

**Inscription on Turban  
"Holy to the Lord"**  
Exodus 28:36

**Turban  
(Mitre)**  
Exodus 28:4, 39;  
29:6

**Breastplate with  
12 Precious Stones**  
Exodus 28:15-28

**Onyx Stones  
on Shoulders**  
Exodus 28:9-12;  
39:6-7

**The Urim and  
Thummim (not  
visible) were  
placed in the  
breastpiece**  
Exodus 28:30

**Girdle  
(a Sash)**  
Exodus 28:39

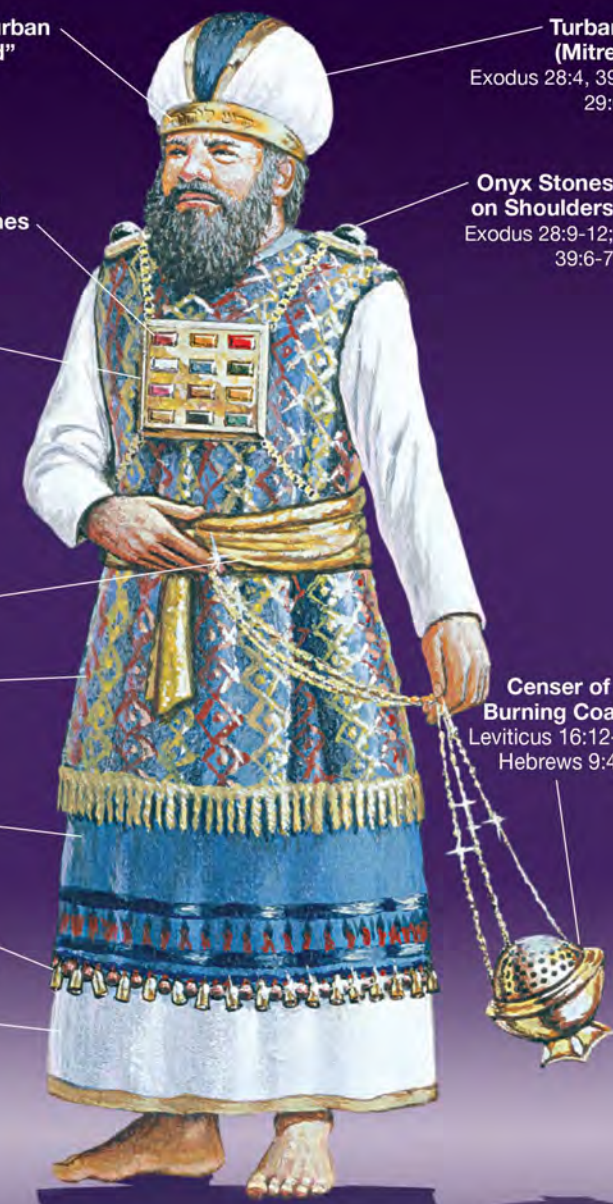
**Ephod**  
Exodus 28:4;  
Psalm 132:9

**Robe**  
Exodus 28:34

**Bells and  
Pomegranates**  
Exodus 28:33-34

**Fine Linen  
Tunic**  
Exodus 28:39

**Censer of  
Burning Coals**  
Leviticus 16:12-13;  
Hebrews 9:4



### What Was the Function of a High Priest?

A High Priest was an intermediary—someone who acted as a go-between or mediator between two parties. The English language has more words that express this concept: intercessor, arbiter, and advocate.

## The High Priest

### Aaron, the High Priest

Exodus 28; 39:1-31

#### Qualifications

The Lord made Aaron, Moses' brother, the first high priest. He was to be holy, to stay away from anything that would defile him, because he was an intermediary between the Lord and the people. Only Aaron's descendants were allowed to be priests. Aaron was from the tribe of Levi. The Levites were the only ones allowed to move the tabernacle and to carry the ark. Numbers 1:51

#### Clothing

The priest's clothes were made for glory and beauty. He wore a tunic, undergarments, cap, and turban (or mitre) of fine linen. The priest wore a blue robe with the ephod with onyx stones on each shoulder bearing the names of the sons of Israel. He wore a gold breastpiece set with twelve precious stones carved with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. This was worn over the priest's heart and was a memorial before the Lord. The Urim and Thummim, objects used to determine the Lord's will for his people, were placed in the breastpiece.

#### Service

The high priest made sacrifices of bulls and goats for his own sins and for the sins of the people. He placed the blood of the sacrifice on the altar to atone (pay) for sins and to receive the Lord's forgiveness. The priest came before the Lord to ask for decisions. He ministered to the Lord by taking care of the tabernacle, keeping the wicks trimmed, placing new bread on the altar, and burning incense daily. The priest would also pronounce people to be "clean" or acceptable. For example, he would pronounce a person clean if he or she had become defiled by having a skin disease or by touching a dead body.

### Jesus, the Better High Priest

Hebrews 4:14-5:10; 6:19-10:22

#### Qualifications

Jesus was a fulfillment of the perfect priesthood. He was not from the line of Aaron, but from a higher line, the order of Melchizedek, which made him a better High Priest. He lives forever, unlike Aaron, who eventually died and passed on the priesthood to his sons. Jesus is both priest and king, whereas Aaron was a priest only. Jesus was holy and never sinned, and does not need to offer sacrifices for himself. He was tempted in every way, but did not give in. All those who follow Jesus may now approach God in the Holy Place. Hebrews 10:19

#### Service

Jesus did not sacrifice animals, because the blood of animals did not take away sin; it simply made the person ceremonially cleansed. Jesus offered himself, the perfect Lamb of God. He was the perfect sacrifice that was required—one perfect sacrifice—to take away sins for all time. His willing, voluntary death was the last sacrifice ever needed. "Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them." Jesus serves as our High Priest in heaven, and appears in God's presence on our behalf. Hebrews 7:25



Human High Priest	Jesus the High Priest
Offered sacrifices for his own sins (Heb. 5:3).	Did not need to offer a sacrifice for himself because he was without sin (Heb. 4:15). Able to sympathize with our weaknesses because he became human (2:17).
Offered sacrifices for the sins of the people (5:3).	Continually intercedes for the people (7:25). Entered the inner sanctuary on our behalf (6:19-20).
All earthly priests died and thus their priesthood ended (7:23).	Made a priest forever by God (5:6, 10; 6:20). A permanent priest because he lives forever (7:24).
Offered the sacrifice of goats and bulls (9:12-13).	He is both the one who offers the sacrifice and is the sacrifice himself (7:27).
Priest by birth and ancestry (5:4).	Was not a priest by birth (7:16).
Served in the earthly copy or shadow of the real sanctuary (8:5).	Serves in the real tabernacle of heaven (8:2; 9:11, 24). Has gone through the heavens (4:14).
Served under the old covenant (7:5).	Served under a new and better covenant (8:6).
Ministry is less than Jesus' ministry (7:6-7).	Ministry is greater than the priests' ministry (8:6).
His animal sacrifices were not sufficient to accomplish the removal of sin (9:9; 10:11).	His sacrifice of his own blood is able to completely remove sins (9:14; 10:14).
Offered sacrifices year after year (10:1).	Offered only one sacrifice once for all, so there is no more need for sacrifices (9:26; 10:10, 18).
Only the high priest entered the Most Holy Place in the earthly sanctuary (9:7).	All who have faith in Jesus can confidently enter the Most Holy Place in the heavenly sanctuary (10:19).



## The Tabernacle

One glance at this full-color Tabernacle picture will bring to life the story of Moses and the Tabernacle in the Wilderness of Sinai. See the Ark of the Covenant and Mercy Seat, the High Priest and his garments, and the Holy of Holies. The Tabernacle of Moses was a moveable tent of meeting, the place where God promised to dwell among His people.

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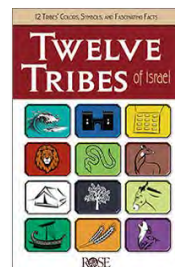


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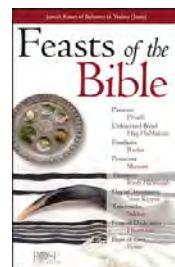


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