

MARCH 6, 2020

*Parashat Tetzaveh*

**Exodus 27:20-30:10**

Taught By:

Anna & Atticus



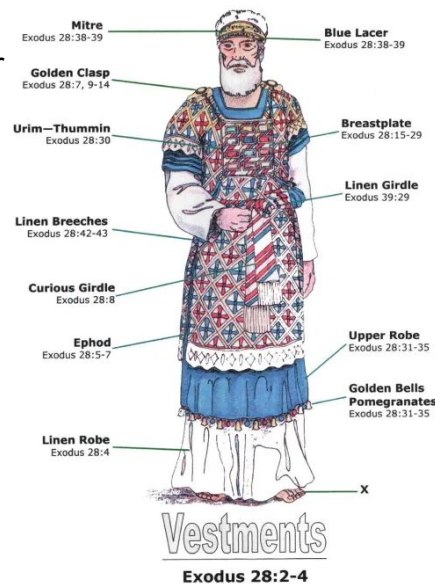
### SUMMARY

This week we read that *Moshe* is still on Mount Sinai receiving all the details about building the *Mishkan*, the portable sanctuary. Our portion describes the gold *menorah* and gives instructions for lighting it. The *menorah* is the model for the *ner tamid*, the eternal light that we find in our sanctuaries to this day.

*Tetzaveh* also describes the special clothing that *Aharon* and his sons, the *kohanim*, should wear. Their special clothing includes a long, sleeveless shirt called an *ephod*, a breastplate containing gemstones--each one standing for a different tribe of Israel--and the *ureem* and *tummeem*, which many believe helped the *kohanim* predict the future. The *kohen* also wore a special head covering with the words: “*Kodesh La’A-donai*” or “Holy to G!d” written on it.

The *parasha* describes the seven-day process for priests to get ready to serve in the *Mishkan*. This includes putting oil on the high priest or *kohen gadol* and touching the blood of a sacrificed ram to the priest’s right ear, thumb, big toe, and clothing.

Who is not mentioned in this *parasha*? Moshe! *Parashat Tetzaveh* is the only *parasha* since Moshe was born where his name does not appear. G!d calls him “you,” but does not mention his name. During our chanting, see how many times you can hear us say “Aharon”.



1) If wisdom is usually about using your brain well, what do you think it might mean--in this case--to be wise-hearted?

**ATTICUS:** If wisdom is about using your brain well, then maybe “wise-hearted” means using your body well--doing things that are kind, generous, nice, and helpful to the community.

**ANNA:** I think people can also use their brains to think kind thoughts and to think of people they love. I imagine that when we use our brains and our hearts together for kindness and love it meets in the middle--in your mouth--and it leads to speaking kind words.

2) Why do you think G!d would tell *Moshe* to speak to (all) wise- hearted people about making special, holy clothing for *Aharon*?

**ATTICUS:** I think this would help make sure that the job got done well. I think of wise-hearted people as smart and calm. I think they would be able to talk to each other and listen to each other so they could agree on designs and how to do the work.

**ANNA:** I think G!d tells Moshe to get wise-hearted people to work on Aharon’s clothes because G!d wants the people who work on these clothes not to steal things and to treat the materials and the job with respect.

3) G!d gives *Moshe* special instructions for the clothes that *Aharon* will wear when he serves G!d in the *mishkan*--the tent in the center of the Israelite camp where G!d will live. Aharon’s clothes will have to be very beautiful and very different from what other people wear, and G!d tells Moshe that they should be made just for Aharon to wear when Aharon is serving G!d. Why do you think G!d would want the clothes that *Aharon* wears when serving G!d to be different from his regular clothes?



**ANNA:** I play tennis and I wear special clothes for tennis. When I put these clothes on it helps me be serious about playing tennis. Maybe G!d wants Aharon to wear special holy clothes so that when he is serving G!d in the *mishkan* Aharon is taking his job seriously.