

## THE SEAMLESS TUNIC OF JESUS

Exodus 39:22, 23

John 19:23, 24

Today marks the final hours of *Rosh Hashanah*, marking the Jewish New Year. It is a day when the Orthodox Jew begins to examine his life and repent of all known wrongs that he or she has committed in the past year. It is the beginning of the *Ten Days of Awe*, culminating on the *Day of Atonement*.

The *Day of Atonement* is considered the holiest day in the Jewish calendar. It is commemorated by total abstinence and the serious person will wear white to represent purity on this day. In the ancient ritual of the *Day of Atonement*, the high priest would sacrifice a young bullock (male bovine), then he would sacrifice a ram (male sheep) as a burnt sacrifice, first for himself and then he would sacrifice a goat for the people and a scapegoat would be set free (Leviticus 16). Hebrews 7:26, 27:

“For such a high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people’s: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.”

According to Jewish tradition, the Jew believes that the *Day of Atonement* will grant forgiveness of sins and assure that one’s name is guaranteed in the Book of Life for another year, but this is only good for one year at a time. Hebrews 10:3 and 4 says, “But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.” Colossians 2:17 informs us that these ceremonial observances were defined as, “...a shadow of things to come, but the body *is* of Christ.” This means that Christ Himself becomes the sacrifice, not the bulls, rams or goats! Hebrews 10:5-9: “Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.” In Christ we have the fulfillment of the law and we come under the New Covenant (Testament) rather than the Old Covenant (Testament).

### I. THE EPHOD OF THE HIGH PRIEST

Exodus 39:1b says, “...they made cloths of service, to do service in the holy place, and made the holy garments for Aaron; as the LORD commanded Moses.” God specified the garments to be worn by the priests and especially for the high priest who would be officiating in the holy place and the most holy place. Exodus 39:22 and 23 commands, “And he made the robe of the ephod of woven work, all of blue. And there was an hole in the midst of the robe, as the hole of an habergeon, with a band round about the hole, that it should not rend.”

### A. The Cloth

The wording of the garment's material is "fine linen and fine twined linen." Contrast these verses: "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return" (Genesis 3:19) and "They shall have linen bonnets upon their heads, and shall have linen breeches upon their loins; they shall not gird themselves with any thing that causeth sweat" (Ezekiel 44:18). The best commentary on what you just read is found in Titus 3:5-7: "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

### B. The Color

Exodus 39:22 says it will be made "all of blue...." Blue is a reminder of Heaven and a reminder of the holy commandments of God. Numbers 15:38, 39: "Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribband of blue: And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the LORD, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a whoring."

### C. The Continuity

Exodus 39:23, "And there was an hole in the midst of the robe, as the hole of an habergeon, with a band round about the hole, that it should not rend." The habergeon was the reinforced area around the neck to prevent tearing. Josephus tells, "Now this vesture was not composed of two pieces, nor was it sewed together upon the shoulders and the sides, but it was one long vestment so woven as to have an aperture for the neck."

## II. THE SEAMLESS COAT (TUNIC OR ROBE) OF JESUS

John 19:23, 24: "Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout. They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did."

The Bible does not supply us with all the information surrounding the events of the passion of our Savior, but we may surmise this - our Lord was not wearing this robe on His journey up to Calvary; it would have become extremely soiled in His blood. And the soldiers deemed this robe as something exquisite; otherwise they would not have been gambling for it. I would suggest that when Christ was disrobed for the torture preceding the cross, the clothes were carried by one of the soldiers following Christ.

### III. THE REMOVAL OF THE COAT

We see in Leviticus 16:4 that the high priest would strip down to the pure white linen and enter into the Holy of Holies with the blood and sprinkle it throughout and most particularly upon the Mercy Seat. When he came out from the curtain, His white garments were covered in blood.

Christ went into the literal Holy of Holies for us, clothed in His own righteousness. Hebrews 9:12: "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."

### IV. THE NEW HIGH PRIEST

Matthew 26:65: "Then the high priest rent his clothes...." At the crucifixion trials of Jesus, the high priest Caiaphas broke the law. Leviticus 21:10: "And he that is the high priest among his brethren, upon whose head the anointing oil was poured, and that is consecrated to put on the garments, shall not uncover his head, nor rend his clothes." How prescient! The robe of Jesus is not torn! Soon after this, when Christ died, the Bible says in Matthew 27:51: "And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent." Compare Hebrews 10:19, 20: "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh." The Old Testament priesthood according to Aaron has been exchanged for the better priesthood of our Melchizedec (Hebrews 7:21, 22).

This is a great promise that, like Christ's Tunic that was not torn, neither shall any part of Christ's bride be torn from Him. Genesis 2:23: "And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh...." John 19:36: "For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken." What a promise! John 17:12: "While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled."

-Pastor Pope-