

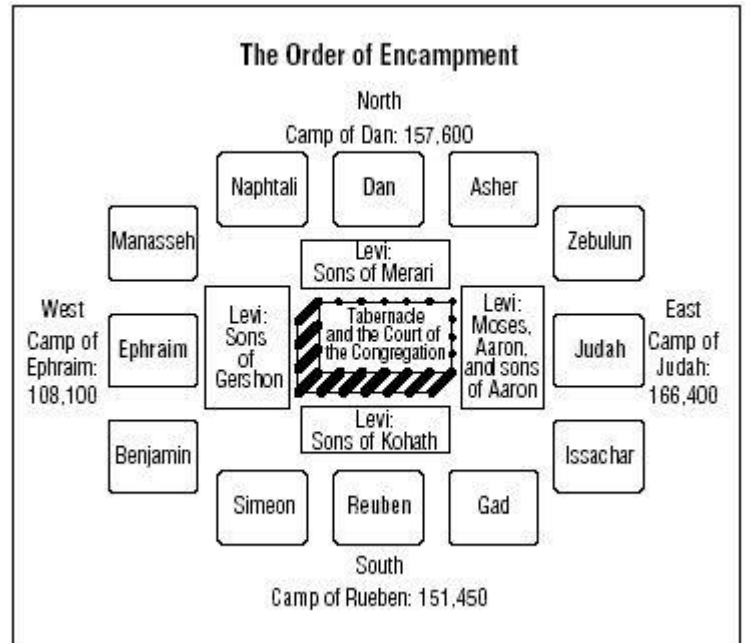
Week #:	58	Text:	(various)	Title:	Secrets of the Holy Place: 3 (B)
Songs:					
Video:	Perry Stone – Secrets of the Holy Place #3				

### Secrets of the Holy Place, by Perry Stone (begin DVD #2 at 00:35:25)

- Why did God choose the almond?
  - The menorah has the almond nob, flower, and bud represented on each branch.
    - This is the three phase process of almonds coming from early winter into the early spring when they blossom.
  - The word **almond** in Hebrew is the word **shahked**, and it comes from the Hebrew root word that means **to be alert, sleepless, or to be on the lookout**. The root word is translated as **awaken**, and the reason it is translated thusly is that **the almond tree blossoms earlier and announces spring in Israel**. You know spring is coming because the almond blossoms are first seen on the trees.
  - The **almond tree** is known as **the tree of the awakening**.
  - On the menorah, the top of each branch represented the complete blossom of an almond, and the others represented in the 66 ornaments on all the branches.
    - The reason the almond is on there is because there's light on that menorah, and when you come into the Holy Place, you have to be awakened to the light that surrounds you and know the light that's there in order to do the ministry that's in the Holy Place.
    - So the almond is given as a picture to say: **wake up, to see, to be alert, to be alive**.
    - God was saying, *"When you see Aaron, you need to be awake and alert that he is My priest. When you see Aaron, you need to understand that I've given him the priesthood as a sign to shake you up and awaken you to who I am and to what I'm going to do in your life."*
    - When you come into the menorah and you see the beautiful imagery of the almond, it means *get ready because you're about to be illuminated, you're about to be awakened, your spirit is about to see, the blindness is about to come off of your eyes, the eyes of your understanding are about to be opened*.
    - So the almond indicates awake, look, see, and it is the first thing that happens in the spring in Israel.
- There was one high priest, but there were thousands of Levites.
  - One man that wore the holy garments
  - Thousands that wore the white garments
- The purpose of the priesthood:
  - To approach God on behalf of the people
  - To offer sacrifices to God on behalf of the people
  - To make intercession on behalf of the people
  - To receive tithe and offerings from the people
  - To maintain the daily rituals and routines that were required in the Tabernacle
- God was very strict on who a priest could be. The firstborn son is supposed to be the priest, but there were certain birth defects that would exempt him from the priesthood, and it would go to the next son (Leviticus 21:16-21).
  - A few defects: blind, lame, broken foot, broken hand, a crooked back, hunched back, a dwarfed height.
    - Obviously it was because if you had a defect such as a broken foot, they did not have medically what we have today. You would not be able to minister and carry the weight of the ministry, wave the heavy offerings, cut animals, pick up animals, etc. The practicality of this is why God says this. If their back, they couldn't go in expecting to carry the weight and be bent over and hurting.

- This changed under our priesthood – it doesn't matter what you physically look like, you can approach God as a priest now. That's the good news for us.
- Example: no dwarfed person could be a priest. God doesn't have something against short people, but one reason for this exemption had to do with the belt of their wardrobe:
  - The belt on the high priest was 48' long. It started wrapping at his upper chest (just under his arms) and went all the way down to his loins. God had to separate the heart from the private area. It had to stop before his private area – the wrapped part is called the **holy area**, and lower is called the **profane area**.
  - The high priest had to be taller because they had to wear the belt. If they were short they didn't have enough torso to do it properly.
  - God's intent was not to be against somebody, but He was trying to establish a standard to be able to do the work. If you are short, how do you relight the menorah? If your maturity or height is not where it should be, there are things that will be difficult for you to do.
- All these things are practical:
  - As a priest, if we are spiritually blind, we can't see the things of God.
  - If our hands are doing wrong things, we aren't doing the right work of God.
  - If our feet take us to places we shouldn't go, then we aren't walking right before God.
- There is an application to the priesthood here that every believer needs to understand in our own life.
- There is a problem with a discrepancy in the Bible regarding the number of years, or how old you are supposed to be to be a priest. The scholars of theology feel like there is a contradiction in the Word of God, but if you search it out you will have the answer.
  - Was the priest to be 20 years of age, 25 years of age, or 30 years of age?
    - Numbers 8:24 says that the Levites shall enter the service of the temple at 25 years of age.
    - I Chronicles 23:24 says that they were said to enter at 20 years of age.
    - Numbers 4:3 says they were said to be 30 before they could enter the actual service of the temple.
  - God starts out with a certain number and a certain age and discovers that with 2.5 million Israelites, He's got to get more in at an earlier age to train and prepare them. There was a need for more therefore the age had to be younger.
    - The rabbis explain this perfectly: they began training at age 25, but actually enter the ministry at age 30.
    - It's just like today most people go to a Bible school for 4 years for a bachelor of theology or religion or something of that nature, then they go into the ministry.
    - You have to have training to know how to cut. According to the Temple Institute, there are all kinds of laws on how you cut a bird, how to cut an animal, where you have to stand to wave it. All these things seem very simple, but there was a purpose just like the heave offering and the wave offering. One was done up and down and one was done left and right. God said it had to be done that way, and it forms the cross. God wanted people to understand the imagery of redemption that's going to come in the future.
  - We do know that age 30 became the age of the priesthood because in Luke's gospel (Luke 3:21-23) it tells you that Jesus was about 30 when he entered into the Jordan River to be baptized by John the Baptist, his cousin. So Christ entered the priesthood at the age that the Bible says too.
  - Younger men were needed when transporting the tabernacle in Moses' time. There were three categories of things:
    - Hard things

- Soft things
    - Sacred things
    - In our lives we as a believer have to deal with hard things, we have to deal with soft things, and we have to deal with sacred things.
  - Three groups were established for these.
    - The Kohathites were the ones to remove the veil, cover the Ark of the Covenant, and transport the sacred furniture (Numbers 4:4-20).
    - The Gershonites were to transport the non-wooden parts – ropes, curtains, pins, etc. (Numbers 4:21-28).
    - The Merarites were to take care of all the wooden posts and the metal parts (Numbers 3:29-33).
- Where they camped was interesting:
  - The total Levites were 8,500
    - Kohathites were 2,750
    - Gershonites were 2,630
    - Merarites were 3,200
  - They were camped on the outside of it so that when it came time to move, they could take it down.
    - Blue coverings had to be put over the Ark of the Covenant and over the menorah. They had to be carried, and there were carts that had been prepared for some of the larger materials so that you didn't carry each beam, instead it was loaded onto a cart.



- There is a discrepancy that cannot be solved as to how many high priests there were from the time of Aaron all the way to the destruction of the Temple in 70 a.d.
  - The Samaritans have one list.
  - The Jewish rabbis have another list.
  - Historians have another list.
  - Some suggest that there were 84-85 priests in that period. Some list only 67 including Aaron.
- The point with the high priest, is the hood of the high priest had to be transferred to the oldest son of the priest when he died.
- The tetragramaton (yod hey vav hey) – a fancy name for a four lettered word. We say it as Jehovah, but there's no J in Hebrew.
- The high priest handed the priesthood down to his oldest son when he died. But if his son had defects it would go to the next born son.
  - High priest has sons, and sons become priests.
  - Jesus is the high priest in heaven, who has spiritual sons on earth who Revelations says is a kingdom of priests (Hebrews 7:26) (Revelation 1:6; 5:10). What Jesus did for us is transfer the priesthood to us.

- The two different garments used by the priests:
  - 1- the 8 garments of beauty the high priest wore
  - 2- the 4 linen garments the high priest changed into on the Day of Atonement
  - 3- the 4 linen garments that the normal priests, the Levites, wore
- Three different belts that were used – the belt represents your strength:
  - High priest belt: embroidered with red, blue, and crimson dyed wool and twisted linen (Exodus 39:29).
  - High priest belt on the Day of Atonement: white and had to be six-ply linen to hold together (Leviticus 16:4). You don't want any rips in your garment when you are in the presence of God.
  - Levite belt: was wrapped around his waist 7 times; from just below the heart to just above the loins. There were 7 knots that were tied for this belt. The belt was so long that it would get in the way of the Levite ministering, so they would tie it in 7 – which is completion, indicating that the day comes when the patterns of this tabernacle and the priesthood will be complete in one person.
- High Priest:
  - The garments were to never be soiled.

Ecclesiastes 9:8 says:

*Let thy garments be always white; and let thy head lack no ointment.*

  - Each garment had to be tailor fitted to the priest because some could be a little taller than another (Exodus 28).
  - Garments of beauty:
    - A breastplate with 12 stones in the center of his heart.
    - An ephod that was embroidered with purple, scarlet, and gold.
    - A tunic with checkered patterns (the white garment).
    - A robe of blue with gold bells and pomegranates. A 12-ply thread was used on this garment.
    - A turban on his head which was white.
    - A belt – three fingers breadth (2.5" high), 48' long, wrapping around from heart all the way down to the upper part of the loins.
    - Pants worn underneath made of linen.
    - Gold crown on his head, two fingers breadth, from ear to ear, and tied together in the back with a blue band, with the words in Hebrew that said: *holy unto the Lord*.
    - Josephus (Jewish historian) says that the belt of the priest was so long that the two ends hung down to his feet and when he ministered they had to be taken off his feet and thrown over his shoulders.
  - The atonement in each priestly garment:
    - The tunic atoned for killing
    - The pants atoned for sexual transgression
    - The turban atoned for haughtiness
    - The belt atoned for sins of the heart
    - The breastplate atoned for errors in judgment
    - The ephod atoned for idolatry
    - The robe atoned for evil speech

- The Crown atoned for arrogance
- Gold was cut in little strips to use on the breastplate.
- Blue wool was used – the blue dye came from a Mediterranean snail.
- Red wool was used – the red dye came from a type of sea snail.
- Crimson wool was used, which was called tola in Hebrew. It was a mountain worm that had to be crushed to produce the color.
- Twisted linen was used, and the word linen there is the word **shesh**, which is the Hebrew word for **six**. So the linen on the priest (according the history) had a six-ply thread. God made the garments to where they could not be ripped.
  - In the Bible it says that what we call the collar is to be double hemmed so that it can't be torn (John 19:23). In Judaism when men mourn, they rip their garments. God said He never wanted the top part of the priest's garments to be ripped.
  - Caiaphas was the high priest in Jesus' day. In the trial, he asked Jesus, "Are you the Son of God?". Jesus said, "You have said it.", and then Caiaphas ripped his garment (Matthew 26:57-65). In Judaism this represented: he voided his priesthood the moment he ripped his garment.
  - If a Levite is caught sleeping , he was beaten with a rod and his gown is burned. That's why Jesus said in Revelation to be alert and awake lest the Messiah come and find you sleeping (Revelation 16:15). That's an illusion to the priesthood.
  - If a priest has done something horrible, the high priest would go up and rip his garment (because the Levite's garment was not double hemmed), and rip it all the way down to his heart. This means he is done with that priest, he is excommunicated from the priesthood.
  - When Caiaphas ripped the top of his garment, he is indicating by Jewish teaching that he voided the high-priesthood, meaning who is now the high priest? Jesus.
  - When Jesus died on the cross they did not gamble for His garment. It was seamless (John 19:23-24).
    - The Levite's garment was seamless. It has diamond or kite shapes all over it. In Jewish history (thousands of years ago) it says that there is a part of the human body that is shaped like a diamond. There's a ventricle in the heart that can have a little bit of a kite shape – so the application is that the priest is carrying the heart of God. On the head on an infant, the soft spot is diamond shaped.
    - The priests are carrying the weight of the ministry for the head that was God, who would later be Christ.
    - Ripping this garment was terrible.
- On the Day of Atonement the high priest took off his garments of beauty and he put on the four linen garments:
  - Pants: you were not to see any part of his flesh, so they cover the leg all the way down to the feet, so that if he is moving his leg is not exposed.
  - Linen robe: down to the wrists and down to the ankle.
  - Belt
  - Headdress

- The Day of Atonement garments for the high priest were a special 6-ply garment. He would dress like the Levites on this day when He would go into the presence of God. The reason is, there is no metal on him at all.
  - The old Pentecostal movement promoted modest dress because of this – they didn't want anyone to be tempted at church by seeing someone immodestly dressed.
- Why did God make him take off his usual garments?
  - This is the day (Day of Atonement) that he offers blood 43 times. God does not want the sacred garments to be stained by the sacrificial blood. He wants these to remain beautiful. He wants the priest to have a beauty. So he dresses in the linen garments which can be covered by blood.
    - He actually does the first part of the Day of Atonement in a set of garments and gets covered by blood. He then exchanges those and puts on another set of garments, and then after those garments he then comes out with the garments of beauty on again saying, ***"It is finished."***
    - The imagery here is that the first set represents the old covenant, and the second set represents Christ who would bring in the new covenant.
  - The garments of beauty have gold on it. One reason God says not to let them enter with the garments of beauty is that it has gold. Israel's first sin was with a golden cow (Exodus 32). So that there would be no sin connected with gold, he did not enter with the regular garments with gold.
- If the garments become soiled they cannot be used. They did not throw the garment away. You cannot take that which is holy and make it less holy, but you can take that which is less holy and make it more holy. So the concept is this: these garments had been used to minister to the Lord, so they must be used for ministry.
  - The tunics were shredded and made for the wicks of the menorah. When they could not get the garments clean, God said to still use the garment for light. One application is that ministers who fail and their garments are messed up, yet God amazingly still allows them years later to come back and minister and produce light of the Word of God for people, by taking the soiled garment and taking what the devil meant for evil into something good.
  - The belts and pants were shredded and used for oil lamps during the Feast of Tabernacles.
  - God will even take your mess and your soiled garments, and if you'll let Him do it, turn something good out of it.

(end DVD #2 at 01:07:15)