

## BFF350 The Garments of a Priest

**Scott Moore:** Welcome to the "Building Faith Families" podcast, with Steve Demme. I'm your host, Scott Moore. Thanks for joining us today. Good morning, Steve. How are you today?

**Steve:** I'm well, how are you?

**Scott:** I'm good.

**Steve:** Today we're talking about priest's clothing. These were specific garments made for Aaron and his sons, by the same people who built the tabernacle.

The building of the tabernacle included the basins, the altars of sacrifices and the golden lamp stands. Then there were the priests. Aaron had amazing garments, which I've seen in replicas. They must have been stunning when you first saw them back in those days.

We're going to start there, then we're going to move into a new covenant approach, and discern how the priestly garments apply to us today. For we are priests, and a kingdom of priests. We have been chosen and called to be priests. I think there's a lot of this that is very applicable, and I hope that the Spirit of God will take it even beyond what I have to say and what's in my notes.

Let's pray: Father, we draw near to You today. We come through the blood of Jesus, we come through the fresh cleansing and washing of water with Your Word, and we come through the anointing that these priests received.

I pray that You'll give us eyes to see and understand what it was that You were calling for for these priests, and then how we can apply it to our own experience. In Jesus' name, amen.

**Scott:** Amen.

**Steve:** Exodus 28:40–43, "For Aaron's sons, you shall make coats and sashes and caps. You shall make them for glory and beauty, and you shall put them on Aaron, your brother, and on his sons with him, and shall anoint them, and ordain them, and consecrate them that they may serve me as priests."

There's just so much packed into that first verse or two. They were anointed, they were to be clothed, they were to be set apart, ordained, and consecrated. I'm taking that in for myself just as much as talking into the microphone.

"You shall make them linen undergarments to cover their naked flesh. They shall reach from the hips to the thighs, and they shall be on Aaron and on his sons when they go into the tent of meeting or when they come near the altar to minister in the Holy Place, lest they bear guilt and die. This shall be a statute forever for him and for his offspring after him."

I think there's application for us, especially when I see words like "forever." Now five different places where Moses is articulating all the different dynamics of the tabernacle, the altar, the basin, the lampstand, the showbread, the burning incense, etc. He would tuck in these sentences, "Aaron also and his sons will I sanctify to minister to me in the priest's office."

Exodus 40:11–16 compasses this whole thought. "You shall also anoint the basin and its stand and consecrate it. Then you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance of the tent of meeting and shall wash them with water and put on Aaron the holy garments and you shall anoint him and consecrate him that he may serve me as priests.

"You shall bring his sons also, and put coats on them and anoint them as you anointed their father, that they may serve me as priests. Their anointing shall admit them to a perpetual priesthood throughout their generations. Thus, Moses did according to all that Jehovah commanded him, so he did."

You see how he is teaching about the basin then immediately it goes right into Aaron and his priests. Clothing is an essential part of being a priest, and you and I have been given special clothing as priests. We want to look at that little bit. I ran across this verse the other day when I was reading Psalm 132. By the way, as I'm reading the Scripture, I see more and more references to the Tabernacle. I see references to Psalm 100, coming into His presence with joyful shout, etc. Here's Psalm 132:7–9, "Let us go into His dwelling place. Let us worship at His footstool. Arise, O Jehovah, to Your resting place, You and the ark of Your strength. Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness and let Your saints shout for joy."

Notice, "Let your priests be clothed with righteousness. Let your saints shout for joy." It's talking about this ark, His footstool, His dwelling place, His resting place, so it all came together right there. Let's first consider what kind of garments that we have to operate with to begin with, because we all have clothes on.

Now, I don't know what kind of clothes you're wearing today, but we all have clothes. Romans 3:9–12, Paul says, "Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks are under sin. As it is written, none is righteous, no, not one. No one understands. No one seeks for God. All have turned to aside. Together, they have become worthless. No one does good, not even one."

Paul removes all questions, all doubt. He doesn't leave any wiggle room there. We are all unrighteous. Now Isaiah 64:6, and I need to be delicate how I say this. "All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment." Now, Scott, you must have heard that verse referenced before.

**Scott:** Yes.

**Steve:** You know what that word for "filthy garment" is?

**Scott:** I believe it has to do with menstrual cloths.

**Steve:** Exactly. Thank you. That's all we're going to say. That's a filthy garment. It's the only time I think that Hebrew word is used, by the way, in the Bible.

Zechariah paints another picture. Zechariah 3:1-5, it says, "He showed me Joshua, the high priest standing before the angel of Jehovah, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him."

(Remember, it says in Revelation that the devil is called the accuser of the brethren.)

Here's a picture, we have Joshua the high priest standing in front of God, Satan at his right hand, whispering, accusing him. Verse 2, and Jehovah said to Satan, "Jehovah rebuke you, Satan. Indeed, Jehovah, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you. Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?" Now, Joshua was clothed with filthy garments.

All right, I'm going to stop right there. This is Joshua, and this is us. Interesting that the word "Joshua" means Yah saves. You might say this is Jesus taking care of us. There's a whole bunch of stuff going on here. Let's just read it as it says. Joshua, high priest clothed with filthy garments. That is not the same word that's mentioned in Isaiah 64:6.

These garments, it's only used twice in the Bible, are garments for cleaning yourself after you've done a bowel movement. Both of these are filthy garments. Joshua's standing there before the angel. This is us. We have no righteous acts.

Our righteousness is like a filthy garment, whichever translation, whichever word you choose. "God spoke and said to those who are standing before Him, saying, 'Remove the filthy garments from Him.' Again He said, 'See, I have taken your iniquity away from you and will clothe you with festal robes.'

"Then I said, 'Let them put a clean turban on his head.' They put a clean turban on his head and clothed them with garments while the angel of Jehovah was standing by."

What a picture of us, in Joshua, standing there. Our filthy garments are acknowledged, and then they're taken away. He didn't leave us standing there. He then clothes us with festal robes and puts a clean turban on our head. Joshua is reclothed. It's an amazing picture.

This is not the first time that God has made garments for somebody. In Genesis 3, it says, "God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them. That was after they told God, "We're naked." God said, 'Who told you that?'"

Until sin entered the world, they didn't know that. They had no awareness of it. They had no shame, they had no guilt. When sin entered, the whole picture changed. God didn't leave them. He had to kill an animal to clothe His precious Adam and Eve.

There's another place. Luke 15. When the prodigal son returns, he said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son, but the Father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robes and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet.'" This prodigal son was reinstated, reclothed in the best robes.

Not secondhand robes, not some of the servants' castaways, bring the best robes. I have battled condemnation for decades, and condemnation is when you just feel hopeless, and you feel like no matter what you do, you're never going to be able to shuck these old robes. You're never going to be pure white in his sight. You're never going to be able to fully measure up.

Maybe it's because of my upbringing. Maybe it's because I've been listening to the accuser of the brethren too much. For whatever reason, condemnation, has been part of my battle for a long time, and recently God's helped me through it.

When we are condemned, we need to respond with the Word of God, just as Jesus did when He was attacked by the devil. By the way, there's a difference between conviction, which points to our sin and then points to our Savior. Condemnation points to our sin and makes us feel hopeless.

**Romans 8:1** is a good place to start. "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." This should be on every refrigerator. No condemnation, especially for those that want to walk in white, that want to have clean garments.

**Isaiah 1:18** says, "Come now, let us reason together. Although your sins be a scarlet, they shall be as white as snow. Though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." This is God talking to us. I know you've got sins, but you know what? Let's reason together. Let's talk about this.

Though your sins are red, they shall be as white as snow and as wool. Then not only does He take away our sins, but in Isaiah 61:10, "I will greatly rejoice in Jehovah. My soul shall exalt in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation. He has covered me with the robe of righteousness as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels."

There's a lot going on here. He's clothed me with the garment salvation. He's covered me with the robe of righteousness. Hold that thought. He's decked Himself like a priest with these wonderful garments and a beautiful headdress like a bride. There's three thoughts there. Righteousness, priest, headdress of a bride.

**2 Corinthians 5:21**, "He made him to be sin who knew no sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." We've mentioned this before. It's

a powerful verse, the last verse in 2 Corinthians 5, "He made him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf."

He took our sins upon Himself, it says in Scripture, "So that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." The only way for us to be clothed is by putting on Christ, by being clothed in His garments of salvation, His robe of righteousness. It's not just righteousness. It's Christ's righteousness. The righteousness of God in Him. I don't know all that transpires at baptism, but I think a lot more happens there than we think. I don't think it's a simple ceremony. There's just too much Scripture that says "You have died, you've put off. When you come out of the water, you put on."

1 Peter 3:21 talks about baptism. Baptism does now save you, the cleansing of their conscience, etc. I'm just going to leave it there. I just think there's a lot more to it than just a little simple ceremony we do in the front of the church with everybody and everybody's family there.

**Galatians 3:** 26–27 says, "In Christ Jesus, you all are sons of God through faith, for as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

When you put that together with Romans 6, when you go down into the water, you're dying. When you come out of the water, you're not just cleansed, you have put on Christ, you've put on His robes of righteousness.

Ecclesiastes 9:8, this wonderful little gem, "Let your garments be always white." Isn't that sweet? Just tucked right in Ecclesiastes.

Now we're going to close up with a whole bunch of verses from Revelation, and they're all rich, but remember, the more we understand tabernacles, priests, and lamp stands, the more Revelation makes sense.

Now we have priestly garments we've been talking about. We're talking about Christ's robes of righteousness. We're talking about putting off our old man and putting on the new man.

**Revelation 3:** 4–5, "You have a few people in Sardis who have not spoiled their garments and they will walk with me in white for they are worthy. He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments."

**Revelation 3:**18, talking to the church in Laodisea "I advise you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed."

There's something that we can do. We can cooperate here, we can overcome, we can buy these white garments and clothe ourselves. There's a whole bunch of verses that I have at the end of this we probably won't get into.

I've got one, two, three, four, five six verses, seven that all say, put on the new self or put on then as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, or put on love or put on the breastplate of faith and love. I've had friends who say when they get up in the morning, they consciously put off the old man and they put on Christ as they're putting on their clothes.

**Revelation 6:9–11**, "When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the Word of God and for the witness they had borne. They cried out with a loud voice, 'Oh, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell in the earth?' Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer."

There it is again. Revelation 7:9–14. Long passage. "After this I looked and behold a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands."

This is it. When everything is wrapped up, everybody is going to have a white robe that's standing before the Lamb, and then we're going to skip down to the end of that passage. "One of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these clothed and white robes, and from where have they come?'

"I said to him, 'Sir, you know.' He said to me, 'These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.'"

Now, I don't know how to consciously wash my robes, but I believe it has everything to do with the blood of Jesus. According to this, they wash their robes in the blood of the Lamb. By faith, God cleanse us today. All of us who are listening today, cleanse us in the blood of the Lamb, make our robe white. Amen.

**Revelation 19:8**, "It was given unto her that she should array herself in fine linen, bright and pure for the fine linen is the righteous acts," and this fabric that the priest garments were made of was a fine linen.

**Revelation 19:13** talking about Jesus. "He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called the Word of God. And the armies which are in heaven clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following him on white horses."

Three more passages. Revelation 21, first three verses. I could read this every day. "I saw a new heaven and a new earth for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more, and I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

"And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be as their God.'"

This is a bride adorned. She's got the proper garments on. This is the marriage supper of the Lamb. I introduced this thought. There's a marriage coming.

Jesus has some sober words in Matthew 22: 9–14, "Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find. And those servants went out into the roads, gathered all whom they found both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment.

"And he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to him, to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness.' In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth for many are called, but few are chosen."

These wedding garments are not optional, and they're not just if you feel like it. These are essential. We need to have these wedding garments. We need to be clothed in Christ. We need to have these white robes, and we need to keep them white.

Right at the end of the Bible, Revelation 22:14, "Blessed are those who wash their robes so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates." Blessed are those who wash their robes.

Just to summarize, priests have special garments. Christ has provided garments. Christ has the ability to take off our old garments and put His righteousness on us. We just simply have to ask. Then I feel like there's a point of maintenance. We need to make sure that we're continuing to walk with them in white. We need to wash our robes.

We need to ask God to forgive us from our sins, cleanse us from unrighteousness, and clothe us afresh in His robes of righteousness, and keep our robes white. There you go. Now, I pass the baton.

**Scott:** That's a lot. When you started out, I was wondering how he's going to talk about priests' clothes for a whole episode? Because all I conjure up in my mind when I hear priests' clothes is the old Episcopal priest and his robe and the weird sash and whatever. It's just boring to me. All of this is...it's like you're reclaiming Scripture and the whole idea of priestly garments for me. Although there were a couple of verses that I was just waiting for you to say, and you didn't.

They're more the ones of where we're told by Paul and the other New Testament writers that are in Romans rather clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ. Then

Colossians 3:12. "Therefore, as God's chosen people wholly and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience."

**Steve:** Amen.

**Scott:** Of course, you did mention the armor of God briefly, but that one, kind of a big one in Ephesian 6, so that's what we're supposed to clothe ourselves with. The robes of righteousness and all that stuff, too. Wow. I feel like I need to read the whole Bible again and just be like, "Oh, OK so it does matter what people wear," and all this and that's not just...

There's a lot to this. It's just so much that I can't take it all in one sitting.

**Steve:** Yeah, and that's what we're doing. So, then when you read through the Bible yourselves, you keep your eyes open because there is a lot in Scripture on this. You are absolutely right. I did talk about those put-on verses because there's other places it says put off the old man and be renewed, and then put on Christ, and put on humility.

I think this is what God wants us to do. By the way, that reference was Romans 13:14, "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh." Yeah, good stuff. Good job. That's why you get paid the big bucks.

**Scott:** My whole mind. I'm going to be thinking about this all day long now. I think of the...just the pictures you see of the Pope or whatever, somebody in their fancy garments and their goofy hats and stuff.

It never occurs to me that God had instructions for how to do this in the Old Testament, and Jesus redefined the whole thing. Nowadays, you go to a lot of modern churches, and you think the priestly garments are just what you would wear to cut your grass because that's what you see a pastor wearing.

It's so much more. It's not about the clothes, it's about all the rest, the salvation. It's about what Jesus did for us, and where we're going to end up.

**Steve:** I think this is probably one of the best examples of how God gave all those instructions to Moses, and He said to him several times. Several, we reiterated it, "Make sure you do it, just like I showed you on the mount." Remember that?

**Scott:** Yeah.

**Steve:** He just kept telling them over and over. There's a reason that God planted these seeds. When these people grew up with this teaching, the Israelites, they were immersed in this whole idea of priests, and they had a role, and they had a function, and they had garments, and the tabernacle had a role, and it had a function.

When you are steeped in this, then God is able to build on it, and it's called the New Testament. And I feel like I'm playing catch up.



I'm reading the Old Testament, and I'm studying the tabernacle, and I'm studying how to approach God, and I'm studying what it means to be a priest. You just can't start in Peter, when it says you are a royal priesthood. You have to understand, He was talking to people that were steeped in this tradition, and that's what we're trying to do. We're playing trying to play catch up.

**Scott:** If you're raised in that Hebrew culture, to be told you're a royal priesthood would almost sound like blasphemy, like to hear, "Oh, you're a priest?" "What?" No, no, there's only a few very specific people that are raised and groomed for this life of being a priest, and you have to be born in the right family.

You don't get to just be a priest. That's a big deal. Say, you're a royal priesthood. That would blow your mind.

**Steve:** It should, but I hope that we can put our mind aside a little bit and just accept it because, boy, you said some powerful stuff right there. We have been grafted, if I put it that way. We've been adopted into a royal family, which is why we can now in Christ – how can I put it? –we can walk into this role, with our head held high because of what Jesus has done for us.

This whole study of priests and being a priest has ennobled me. It's given me renewed purpose. We all need to believe that we belong, that we're loved, that we're accepted, that we're a delight. I get that, I get it in a whole new way, but we also have to believe that we have purpose, and we have a calling, and we've been chosen to be and do something.

**Steve:** This is what being a priest has done for me because we have been adopted into a royal family, and we have then adopted this mantle of being a part of Christ's kingdom and a part of Christ's family. We can now put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and we can be clothed in His righteousness, and we can wage war.

We can worship, we can give thanks, all these things that the priests were given to do before we do it again, under the new covenant with Christ. Good job, Scott.

**Scott:** Amen.

**Steve:** Well, this is a lot. I'm going to close with that passage that you referenced Romans 13:12–14, "Night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy, but put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh to gratify its desires."

Father, thank You for this high, noble, awesome calling that You've called us when You call us a royal priesthood. Instead of just putting it in our notebook, we actually do it today.

We put off this old man, we put on Christ. We put off living for ourselves, and we put on living for Jesus, and standing with You and giving thanks to You and all these different studies that we've articulated here, what it means to be a priest.

Thank You for the garments that You provided. Thank You for the garments Jesus made for us. Thank You for his righteousness that now enclose us. We wash our garments of fresh today, and we put on his garments in Jesus name, amen.

**Scott:** Amen. That's our show for this week, folks. Thanks for joining us for the Building Faith Families podcast with Steve Demme. If you have a question for the show, email Steve at [spdemme@Gmail.com](mailto:spdemme@Gmail.com). If you have a question for me, you can reach me at [scott@unsocializedmedia.com](mailto:scott@unsocializedmedia.com). Thanks for joining us. Have a great week.