

Beit Chachamin

PARSHAT TETZAVEH

27TH FEBRUARY, 2026

COME & LEARN

THE BIG RECAP [PARSHA SUMMARY]

1 – God commands Moses to have the Israelites bring olive oil to light a continual lamp in the Tent of Meeting. Aaron and his sons are appointed to tend this lamp (*ner tamid*) from evening to morning. God then tells Moses to make special garments for Aaron including a breastpiece, ephod (apron-like garment), robe, tunic, turban, and sash. Skilled artisans are to make the ephod of gold, blue, purple, and crimson yarns, and attach two onyx stones engraved with the names of the tribes on Aaron's shoulders as a memorial.

2 – The breastpiece is made to match the ephod, square and folded, with four rows of precious stones, each engraved with the name of one tribe. Rings and chains of gold attach the breastpiece securely to the ephod so it does not shift. Into the breastpiece are placed the Urim and Thummim, so Aaron can bear the judgment of the Israelites on his heart before God continually. This emphasizes that Aaron represents the people when he enters the sanctuary.

3 – God commands a robe of pure blue for the ephod, with an opening at the top reinforced so it will not tear. Around its hem are pomegranates of blue, purple, and crimson yarn, with golden bells between them, so the sound is heard when Aaron goes in and out of the sanctuary. A golden plate engraved “Holy to the Lord” is fastened to the front of Aaron's turban, on his forehead, to bear any guilt in the sacred offerings. Tunics, sashes, and headdresses are also made for Aaron's sons, and linen breeches are required to cover their nakedness when they serve.

4 – God details the ritual to consecrate Aaron and his sons as priests. They are washed, vested in their garments, anointed with oil, and brought with a bull and two rams and unleavened breads. The bull is offered as a purification offering, with its blood put on the altar and it is burned outside the camp. One ram is offered as a burnt offering, consumed entirely on the altar as a pleasing odor to God.

5 – The second ram is the “ram of ordination”; its blood is placed on Aaron's and his sons' right ear, thumb, and big toe, and on the altar, linking them to the altar's holiness. Parts of the ram and bread from the basket are waved before God and then consumed by Aaron and his sons at the entrance of the Tent, marking their inauguration. The ordination lasts seven days, with a bull offered each day for atonement, and the altar is purified and consecrated. After this, whatever touches the altar becomes holy.

6 – God commands the regular daily offerings: two lambs each day, one in the morning and one at twilight, with grain and wine as accompanying offerings. This continual burnt offering creates a constant meeting point between God and Israel through the generations. God promises to dwell among the Israelites, sanctify the Tent of Meeting and the altar, and sanctify Aaron and his sons. He declares that He brought them out of Egypt to dwell among them, affirming that He is their God.

7 – God instructs Moses to make an altar of acacia wood for burning incense, overlaid with gold, with horns and molding, placed before the curtain by the Ark. Aaron is to burn fragrant incense on it every morning and evening when he tends the lamps, a continual incense before God. No unauthorized incense, burnt offerings, grain offerings, or libations are to be offered on it. Once a year, on Yom Kippur, Aaron is to make atonement on its horns with the blood of the sin offering, to purify it throughout the generations.

PARSHAT TETZAVEH

Parshat Tetzaveh includes God's precise instructions to Moses for crafting each sacred garment of the High Priest's ceremonial outfit. These verses describe the outfit.

EPHOD - EXODUS 28:6

וַעֲשׂוּ אֶת־הָאֶפֶד זָהָב תְּכֵלֶת וְאַרְגָּמָן וְתוֹלַעַת שָׁנִי וְשֵׁשׁ מְשֻׁזָּר מַעֲשֵׂה חֹשֶׁב:

They shall make the ephod of gold, of blue, purple, and crimson yarns, and of fine twisted linen, worked into designs.

BREASTPIECE - EXODUS 28:15

וַעֲשִׂיתָ חֹשֶׁן מְשֻׁפָּט מַעֲשֵׂה חֹשֶׁב כַּמַּעֲשֵׂה אֶפֶד תַּעֲשִׂנוּ זָהָב תְּכֵלֶת וְאַרְגָּמָן וְתוֹלַעַת שָׁנִי וְשֵׁשׁ מְשֻׁזָּר תַּעֲשֶׂה אֹתוֹ:

You shall make a breastpiece of decision, worked into a design; make it in the style of the ephod: make it of gold, of blue, purple, and crimson yarns, and of fine twisted linen.

ROBE - EXODUS 28:31

וַעֲשִׂיתָ אֶת־מְעִיל הָאֶפֶד כָּלִיל תְּכֵלֶת:

You shall make the robe of the ephod of pure blue.

TURBAN - EXODUS 28:36

וַעֲשִׂיתָ צִיץ זָהָב טְהוֹר וּפְתֻחַת עָלָיו פְּתוּחֵי חֹתֶם קֹדֶשׁ לַה'

You shall make a frontlet of pure gold and engrave on it the seal inscription: "Holy to God."

TUNIC - EXODUS 28:39

וְשַׁבְצַת הַכֶּתֶנֶת שֵׁשׁ וְעֲשִׂיתָ מְצַנְפֵת שֵׁשׁ וְאַבְנֵי תַעֲשֶׂה מַעֲשֵׂה רֶקֶם:

You shall make the fringed tunic of fine linen. You shall make the headdress of fine linen. You shall make the sash of embroidered work.

TUNIC AND SASH - EXODUS 28:39

וְשַׁבְצַת הַכֶּתֶנֶת שֵׁשׁ וְעֲשִׂיתָ מְצַנְפֵת שֵׁשׁ וְאַבְנֵי תַעֲשֶׂה מַעֲשֵׂה רֶקֶם:

You shall make the fringed tunic of fine linen. You shall make the headdress of fine linen. You shall make the sash of embroidered work.

TUNIC AND SASH - EXODUS 28:42

וַעֲשֵׂה לָהֶם מְכַסְיֵי־בֵד לְכַסּוֹת בְּשָׂר עַרְוָה מִמֵּתֵינִים וְעַד־יָרְכָיִם יְהִיוּ:

You shall also make for them linen breeches to cover their nakedness; they shall extend from the hips to the thighs.