these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a *wise* man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a *foolish* man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

The Priestly Garments

Exodus 28

"Then bring near to yourself Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the sons of Israel, to minister as priest to Me-- 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 28:1-2).

Moses' brother Aaron and Aaron's four sons from the Kohath clan of the Levites, were chosen to minister before Yahweh. They were to wear appropriate garments when serving. They could not wear "common" clothing in the tabernacle/*mishkan*, but instead wore clothing of distinction, setting them apart. Only the firstborn, starting with Aaron, and passing down through his generations, would carry the High Priest position. Because the tabernacle/*mishkan* was made in the exact pattern of the Heavenly Tabernacle, the garments of the High Priest, who represented the King on earth, were also fashioned likewise. Everything to do with the *mishkan* was to be a mirror image of the original, thus the High Priestly garments were as the King wore in His Kingdom.

His priestly clothing consisted of *eight* garments. They were: the ephod, breastplate, robe, tunic, turban, belt, crown and undergarments. These garments are all prophetic imagery and spiritual covering/armor, each piece representing an aspect of the ministry of the priesthood of the Messiah. Without these garments, the High Priest was not fit to serve in the Holy Place.

The materials needed to make the High Priestly garments were gold, blue, purple and scarlet yarn, and fine linen. These are the same colors and fabrics used for the curtains that divided the three sections of the tabernacle/*mishkan*, the one difference being the added gold threads. Only the High Priestly garment had the gold thread running through the multi-colored fabric and connected directly to the divine nature and ministry of Yeshua, the King. When the priest wore the garments, he was walking and serving in a heavenly dimension representing the King and His Kingdom.

The five materials used to create the priestly garments—five representing Torah (mercy and truth):

- ✚ Gold thread was produced by beating pure gold into thin sheets, rolling them and then cutting them into fine threads.
- ✚ Blue dye for the wool was obtained from snails known as *chilazon* found in the Mediterranean Sea.
- ✚ Red dye was taken from a kermes insect also called *the crimson worm* that lived on a cedar tree
- ✚ Purple colored wool was possibly created from the dye of the murex snail or a mixture of the blue and red dye together.
- ✚ The last material used was white linen derived from the flax plant.

The Ephod

Exodus 28:6-14

The first garment described was the ephod, which was made of all five materials and was like a short apron wrapped around the top part of the body with two shoulder straps. Two sardonyx stones were to be set in gold on the shoulder straps with the names of the twelve tribes *engraved* on them as a *remembrance*, six names engraved on one stone and six names engraved on the other stone.

- ✚ **Isaiah 9:6-7** “For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; *and the government will rest on His shoulders*; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of Yahweh of hosts will accomplish this.”
- ✚ **Isaiah 22:22** “Then I will set the *key of the house of David on his shoulder*, when he opens no one will shut, when he shuts no one will open.”
- ✚ **Luke 1:32** “He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.”

The definition of ‘*engrave*’ is to cut into, mark by incisions, to carve upon a surface, to record by incised letters, to impress deeply, fix indelibly, to represent by incisions upon wood, metal, stone, etc. with the view of reproducing.

The impression Yahweh was giving to the twelve tribes of Israel was of an everlasting remembrance. The names of all twelve tribe are *forever engraved in stone* on His shoulders and forever remembered as *memorial stones*. Just as Moses set up the twelve stones in front of Mount Sinai during the betrothal stage of the wedding, so the Bridegroom Yeshua carries the remembrance of the twelve stones/tribes on His shoulders (Exodus 24:4).

📖 **Hebrews 13:5** “For He Himself [*Yeshua*] has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ ”

The Breastplate

Exodus 28:15-29

Again the importance of the names of the twelve tribes is shown in the next garment described to Moses, called the breastplate. Yahweh designed that the twelve tribes be displayed using precious stones. “**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**” (Exodus 28:21).

The definition of *seal* is: as evidence of authenticity or attestation; a token or symbol of a Covenant; something that authenticates or confirms; a final addition which completes and secures; the impression of one’s signet placed upon an article as evidence of a claim to possession; a mark of ownership; an impressed mark serving as visible evidence of something.

The pattern called for the stones to be set in gold filigree and mounted on embroidered fabric like the ephod, using gold, blue, purple, scarlet yarn and fine linen.

The twelve tribes were not only to be represented on the shoulders of the High Priest but also openly displayed over His heart for all to see; *forever* before Yahweh and *forever* written on His heart. These twelve tribes serve as Yahweh’s “government” or priesthood to the Nations (Exodus 19:5-6) for through Yeshua, our High Priest, all authority has been given to us (Isaiah 9:6).

Ten of the original twelve tribes *have not been* “wiped out” or “lost” as some have declared. All are accountable, living and known to Yahweh among the nations and are displayed as precious stones before the Father. Today, our High Priest, Yeshua, wears the High Priest garments and carries the twelve tribes on His heart continually while serving in the heavenly tabernacle. Because of this, the Father continues to see *every* tribe and no one can say that one is missing or that some tribes have been fully assimilated into another tribe. They are all “precious stones” before him. (Matthew 10:6; 15:24; John 18:9; Hebrews 8:1-2)

Exodus 28:29 "And Aaron shall carry the names of the sons of Israel in the breastplate of deliverance over his heart when he enters the holy place, for a memorial before Yahweh *continually*."

📖 **Hebrews 8:1-2** “We have such a high priest [*Yeshua*], who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a minister in the sanctuary, and in the true tabernacle, which Yahweh pitched, not man.”

Urim and the Thummin

After describing the stones set in gold filigree and fitted into the breastplate, Yahweh shared about the Urim and the Thummin, stones which had the ability to produce light and serve as Yahweh's mouthpiece for making decisions of deliverance for Yahweh's people. The vital role these stones held in times past can be equated with the guidance of the Holy Spirit believers abide by today (Exodus 28:30; 1 Peter 1:9-13).

These stones are a unified group of five that represent Yahweh's *word*: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. The Word is the *Light* of the World and became flesh and dwelt among us. The Word is also the *Rock* of Israel.

David, after he was anointed King during Saul's reign, leaned on his staff, reached into his *pouch* and defeated Goliath with one of the five smooth stones. (1 Samuel 17:40).

There is only One Stone of Enquiry – *Yeshua Ha Mashiach* – the Holy One of Israel. (Genesis 49:24; John 9:5; John 1:1-5, 14; 1 Samuel 17:40; Isaiah 8:14; 1 Peter 2:5-7).

📖 **Deuteronomy 33:8** “And of Levi he said: "Let Your Thummim and Your Urim be with Your holy one, Whom You tested at Massah, and with whom You contended at the waters of Meribah”

📖 **Ezekiel 36:26-27** "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.”

📖 **1 Peter 2:5** “you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ/Yeshua Ha Mashiach.”

This is the Urim and the Thummin today. (Ezekiel 11:19-20; Jeremiah 31:33)

All Twelve Tribes

Those who see themselves as part of Israel are also called to uphold and proclaim the message of all twelve identifiable tribes uniting in heart (joint heirs) and walking as one in Yeshua. If we are of the royal priesthood of Yeshua, then the *Hebrew letters* of the names of all twelve tribes are also “engraved” on our hearts that they may reflect continually before Yahweh. Those who do not acknowledge the existence of all twelve tribes or proclaim the redemption of *all Israel* are not proclaiming the true gospel according to Yeshua. We are called to be His light to the nations/tribes for the restoration of the House of David. (Exodus 19:5-6; 1 Peter 2:9; Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:30; Acts 1:6; Acts 26:7; Romans 11; James 1:1).

🌿 **Zechariah 13:1-2** "In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness. It shall be *in that day*," says the LORD of hosts, "that I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, and they shall no longer be remembered. I will also cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to depart from the land."

🌿 **Acts 1:6** "Therefore, when they [*the believers/disciples*] had come together, they asked Yeshua, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" [*Kingdom is reference to all twelve tribes as His Kingdom is made up of the twelve tribes of Israel – called the restoration of the House of David (Davidic Covenant/order of Melchizedek)*] (Revelation 21:12).

🌿 **2 Corinthians 3:3** "You show that you are *a letter from Yeshua*, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts."

The Robe of the Ephod

Exodus 28:31-35

This robe was to be made entirely of blue cloth and reflected the heavenly, divine side of Yeshua. The hem was to have pomegranates made of blue, purple and scarlet yarn adorning the hem, with gold bells alternating between them that would make noise while the High Priest served before Yahweh so he would not die.

Pomegranates: Tradition says that the pomegranate fruit has 613 seeds, representing the 613 commandments or principles of Yahweh's Kingdom that govern the earth. The seeds are encased in twelve sections within the fruit, representing the twelve tribes encamped around the tabernacle. The pomegranate is full of white, pearl-like seeds in a red fluid that represent the sweet, purifying redemptive work of the blood of the Lamb, Yeshua, and that in His fruitfulness, each and every law Yahweh gave would be like nectar, sweet to our soul.

Subsequently, the pomegranates can represent the *House of Judah*, the keepers of the good news of *Torah*, while the bells can represent the *House of Israel*, keepers of the good news of *Messiah*. When the two come together in unity they make a beautiful sound. If you have only bells without pomegranates (or, *Torah*), Paul said you are likened to a clanging cymbal. If you have only pomegranates (or, *have only the Torah*) and no bells (*no Messiah*), then it is like you are walking around with Torah and no sound, for Torah without Messiah is lifeless/dead. So pomegranates and bells work together to make a beautiful sound!

The gold in the bells also acts to defuse any electrical buildup when the priest went into the Holy Place to serve Yahweh, so that the priest would always be *grounded* and not die.

The Pure Gold Plate

Exodus 28:36-38

A gold plate was to be engraved with the words '*HOLINESS TO YHVH.*' It was attached to the turban by a blue cord (signifying the heavenly connection) and placed on the forehead. This

engraving was to remind ourselves to self discipline our minds to think only pure holy thoughts before Yahweh continually. As we are Yeshua's ambassadors, our thoughts should always reflect His thoughts and our speech always mirror His speech.

🌿 **Philippians 4:8-9** “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy -- meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, *these do*, and the God of peace will be with you.”

The White Robe

Exodus 28:39-41

This robe, the turban and the sash were all to be made of fine white linen. They represent the righteous acts of the saints and were called the *wedding garments of the Bride*.

🌿 **Revelation 7:9** “After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in *white robes*, and palm branches were in their hands.”

When the *priests'* white linen garments wore out, they were recycled several ways, such as wicks for the menorah in the temple and swaddling clothes for a newborn baby (Luke 2:12). When the *High Priest's* colorful garments wore out, they were buried and not recycled.

Consecration of the Priests

Exodus 29

Once Moses received the pattern for the garments, instructions were then given for how to consecrate priests who came to serve before Yahweh in the tabernacle/*mishkan*, the home Yahweh designed for His Bride. There are many who serve in the outer court but few have actually consecrated themselves, surrendering everything of themselves to Yahweh's heart circumcision which allows them then to serve in His *holy* court. Having an understanding of this is vital for believers who are living and serving Yahweh in these last days. The approach to Yahweh is the same as in the days of Moses and has not changed. It is, has been and always will be through *holiness*. Today we have the blood sacrifice of the Lamb Yeshua covering our sins of dishonor. His blood has redeemed that part of us that we might walk in holiness before Him. With His sacrifice for our salvation completed once as and for all, the walk and redemptive work of holiness is now up to us. Yeshua has shown us the way through our Marriage Covenant, now we are commanded to apply and walk in it.

🌿 **2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1** “For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, ‘I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.’ ‘Therefore [*Bride*], come out from their [*common*] midst and be separate [*holy*], says Yahweh. And do not touch what is unclean; and I will welcome you. And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me, says the Lord Almighty.’

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit [*that is in opposition to His Word/Covenant*], perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

The Prophetic Priestly Garments of Yeshua

Ephesians 6:10-17

Are the priestly garments taught in the New Testament/*Brit Chadasha* and are we to follow them today? Paul taught much about what believers’ behavior and lifestyle ought to be. Man’s *tradition* has taught us that in Ephesians, Paul was telling us to apply armor that resembles that of a Roman soldier. Why would Paul, a Pharisee, talking of spiritual battles, want us to look like a Roman soldier? Have we misinterpreted this scripture? If we look a little closer at what Paul wrote in Ephesians 6, we find he was quoting from the Torah to instruct us how to serve in Yeshua’s priesthood. Due to misinterpretation, ‘*the armor of God*’ in Ephesians 6:10 has resembled the armor of a Roman soldier ready for war. Paul was not teaching us to wear armor reminiscent of what a Roman soldier would wear, he was teaching us to put on the *priestly garments* of Exodus 28:1-43 and to walk in the spiritual calling of the *royal priesthood*. The scripture Paul quoted was from the book of the prophet Isaiah, and Isaiah never saw a Roman soldier in his life. With this preface, we look at Paul’s teaching on the priestly garments with the understanding that the armor being described denotes the priestly calling through Yahweh’s prophet, Isaiah.

✠ **Ephesians 6:10-17** Paul said, “Finally, my brethren [*Bride*], be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, [*the priestly garments/principles of Torah*] that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, [*The priestly calling and understanding of Yahweh’s principles to rightly interpret the word/Torah of God in your life*], that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

“Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth [*Isaiah 11:5 ‘righteousness will be the belt about His loins, And faithfulness [in Yahweh’s faithfulness] the belt about His waist’*], having put on the breastplate of righteousness [*Isaiah 59:17 ‘He put on righteousness like a breastplate’*], and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace [*Isaiah 52:7 ‘How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, Who announces peace and brings good news of happiness, Who announces salvation, and says to Zion, “Your God reigns!”*”].

“Above all, taking the shield of faith [*not our own faithfulness, but Yeshua faithfulness to the Marriage Covenant He made with us*] with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. [*1 Thessalonians 5:8 ‘But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith (His faithfulness/walk in agreement with His covenant to us) and love (Yeshua defines love as obedience to His word) as a breastplate.’*] And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; [*Isaiah 59:17 ‘A helmet of salvation [was] on His head; and He put on garments of*

vengeance for clothing, and wrapped Himself with zeal as a mantle.’] [1 Thessalonians 5:8 ‘And He has made My mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of His hand He has concealed Me, and He has also made Me a select arrow; He has hidden Me in His quiver’ ” (Isaiah 49:2)]. (Hebrews 4:12; Revelation 1:16; Matthew 4:4; Revelation 12:11)

The Altar of Incense

Exodus 30:1-10

The altar is listed last because we cannot come to the altar of incense until our hearts have come into agreement with Yahweh’s ways and our minds having been consecrated before Him. The altar of incense will not function within us until this happens, thus the description of the altar follows *after* the pattern of the tabernacle/*mishkan* furnishings and the garments of the priesthood are taught, as it is the *High Priest* who approaches the altar of incense on behalf of the people.

✠ **Romans 13:12-14** “The night is almost gone, and the day is at hand. Let us therefore lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the **armor of light** [*Yeshua’s priestly garments*]. Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. But **put on Yeshua the Messiah**, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.”

To be continued...



Shabbat Shalom
Julie Parker

Since its inception in 2003, *Sheepfold Gleanings* has been written under the pen name of *Carl and Julie Parker*. It will now be published under the author’s name *Julie Parker*, with her husband Carl’s continued support and covering.

Note: We are in the process of publishing the studies in soft spiral study format and soft bond format for prison ministry (an eBook format is coming!). **Exodus** is the second book in a five part series: **Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers and Deuteronomy**. Each book is part of the yearly Torah cycle starting in Genesis and is designed to be used each year for study purposes. To pre order please contact the information below.

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