

“JOHN SAW THE ROBE”

(Message #1)

Text: Exodus 28:1-21, 29, 30; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:4-10; 7:22-28; 9:11,12,28; Rev. 1:10-18
Subject: How Our High Priest (Jesus) Ministers To Us Today

Introduction

1. The author of Revelation is John the Apostle.
2. John has been exiled to a rocky island in the Mediterranean – the Isle of Patmos.
3. John has refused to worship the Roman Emperor.
4. And on this 50 mile square island for prisoners, John is given the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

- ◆ There are the messages to the 7 churches.
- ◆ There is a picture of things hereafter.
- ◆ There are the events surrounding the great tribulation.
- ◆ There is the great marriage supper of the Lamb.
- ◆ There is the final triumph of Christ upon earth.
- ◆ There is the binding of satan and the judgment of unbelievers.
- ◆ There is the glory of the new heavens, new earth and new Jerusalem.

(And In The Midst Of It All)

- ◆ John is given a vision of Jesus Himself (on an island that is isolated, barren and rocky).

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Jesus reveals Himself in John’s darkest hour of human need.

(In Revelation 1:10 John Heard Jesus)

(Verse 10), “I heard a great voice as of a trumpet”

(In Revelation 1:12 John Saw Jesus)

(Verse 12), “And I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks”.

- ◆ (Verse 20) tells us that the seven candlesticks are the seven churches of Asia Minor.

Question: What is Jesus doing?

Answer: (Verse 13), He is standing in the midst of His church.

Question: Why this revelation?

Answer: Because unless Jesus stands in the midst of His church (this church) we have no light, no hope, no presence, no ministry!

Question: What did John see Jesus doing in church?

Answer: Jesus reveals Himself to John in a way we all can understand!

Question: What did Jesus want John to see, so that John could tell us all?

Question: What did Jesus convey (or show) John so that we would be affected?

Question: What exactly did John see (and write down) that ministers to you today?

- ◆ For the next few weeks we’ll discover why John saw:

The **Robe** Of A Priest

The **Hair** Like Wool

The **Eyes** Like Fire

The **Feet** Like Brass

The **Voice** Like Many Waters

The **Hands** Holding His Servants

The **Sword** That Is Two-edged

Question: How does a vision of Jesus affect us?

Answer: In verse 17, John was awe-struck and deeply affected. (He said “When I saw Jesus, I fell at His feet as dead”) (Why?)

- ◆ Because Jesus is alive and well in His church, and doing something in everyone who wants to see Him do something!

(So What Did Jesus Show John And What Is Jesus Doing In Church?)

(Verse 13)

“And in the midst of the seven candlesticks, I saw the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about with a gold sash across His chest”.

Question: What is the first thing John sees?

Answer: He sees Jesus clothed with a robe down to His feet.

Question: What does the robe symbolize to us?

Answer: The robe symbolized the priestly ministry of Jesus:

- ◆ The prophets wore robes. (Zechariah 3:4)
- ◆ The priests wore robes. (Exodus 28; Leviticus 16:4)
- ◆ The kings wore robes (I Samuel 24:5,12)

(And Jesus Does Fulfill All Three)

- #1. As prophet – Jesus proclaims the Word to us.
- #2. As Priest – Jesus gives us access into God’s presence.
- #3. As King – Jesus rules and reigns and works all things out for your good as you follow Him.

(But On This Day)

- ◆ John sees Jesus with the long priestly robe down to His feet, with the golden breast plate wrapped around His chest”. (v. 13)

Question: So what is Jesus revealing to John (and to us) today?

Question: What does Jesus want you to see?

Question: What did John see – that Jesus wants you to see?

I. John Saw The “Strength” Of Jesus!

Question: How did John see the strength of Jesus?

Answer: John saw Jesus wearing the robe of a priest?

- ◆ And every part of the dress of the high priest was significant. (Repeat)

Question: What did John see?

Answer: He saw Jesus wearing the robe, and ephod and breastplate around His body.

(Remember)

- ◆ Aaron was the first high priest in the Old Testament, (but Aaron died).
- ◆ Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament Aaron priesthood, (and does now what Aaron did then).

(Hebrews 7:26)

“Jesus is our High Priest now, holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and higher than the heavens”.

Question: What did Aaron do then, that Jesus does now?

Answer: Exodus 28:6,7,9,10-12 (Read)

1. The Ephod was a waistcoat with a front and back.
2. It was held together with straps over each shoulder, and a belt around the waist.
3. The shoulder straps were made of gold with an onyx stone set in the gold.

4. On the 2 onyx stones were the names of the twelve tribes of Israel (six names on each stone).

Question: What's the big deal about Aaron having 12 names upon his shoulder?

Answer: Exodus 28:12, "Thou shalt bear their names before the Lord upon His shoulder.

◆ Shoulders (in Scripture) are symbols of strength.

(Isaiah 9:6)

"The government shall be upon His shoulder"

(Isaiah 22:22)

"I will place the key of the house of David upon His shoulder, He will open doors that no one can shut"

Question: What is Jesus doing in church?

Answer: John sees Jesus as your faithful High Priest.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ As Israel was lifted on the shoulders of Aaron,
- ◆ So you are lifted on the strong shoulders of Jesus.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ As Aaron carried Israel on his shoulders,
- ◆ So the Lord carries you and bears you on His shoulders.

(Remember)

- ◆ In Luke 15, the Shepherd found the lost sheep (and did what?)
- ◆ He carried it on His shoulders.

(So In Revelations 1:13)

- ◆ John sees Jesus as your High Priest in the midst of His church (doing what?)
- ◆ Bearing and lifting and carrying and holding.
- ◆ Your burden is His burden to carry.
- ◆ You are the burden of His love today!

II. **John Saw The "Affection" Of Jesus!**

Question: What else was on the priest's robe?

Answer: A breastplate!

Question: What was the breast plate?

Answer: The breastplate was made of the same material as the ephod.

- ◆ But on the breastplate were 12 stones set in gold.
- ◆ They were arranged in 4 rows of 3 stones.
- ◆ On the twelve stones were engraven the names of the 12 tribes of Israel.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Not only did the high priest bare Israel's names upon his shoulders (the place of strength),
- ◆ But the priest also bore the 12 tribes upon the breastplate (over his heart).

(Why?)

- ◆ To be the mediating priest with compassion and affection and feeling!

(Exodus 28:29 Says:)

"And Aaron shall bear the names of the children of Israel in the breastplate upon his heart when he goes into the holy place, for a memorial before the Lord continually".

- ◆ The 12 tribes of Israel were named after the 12 sons of Jacob.
- ◆ The land of Canaan was divided out to the 12 tribes.
- ◆ The twelve tribes of Israel were...

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|----------|--------------|
| 1. Reuben | 4. Judah | 7. Dan | 10. Naphtali |
| 2. Simeon | 5. Zebulun | 8. Gad | 11. Joseph |
| 3. Levi | 6. Issachar | 9. Asher | 12. Benjamin |

Question: Pastor, what's the big deal about the 12 tribes over the heart of the priest?

Answer: The big deal is that Jesus does now, what Aaron did then:

- ◆ Aaron's breastplate was named, "The breastplate of judgment" (Exodus 28:29)

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Judgment means a judicial sentence, in this case – a judicial sentence of acquittal.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Aaron carried Israel's acquittal symbolically upon his heart by his own sacrificial office.
- ◆ And Aaron (according to Hebrews) was a type or shadow of Jesus, (our High Priest to come).

(In Other Words)

- ◆ As Aaron was the mediator under the Old Covenant,
- ◆ So Jesus is the present Mediator of the New Covenant.

(So Now)

- ◆ The sacrifice of Jesus gives you assurance, that every one whose name is written upon the gem-stone of His heart – has a full acquittal in the judgment of heaven.
- ◆ All who trust Jesus are acquitted and declared innocent of every crime, every sin, every failure, every past misdeed!

(An Interesting Note)

- ◆ All 12 tribes were engraved (not in sand – but in stone).
- ◆ The smallest tribe was there – Benjamin.
- ◆ The largest tribe was there – Judah.
- ◆ The forgiver was there – Joseph.
- ◆ The slave trader was there – Judah (who had sold Joseph into slavery).
- ◆ All the stones were different – but all the stones were gems.
- ◆ And all the people were there – near to the heart of God.
- ◆ Close to the seat of His affection.
- ◆ Close to the heart and care and interest of the High Priest.

(So John Sees Jesus In The Church)

- #1. Lifting your burdens on the strength of His shoulders.
- #2. Touched with the feeling of your infirmity – and giving you access into the very presence of God.

#1 – The Strength of Jesus

#2 – The Affection of Jesus

III. John Saw The "Desire" Of Jesus!

Question: What does Jesus desire in the midst of His church?

Answer: (2 unmistakable responses)

- #1. In Exodus 28:33 – at the hem of the priest's robe were pomegranates (and golden bells).
- ◆ Pomegranates symbolize fruitfulness in serving God. (Are you serving somewhere in the local church?)
- ◆ The golden bells rang out in praise to God and symbolize joy in service. (Are you serving with joy?)
- ◆ The sound of the bells were heard by the Israelites in the court while the priest ministered before God in the Holy Place.

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- ◆ This was so the worshippers could participate with the high priest and praise the Lord, (even though they could not see the high priest).

So #1 - When Jesus revealed Himself to John (in the church) as our High Priest, He's desiring Joyful service, (not just service).

#2 – Exodus 28:36-38, On Aaron's forehead, was a plate of pure gold with this inscription – **“Holiness To The Lord”**.

Question: Why this inscription on the high priest for all to see?

Answer: Not to make Israel ashamed of themselves – **but to inspire them to become Holy like God is Holy.**

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Jesus shows up (in church) to John on the Isle of Patmos and says:
#1 – “I invite you to serve Me with Joy”
#2 – “I invite you to become like me – **Holy and undefiled and free from sin**”

Conclusion

It's not an accident that the names of the 12 tribes are engraved on the same stones, which make up the walls of the New Jerusalem.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Those who know they are **justified** on earth are promised to one day be **glorified** in heaven!

(In Other Words)

- ◆ If you are willing to serve Jesus now, Jesus will reward you for all eternity later.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Those who represent the Lord on earth now, will later be represented by the Lord in heaven!

(In Other Words)

- ◆ On earth we can know His strength, His affection and His joy in our service.
- ◆ In heaven we will know His glory and majesty and beauty forever!!!

Altar Call

AMEN!
Bill Kirk, Pastor