

# (Exodus) Exodus 28:1-3

by J. Vernon McGee

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*The sermon explores the significance of Aaron's garments in Exodus 28, illustrating their symbolism of Christ and the importance of beauty and holiness in worship.*

**Duration:** 6:13

**Scripture:** Exodus 28:1-2, Exodus 28:40, Matthew 6:33, Hebrews 4:14, Hebrews 7:26, Hebrews 9:11

**Topics:** "Expositional"

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## Description

In this sermon, the speaker emphasizes the importance of seeing God in everything, including the instructions given in the Bible. The speaker compares the Bible to a picture book, explaining that just as children learn through pictures, the Bible's instructions are meant to be visual representations of God's glory and beauty. The sermon focuses on the instructions for making holy garments for Aaron, the high priest, and highlights how these garments symbolize Christ as our great high priest. The speaker emphasizes that God is the creator of beauty and should be honored with beautiful things, and that every detail in the garments points to Christ and His work.

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## Transcript

Now, as we come today to the 28th chapter of the book of Exodus, it seems like we have a departure here. It actually is not from the instructions of the tabernacle. The tabernacle, we've already seen a great deal of it.

The details have been given to us, and we've seen that in every thread and every color, every cord, why there is the meaning that it all suggests Christ in His person and in His work. Now we come to the ones that are going to serve in the tabernacle, and the Levites will serve, the family of Aaron will serve as priests, and Aaron himself will be the great high priest. And he'll have to have garments to serve, and these garments all speak of Christ.

And we are given here the instructions for the garments, and it reveals to us Christ as our great high priest. And I know of nothing that reaches down and illustrates how Christ today meets our needs in such a wonderful way. Now, I begin reading at chapter 28, verse 1, and I have to confess that a great deal of these instructions, they do not make thrilling reading.

This doesn't read like a detective story, but it has more meaning in it than a detective story or a mystery. And there's no mystery here because it reveals Christ, and therefore if we don't see Him here, then it's

extremely boring, I can assure you. And you wonder why God would give us all these instructions.

Well, He gave them to us because actually the Bible is a picture book, and that's the way little children learn, is by pictures. I can still remember when I was a little one, and I was given a book, and in it I can see those pictures to this good day. A is for apple, B is for baby, C is for cat, and D is for dog.

And as far as I can go, I wasn't that precocious to go all the way through the alphabet, but I do remember those. And God has given us these pictures that you and I, as babes in Christ, and I'm not sure that many of us get past that stage. I find that great many of the super-duper saints are just great big overgrown babies today, and we all need the picture book to see this great truth God has for us.

Now let's look at this chapter 28, "...and take thou unto thee Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him, and among the children of Israel, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office, even Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, Eleazar, Ithamar, Aaron's sons. And thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother, for glory, and for beauty." Now, I don't get the idea that there's something holy about the garments in the sense that you and I think of that today. This is not a handkerchief that's been prayed over, friends.

That's superstition. That's not what you have here. You see, the word for holy here means in the Hebrew, set apart, and it means that which was set apart for God.

Anything that's set apart for God is holy. Now, you may have in your pocket book today ten dollars. You may want to take one dollar out of that and give that to the Lord's work, and I just well carry that illustration right on through to its logical conclusion.

Maybe you want to send it to the Through the Bible program. Well, the minute that you set that aside for the service of God, that one dollar, and you may have gotten it at a store, and that store may have gotten it from a gambler, and a gambler may have gotten it from a prostitute, and a prostitute may have gotten it from one who was a thief, and so on and so on. But the minute that is set aside for God, that's holy.

Anything that's set aside for God is holy. Now, these are holy garments. They are to be used in the service of God, you see, and I am able to claim today.

I don't wear a robe, but I do use a suit, a mohair suit that I use exclusively for the pulpit, and I have a lot of fun kidding my intimate friends. I tell them I have on my holy suit today. I have on my holy clothes.

Well, in one sense, that's accurate. It is set aside for just one thing, that is the ministering of the Word of God. Now, thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother for glory and for beauty.

Notice there for glory, the glory of God and for beauty, and I love that. Things don't have to be ugly, friends, just because they're in the service of God. I personally resent today that the world and the flesh and the devil has to get everything that's beautiful, even a beautiful woman, beautiful colors, beautiful buildings.

Why can't God get the beauty? He's the one who made beauty, and if you don't think He splashes color around, watch a sunset, or look at the leaves in the fall, or go out and look at the heavens during a storm even. Oh, God majors in colors and beauty, and there is a beauty. And so they're for glory and for beauty.

And thou shalt speak unto all that are wisehearted, whom I fill with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments to consecrate him, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office.

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