

Parashat Pekudei

פרשת פקודי

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The Golden Thread

השבועות הזה קוראים / This Week's Reading

תורה: Exodus 38:21-40:38

הפטרה: 2 Kings 11:17-12:17

הברית: Mark 16

החדשה

Triennial cycle: Shemot / Exodus 38:21-39:21

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This week's Parashat describe the priest's ceremonial robes and their construction. The style, color, and materials that go into the construction of the priestly garments are rich with significance and can be described as garments of glory and beauty. *Shemot / Exodus 39:3* says *Then they hammered out gold sheets and cut them into threads to be woven in with the blue and the purple and the scarlet material, and the fine linen, the work of a skillful workman. (NASB)*

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This is particularly interesting since gold is a yellow precious metal that has been known and used as a monetary medium throughout history. The construction of the garments with the use of gold threads provides us with an inherent preciousness and value in the role of the Cohen HaGadol (High Priest). In addition to this, *Shemot / Exodus* says "... *petilim lasot betoch hatchelet u'vtoch haargaman u'vtoch tolaat hashaniy u'vtoch hashesh maaseh khoshev*" the use of the Hebrew word "betoch" (and "u'vetoch") meaning "in the midst of" indicates that the golden threads are to be intertwined with a three cord thread of blue, purple and scarlet material. I believe there is a spiritual significance of incorporating the golden thread into the priestly garments that speaks of our relationship with God and Yeshua's role as savior and king.

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שמות 39:1-5

יתדת המשכן ואת־כל־יתדת החצר סביב: ומן לט
 התכלת והארנמן ותולעת השני עשו בגדי־שרד לשרת
 בקדש ויעשו את־בגדי הקדש אשר לאהרן כאשר
 צוה יהוה את־משה:
 ויעש את־האפדן והב תכלת וארנמן ותולעת שני ושש
 משור: וירקעו את־פחי הזהב וקצץ פתילם לעשות
 בִּתְּוֹךְ התכלת ובִּתְּוֹךְ הארנמן ובִּתְּוֹךְ תולעת השני
 ובִּתְּוֹךְ השש מעשה חשב: כתפת עשור־לו חֲבֵרֶת על־
 שני קצוותיו חָבֵר: והשב אפדוֹ אשר עליו ממנו הוא
 כמעשהו והב תכלת וארנמן ותולעת שני ושש משור
 כאשר צוה יהוה את־משה: ויעשו

Shemot / Exodus 39:1-5

39:1 Moreover, from the blue and purple and scarlet material, they made finely woven garments for ministering in the holy place as well as the holy garments which were for Aaron, just as the Lord had commanded Moses. 39:2 He made the ephod of gold, and of blue and purple and scarlet material, and fine twisted linen. 39:3 Then they hammered out gold sheets and cut them into threads to be woven in with the blue and the purple and the scarlet material, and the fine linen, the work of a skillful workman. 39:4 They made attaching shoulder pieces for the ephod; it was attached at its two upper ends. 39:5 The skillfully woven band which was on it was like its workmanship, of the same material: of gold and of blue and purple and scarlet material, and fine twisted linen, just as the Lord had commanded Moses. (NASB)

30 The Lord tells Moshe, in *Shemot / Exodus*, to instruct the people to weave gold threads into the midst of a three cord thread of blue, purple, and scarlet. The addition of gold to the garments adds a particular value and preciousness to the woven materials. Gold symbolizes purity and holiness, and as you know God's desire is that we be holy as He is holy. The gold that went into the construction of the priestly garments had to first undergo a refining process in order to reach the correct purity before it could be incorporated into the clothing. The process of purification required extreme temperatures to remove the dross from the pure metal itself before it could be used and considered pure in the Bible. In addition to this, the process of refining metals is used in the Scriptures as a metaphor of spiritual purification. According to the Scriptures, the Lord tells His people that He would *"refine them like silver and test them like gold"* in *Zechariah 13:9* and like a smelter purify them like silver and refine like gold according to *Malachi 3:1-4*.

זכריה 13:9

9 בָּהּ יִפְרֹתוּ יְנוּעֵי וְהַשְּׁלִישִׁית יוֹתֵר בָּהּ: וְהִבֵּאתִי אֶת־
הַשְּׁלִישִׁית כַּאֲשׁ וְצִרְפֹּתִים כַּצֶּרֶף אֶת־הַכֶּסֶף וּבְחַנְתִּים
כִּבְחֵן אֶת־יְהוָה הוּא וַיִּקְרָא בְשֵׁמִי וְאֵנִי אֶעֱנֶה אֹתוֹ
אֶמְרֵתִי עִמּוֹ הוּא וְהוּא יֹאמֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי:

מלאכי 3:1-4

אֱלֹהֵי הַמַּשְׁפָּט: הֲנֵנִי שֹׁלֵחַ מַלְאכִי וּפְנֹה־דֶרֶךְ לִפְנֵי נִ
וּפְתָאֵם יָבֹא אֱלֹהֵי־כֹל הָאָדָמָה וְאֲשֶׁר־אַתֶּם מִבְּקָשִׁים
וּמִלֵּאךְ הַבְּרִית אֲשֶׁר אַתֶּם חֹפְצִים הִנֵּה־בָא אֹמֵר יְהוָה
צְבָאוֹת: וּמִי מְלַכְכֵּל אֶת־יוֹם בּוֹאוֹ וּמִי הֶעֱמִיד בְּהַר אֹתוֹ
כִּי־הוּא כַּאֲשׁ מְצַרֵּף וּבְכִבְרִית מִכְּבָסִים: וַיֵּשֶׁב מְצַרֵּף
וּמְשַׁחַר כֶּסֶף וְטָהַר אֶת־בְּנֵי־לֵוִי וַיִּבֶקֶן אֹתָם כַּזֶּהב
וְכַסֶּפֶף וְהָיוּ לַיהוָה מְגִישֵׁי מִנְחָה בַצִּדְקָה: וְשָׂרְבָה
לַיהוָה מִנְחַת יְהוּדָה וִירוּשָׁלַם כִּי־מִי עוֹלָם וּבְשָׁנִים

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50 There are quite a few more verses that describe God as one who refines us using Fire. *Malachi 3:3* is particularly remarkable since the use of the word “tahr” and “tihar” are from the Hebrew root word meaning “be clean, pure” in the sense of making or declaring ceremonially clean. Verse *3:3* begins with “Ve’yashav” meaning “He will sit” indicating that God sits and works on us with fire. The construction of this sentence suggests that this is to be understood that God is being a sanctifying influence on our lives. In addition to this, the most remarkable thing is the imagery of the “Silver smelter.” According to silver smiths, one must sit and watch with his eyes fixed on the furnace during the time for refining of silver. Silver must be kept in the flame only long enough to remove the dross. If the time required is exceeded the silver would be injured (damaged). This is beautiful, because according to the Scriptures God is working to sanctify us in our lives and he literally sits and watches very carefully while he

Zecharia 13:9

13:9 ‘And I will bring the third part through the fire, Refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are My people,’ And they will say, ‘The Lord is my God.’ (NASB)

Malachi 3:1-4

3:1 ‘Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming,’ says the Lord of hosts. 3:2 ‘But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. 3:3 ‘He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the Lord offerings in righteousness. 3:4 ‘Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. (NASB)

refines us. Therefore, know that the trials you go through do not come at random but are carefully crafted by God to work and mold you into the likeness of His son
65 Yeshua the Messiah. A refiner's job is complete when he can see his own image reflected back in the silver. Isn't it interesting that God is sitting, working, refining, and purifying us so that we may reflect back to Him an image of His son, Yeshua the Messiah? This is confirmed in His promise in *Zechariah 13:9* that says "*They will call on my name and I will answer them. I will say they are my*
70 *people and they will say, The Lord is our God.*" What a wonderful and loving God we have. Praise the Lord for the work that He performs in us each day!

The Lord told Moshe to instruct the people to weave golden threads into the garments of the priestly robe. God is weaving a golden thread in and through our lives too. More specifically, our experiences, past, present, and future
75 intersect and weave together by the help of the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit) revealing the true tapestry of God's handwork in our lives; lives that reflect the image of His son Yeshua the Messiah. The evidence of this is found in His transforming us in such a way that upholds the Word of God in our lives, this means that as we trust in God, trust in Yeshua, and being truly His children, we
80 will be living the truths of the Scriptures, for they are a light unto our feet (*Tehilim / Psalms 119:105*). The evidence for this is having a forgiving heart, a loving spirit, and a tender tongue towards others. Note the parallel with *Devarim / Deuteronomy 4:6-12* and Yeshua's words on the greatest commandments in *Matthew 22:36-40*. In this week's reading, on the construction of the priestly
85 garments using the golden thread, the Lord is preparing us individually for His exact purpose. We are being sanctified and prepared individually. I say individually because (i) each of us do not have the exact same set of circumstances as we are being prepared and (ii) we are also not being prepared for the exact same purpose of service for the Lord. If you are not or have not yet
90 become a child of God by faith in Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) and made him Lord, Savior and King of your life, come say the following prayer with me.

Heavenly Father,

95 I thank you for the gift of your Word, the Holy Scriptures. I thank you for giving me a mind that is capable of understanding the kind of love that You have for me; the kind of love that causes You to sit and work on my life to draw me near to You and to be with You. I want to be able to call upon Your name as it says in *Zechariah 13:9*. I realize that it is only in Yeshua, that You have provided a way
100 for me to draw near to You. I believe that Yeshua died for my sins, and rose from the grave in three days as the Scriptures say. I believe in You, in Your word, and in Your son, please forgive me of my sins and have mercy upon my soul. Help my life to begin to reflect more of Your son Yeshua and help me to begin living the truths of the Scriptures. Thank You for all that You have given me and
105 blessed me with. I pray all of these things in Yeshua's name.

Amen!

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Be Blessed in Yeshua, Christ our Messiah!

הללויה לאדוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד:
Hallelujah for our Lord, our Teacher, our Rabbi,
“Yeshua” King Messiah forever and ever