

Life-Study of Exodus Summaries – Messages 121-125

MESSAGE 121–125 – The Priestly Garments

The Ephod – The Materials

The main part of the priestly garments was the robe. Over this robe the high priest wore a tunic, and over the tunic, an ephod. The **materials** used in making the ephod were **gold** and **linen**. The gold and the linen in the ephod were not linked together or joined together. They were **woven** together. This typifies the **mingling of divinity and humanity in Christ**. Neither the gold nor the linen lost its own particular nature when it was used to make the ephod. The divinity and humanity of Christ have not been mingled to produce a third nature. Therefore, it is altogether right to call Him the God-man. Praise the Lord for this portrait in the book of Exodus!

The Ephod – Onyx Stones

The **onyx stones** signify the **believers**, including us. With our natural being there are two aspects: the aspect of **God's creation** and the aspect of the **fall**. God's work on us accomplishes two things. On the one hand it is **shaking away, removing, the fallen aspect**; on the other hand, it is **uplifting and transforming the aspect of our being that is related to God's creation to become precious stones**.

The filigree settings of gold signify how we are attached, fastened, held, to the Lord Jesus. The **sufferings** experienced by the Lord Jesus caused Him to be formed into a **beautiful setting** to hold us as the precious stones. The more we behold the Lord's beauty and appreciate it, the more steadily shall we be fastened to Him and by Him. The settings are joined to the shoulder pieces by chains of gold. The chains of golden cords were formed of golden threads twined together. This portrays **the Lord's divinity becoming a golden fastening cord**. Christ's fastening strength, bearing power, and linking ability are all derived from **His expression as God and man with His heavenliness, kingship, and redemption**. When we are attached to the Lord like stones attached to the ephod, we become and added beauty to His expression, and His expression becomes our beauty in which we are held.

The Breastplate

Upon Christ, there is a **breastplate**, the **church**. According to verse 15, the breastplate was called the breastplate of judgment. **If we would know God's leading, we must have a great deal of judgment**. We must judge the things of the **flesh** and the **mind set on the flesh**. This judgment **clears the way** for us to know God's leading. In typology, the breastplate was related to the Lord's leading. Actually **God's leading and the church are one**. The church is God's leading, for the church bears the divine alphabet by which God makes known His leading.

The Breastplate – The Twelve Stones

The twelve stones do not signify God's redeemed people in a **separate** way, but in a **corporate** way. All the stones were built together into one entity. Therefore, the breastplate was actually a building of precious stones set in gold. The gold was the element which enable the twelve stones to become one building. The twelve stones set in golden mountings signify that the believers are kept in Christ's divine nature.

May the Lord have mercy on us so that we may be not only genuine but also valuable – precious stones, transformed, mingled with God, and built together to be God's testimony. This is what the Lord wants today (Life-Study of Exodus, 121–125).