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# WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

EXODUS 28:5-43



We have many basic spiritual needs that we cannot supply. We need support, we need sympathy, we need safety, we need sanctification. These are great needs. Can anyone supply them?

In Exodus 28:5-43, God provided for these needs in Israel through spiritual guides called priests. Let's take a look at the priests' clothes to find out more about what to look for in a spiritual guide.

## LEARNING

### A PRIEST IS SUPPORTIVE (9-12)

The priest engraved the twelve names of the tribes of Israel on two onyx stones that were sown into the shoulders of his priestly garments. Why did he do this? Moses tells us: **And you shall set the two stones on the shoulder pieces of the ephod, as stones of remembrance for the sons of Israel. And Aaron shall bear their names before the Lord on his two shoulders for remembrance** (12). Through these engraved shoulder stones, the priest said to Israel, I remember you, support you, and carry you before the Lord.

WE ARE WEAK  
BUT HE IS STRONG

He's strong but does he love me?

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### A PRIEST IS SYMPATHETIC (29-30)

The priest also had a breastpiece with twelve precious gemstones sown into it, each with the names of the twelve tribes engraved on them. **Aaron shall bear the names of the sons of Israel in the breastpiece of judgment [i.e. decision, guidance] on his heart, when he goes into the Holy Place, to bring them to regular remembrance before the Lord** (29). He wore this when he prayed for guidance for the Israelites. Through these engraved gems on his chest, the priest said to Israel, "You are on my heart. I love you and I will guide you."

WE ARE PATHETIC  
BUT HE IS SYMPATHETIC

### A PRIEST IS SAFE (31-35)

It wasn't safe for the Israelites to enter God's holy place, but it was safe for the priests. To assure Israel that the priest was safe, God put golden bells on the end of his robe so that Israel could hear them when the priest went into the holy place. **And it shall be on Aaron when he ministers, and its sound shall be heard when he goes into the Holy Place before the Lord, and when he comes out, so that he does not die** (35). These bells said "I am safe and well in God's presence."

WE ARE RISKY  
BUT HE IS SAFE

### A PRIEST IS SANCTIFIED (36-38)

On his head, the priest wore a turban with a gold plate. It was engraved with **Holy to the Lord** (36). **It shall be on Aaron's forehead, and Aaron shall bear any guilt from the holy things that the people of Israel consecrate as their holy gifts. It shall regularly be on his forehead, that they may be accepted before the Lord** (38). This gold plate said, "I am your holy representative. When I offer your sacrifices and gifts to God, he accepts me, you, and them as holy."

WE ARE SINFUL TO THE LORD  
BUT HE IS HOLY TO THE LORD

LOVING

Support, sympathy, safety, and support. What an amazing guide! What a spiritual friend to have! But all of this pointed to God's final priest, God's Great High Priest, Jesus Christ. The whole book of Hebrews is devoted to showing us the superiority of Jesus as our spiritual guide (eg. Heb. 7: 26-27; 8:1-6; 9:11-14, 24-28; 10:11-14). In him there is perfect support, sympathy, safety, and sanctification. What a friend we have in Jesus!

LIVING

Bring your spiritual needs to God's strong, sympathetic, safe, and sanctifying spiritual guide.

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