



BREASTPLATE OF THE HIGH PRIEST

Carried Upon His Heart



Remembered • Precious • Engraved

“So, Aaron shall bear the names of the sons of Israel on the **breastplate** of judgment over his heart, when he goes into the holy place, as a memorial before the LORD continually.”

—Exodus 28:29

CARRIED UPON HIS HEART

The garments of the High Priest were not merely beautiful ornate garments. Each and every detail was given by God and these garments were worn with divine purpose and meaning.

One of the most striking pieces of the priestly garment was the **Breastplate of Judgment**, called the *choshen mishpat*. Set in within the breastplate were twelve precious stones, representing the twelve tribes of Israel.



But notice where God instructed the High Priest to carry them: **Over his heart.**

“And Aaron shall bear the names of the children of Israel in the breastplate of judgment upon his heart, when he goeth in unto the holy place, for a memorial before the LORD continually.”

—Exodus 28:29

Every time Aaron entered the holy place, the names of God's people went with him. They were **remembered before the LORD, represented by precious stones, and carried upon the heart of the High Priest.**

This beautiful imagery naturally points us toward Yeshua (Jesus), our Great High Priest. Hebrews gives us a bridge from Aaron's priesthood to Messiah:

“Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God...”

—Hebrews 4:14

THE BREASTPLATE OF JUDGMENT

As we have learned the breastplate worn by the High Priest is called the **choshen mishpat** in Hebrew, commonly translated “**breastplate of judgment.**” It was skillfully made according to the instructions the LORD gave Moses and was worn over the heart of the High Priest.

The breastplate was square and set with **twelve precious stones arranged in four rows.** Each stone was engraved with the name of one of the twelve tribes of Israel. These were not simply beautiful gemstones adorning a priestly garment. They represented the people of God.

“And the stones shall have the names of the sons of Israel, twelve according to their names... each one with its own name; they shall be according to the twelve tribes.”

—Exodus 28:21

The LORD then gave this beautiful instruction:

“So, Aaron shall bear the names of the sons of Israel on the breastplate of judgment over his heart, when he goes into the holy place, as a memorial before the LORD continually.”

—Exodus 28:29



THE URIM AND THUMMIM

The breastplate also contained the **Urim and Thummim**. Scripture tells us that they were placed inside the breastplate of judgment and were carried over Aaron's heart when he went before the LORD.

“And you shall put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim, and they shall be over Aaron's heart when he goes in before the LORD.”
—Exodus 28:30

Scripture does not give us a detailed description of what the Urim and Thummim looked like or precisely how they were used. What Scripture does tell us is that they were placed within the breastplate and were associated with seeking the LORD's judgment, decision making and direction for His people.

YESHUA — OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

“Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.”
—Hebrews 4:14

The imagery is stunning. The High Priest carried God's people upon his heart as he came before the LORD. In Yeshua, we have a Great High Priest who continually represents His people before the Father.

“Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”
—Hebrews 7:25

We are not forgotten or overlooked. The Father sent Yeshua Messiah (Jesus Christ) to be our Great High Priest. He died and rose again and is seated in heavenly places making intercession for us. Hallelujah! What a glorious assurance that we are fully known by Him, fully loved and carried upon His heart continually. We are precious and chosen for His purposes and glory.

“And you shall set in it settings of stones, four rows of stones...”
—Exodus 28:17

“And the stones shall have the names of the sons of Israel, twelve according to their names...”
—Exodus 28:21

Each name was engraved upon a precious stone. Once again, we see that the breastplate was about more than just beauty or ornamentation. **God chose precious stones to bear the names of His people.**



THE FOUR ROWS OF STONES

The following chart reflects traditional identifications and associations of the twelve stones, tribes, colors, and symbols. Remember as you study that the ancient gemstone names and their tribe's association can vary among sources and Biblical translations.

This chart is presented as a helpful reference tool rather than an exact identification. The important biblical truth remains unchanged: there were twelve stones, twelve names, and twelve tribes carried over the heart of the High Priest before the LORD.

Beloved, let the Holy Spirit guide you as you study this fascinating subject of the **Breastplate of the High Priest and its gemstones**. This chart is only a reference to help you get a visual and a better understanding of the significance of these precious stones and their Biblical significance. Pray, and ask God to show you their prophetic meaning.

BIBLICAL NAME	COLOR	TRIBE	SYMBOL
Row 1			
SARDIS	RED	JUDAH	LION
TOPAZ	PALE GREEN	ISSACHAR	DONKEY
CARBUNCLE	DEEP RED	ZEBULUN	SHIP
Row 2			
EMERALD	GREEN	REUBEN	SUNRISE
SAPPHIRE	DEEP BLUE	SIMEON	PITCHER & SWORD
DIAMOND	TRANSPARENT	GAD	TROOP or TENTS
Row 3			
LIGURE	DULL RED	EPHRAIM	GRAPES
AGATE	GREY	MANASSEH	PALM TREE
AMYETHYST	PURPLE	BENJAMIN	WOLF
Row 4			
BERYL	BLUISH GREEN	DAN	SCALES
ONYX	BLUISH WHITE	ASHER	OLIVE TREE
JASPER	BLUE & BROWN	NAPHTALI	HIND (Female deer)



PRECIOUS TO THE LORD

The workmanship of the breastplate was not merely in the brilliance of its gemstones. **Each stone carried a name..**

There is something deeply spiritual in that picture. God's people were not represented by ordinary pieces of wood or stone, but by **precious stones**, each one distinct and each one bearing a name. Scripture repeatedly uses the imagery of jewels and precious stones to speak of something treasured by God.

“They shall be Mine,” says the LORD of hosts, “On the day that I make them My jewels.”

—**Malachi 3:17**

ENGRAVED AND REMEMBERED

We can prophetically see a picture of the heart of God toward His people. He knows those who belong to Him. He chose you before the foundations of the world. Under the Old Covenant, Aaron carried the engraved names of Israel over his heart when he entered the holy place. Now we look to **Yeshua Messiah, our Great High Priest**, who lives forever and continually making intercession for those who come to the Father through Him.

The breastplate reminds us that what God treasures, He carries close to His heart. The names were engraved, the stones were precious, and the memorial was continual. Beloved, as you draw near to Him, remember that you are not approaching a distant God. Through Yeshua, our Great High Priest, we are invited to come boldly before His throne of grace.

“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

—**Hebrews 4:16**

Remembered • Precious • Engraved

—Lora



Further Reading

Gemstones of the Bible — Their Biblical Significance

<https://worshipwarriors.net/teachings/WORSHIP-WARRIORS-Gemstones-of-the-Bible.pdf>

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