

The High Priest

The Priestly Garments

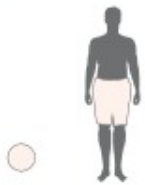
On Mount Sinai, Moses is instructed by God to gather his brother Aaron and Aaron's sons to be priests in the Holy Temple, built in 957 BC. To fulfill their duties, sacred garments are to be made at the highest standards of craftsmanship. In the generations of priests that follow, painstaking attention is paid to ensure every piece is woven and tailor-made to fit each priest.

MATERIALS

All pieces are made out of one or more of the following:

- Gold
- Linen
- Wool, in three colors

HIGH PRIEST'S ORDER OF DAILY DRESS



1. Pants
The priests can take their street clothes off only after they had put on the pants.



2. Tunic
The sleeves are made separately and are the only pieces sewn, not woven.



3. Belt
This combination of materials is only allowed for the priests' garments.



4. Robe
The hem is adorned with hollow wool "pomegranates" and gold bells.



5. Ephod
Made of all five materials, it is considered the most important garment.



6. Breastplate
It is set with 12 stones whose colors match the flags of the tribes of Israel.



7. Turban
A blue wool cap with gold bands may have been placed over the linen turban.



8. Crown
The thin plate of gold engraved with the raised words "Holy to the Lord."

A CLOSER LOOK

Putting on the turban consisted of taking a strip of linen approximately 24 feet long and winding it around the head.

Settings of gold on the shoulder straps of the ephod are fit for two sardonyx "remembrance" stones, each engraved with six names of the tribes of Israel, in order of their birth.

The Urim V'Tummim is the divine name of God written on a piece of parchment. Its presence allowed for the divine guidance received by the illumination of the letters on the stones.

The tunic is woven in a checkered knit pattern as opposed to a cross-weave pattern. The sleeves are woven separately, and then sewn on.

The bells made it easier to follow the priests' movements during service. There are as many as 72 wool pomegranates woven onto the hem of the robe.

The floor of the Temple is holy, and consequently the priests are to keep their feet bare.



HIGH PRIEST ON DAY OF ATONEMENT

1. Pants

2. Tunic
One for morning, one for evening

3. Belt
No wool embroidery

4. Turban
No blue cap with gold bands

ORDINARY PRIESTS' DAILY DRESS

1. Pants

2. Tunic

3. Belt
May have been embroidered

4. Turban
Placed on head, not wound on