

# THE HIGH PRIESTS GARMENT

## POMEGRANATE SHAPED BELLS ON THE HEM

At the time of the Temple, the High Priest was the only person who could enter into the "Holy Of Holies", and he could only do that once a year during the Feast of Atonement/Yom Kippur. During this Feast the High Priest (Cohen Gadol), would enter into the Holy of Holies three times.

- 1) When he went in to the Holy of Holies the first time he had to offer a sacrifice for his personal sins and those of his household.
- 2) When he went in the second time he made a sacrifice for the sins of the Levites.
- 3) The third time he went in he offered up a sacrifice for the sins of the Nation Israel.

There was always a back-up priest, or multiple back-up priests standing by in case the ruling High Priest became disqualified. He would wear a very special garment as described in Exod. 28 below.



**Exod. 28:31-35** "You are to make the robe for the ritual vest entirely of blue. 32 It is to have an opening for the head in the middle. Around the opening is to be a border woven like the neck of a coat of mail, so that it won't tear. 33 On its bottom hem make pomegranates of blue, purple and scarlet; and put them all the way around, with gold bells between them all the way around — 34 gold bell, pomegranate, gold bell, pomegranate, all the way around the hem of the robe. 35 Aharon is to wear it when he ministers, and its sound will be heard whenever he enters the Holy Place before ADONAI and when he leaves, so that he won't die. 36 "You are to make an ornament of pure gold and engrave on it as on a seal, 'Set apart for ADONAI.' 37 Fasten it to the turban with a blue cord, on the front of the turban, 38 over Aharon's forehead. Because Aharon bears the guilt for any errors committed by the people of Isra'el in consecrating their holy gifts, this ornament is always to be on his forehead, so that the gifts for ADONAI will be accepted by him. 39 "You are to weave the

*checkered tunic of fine linen, make a turban of fine linen, and make a belt, the work of a weaver in colors. 40 Likewise for Aharon's sons make tunics, sashes and headgear expressing dignity and splendor. 41 With them clothe your brother Aharon and his sons. Then anoint them, inaugurate them, and consecrate them, so that they will be able to serve me in the office of cohen."*

The High Priest would enter into and through the temple veil with a long rope attached to his waste. The reason they had a rope tied to their waste is because if the High Priest was not genuine and sanctified as Holy, the "Shek'hinah" (glory) of Yah's presence would kill him. Even to this day you will see so-called pastors and preachers wearing a rope around their waste. They get that idea from the duty of the High Priest of Temple times. That is the origin of that rope tied around their waste idea.

**He had golden pomegranate bells attached to the hem of his garment so the priests listening closely on the other side of the veil could hear the bells tinkle as he went about his priestly duties in the Holy of Holies.** If Yah rejected the man he would fall to the ground and they would pull him out of the Holy of Holies. If and when this happened, the next Priest in hierarchy would immediately take on the title and role of the High Priest. They would remove the garments of the former High Priest, he would put them on, and enter into the Holy of Holies to take on the duties of the Priesthood.

#### BACKGROUND OF THE HIGH PRIESTS QUALIFICATIONS

In the early days of the Tabernacle in the Wilderness, and Temple in Jerusalem, the High Priests were chosen from the Levitical priesthood descendants of the Aaron's brother Levi. They were serious leaders chosen to do the duties in the Tabernacle and Temple. They were chosen because of their holiness and respect for the work of the Temple.

From the time of the Tabernacle in the wilderness to the building of the first Temple (410 years), there were only twelve High Priests. From the time of the second Temple coming back from Babylon all the way to the destruction of the second Temple (420 years), there were over 300 High Priests. In later times, after the Temple had been destroyed a few times and rebuilt, Yahveh lifted His hand from it and it became nothing more than a place that people laughed at as they walked by, knowing the presence of the Almighty was no longer there (Jer. 7:4-14, 1Kgs. 9:6-9).

When Yeshua came to earth, the position of the High Priest had been taken over by politics. The High Priest was no longer a true servant of Elohim. The position was "open to the highest bidder", so to speak. Those who gained the position by any means other than holiness, used the position to get recognition, money, domination, and the power and control that came with the High Priests position. They may not have had their authority for long, but they were as fraudulent as ever.

This has been going on in most political groups ever since. Believe it or not leaders, priests, Kings, Queens, etc. that worked with or for the Nation as a whole, used to actually be servants of the people. Their desire was always to do what was best, with spiritual guidance, for the entire population, and they did their best, to serve the people.

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