

Priestly Garments

Ref: *Sefer Avodah, Hilchot Klei Hamikdash, Chapters 8–10*

📖 | To wear these in the Priestly Service.¹²

3 types of Priestly Garment.

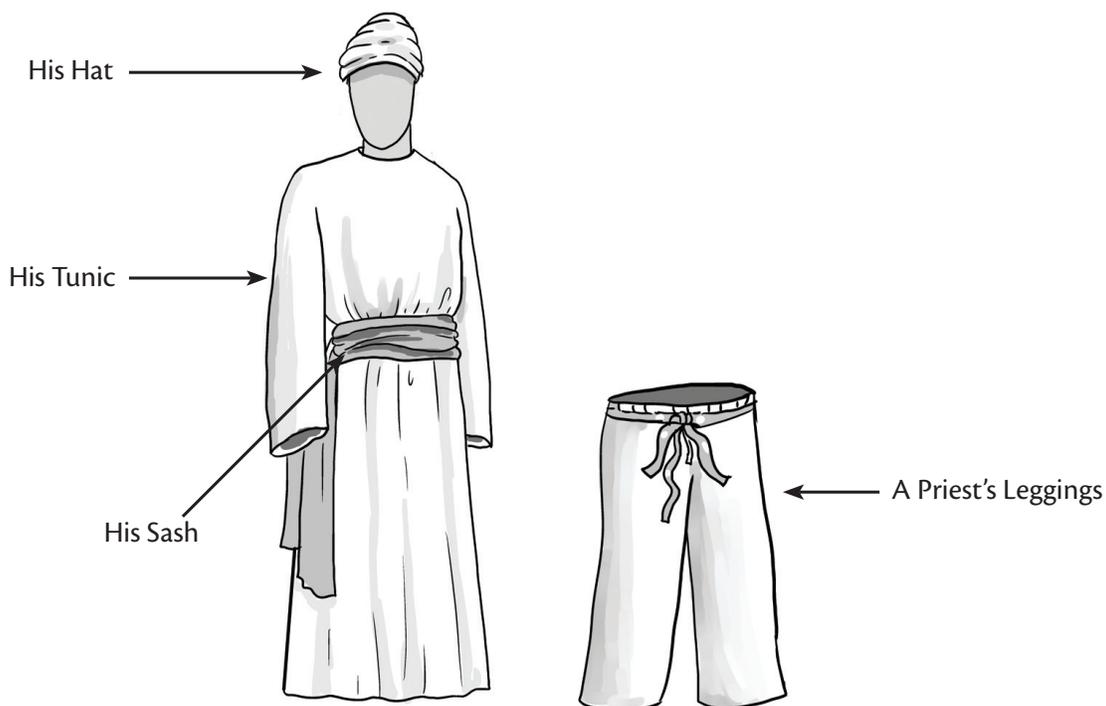
- Ordinary Priest
- High Priest Golden Garments
- High Priest white garments

ORDINARY PRIEST 4

- *Kutonet* (tunic)
 - *Michnasayim* (leggings)
 - *Migbaat* (hat)
 - *Avnet* (sash) – white linen plus wool – **16 amah** long
- White linen of six-fold threads

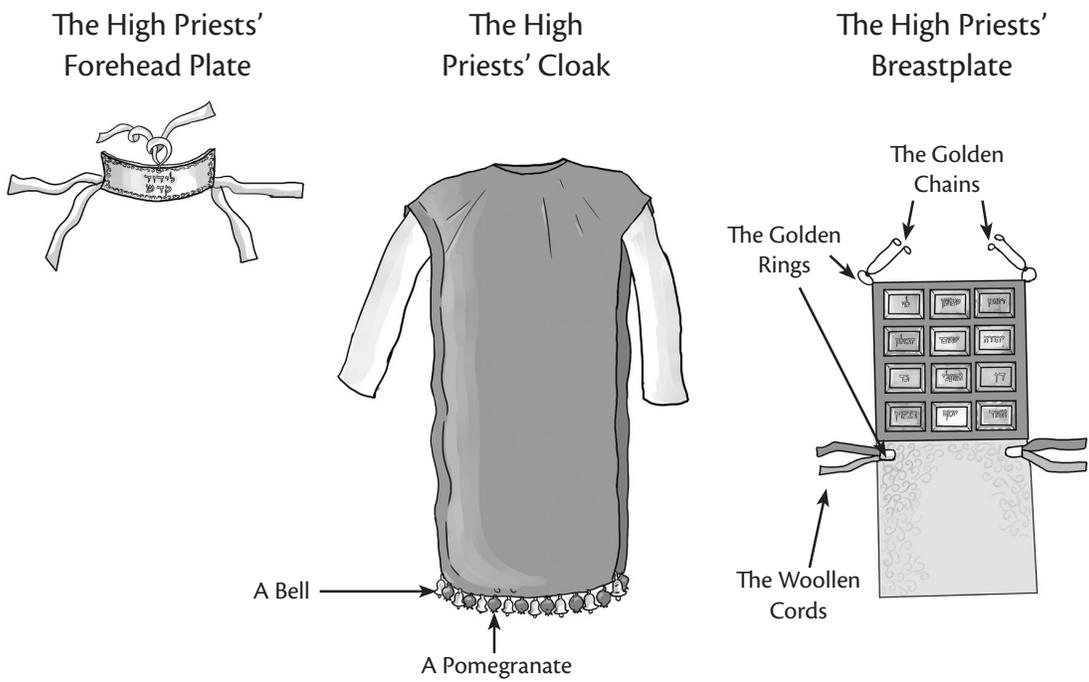
The wicks of the *Menorah* were made from the worn out leggings and sashes.

The Garments of an Ordinary Priest

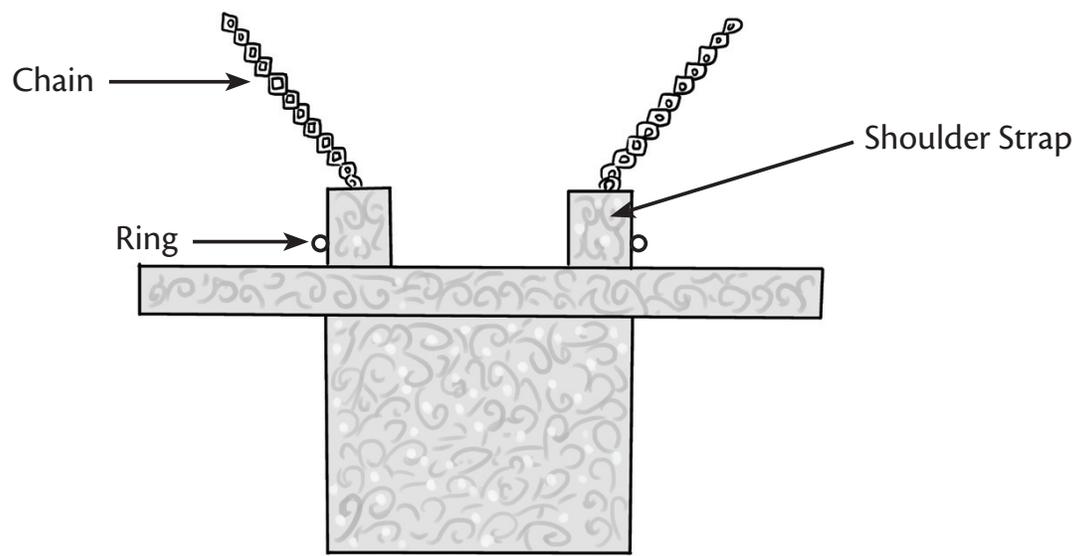


GOLDEN GARMENTS OF HIGH PRIEST 8

- 4 of ordinary Priest
- *Meil* (cloak)
- *Efod*
- *Choshen* (breast plate)
- *Tzitz* (forehead plate)



The Ephod (Apron) based on a drawing included in the Rambam's Text of the Mishneh Torah



These garments were left in chamber of High Priest at night or when he left Temple.

WHITE GARMENTS OF THE HIGH PRIEST

- *Kutonet*
- *Michnasayim*
- *Mitznefet* (same as *Migbaat*)
 16 amah long
- *Avnet* (**3 etzba** wide and **32 amah** long)

6-Fold linen alone but made from very expensive fine fabric which cost **30 maneh**.

There were **96** lockers to store the clothes of the Ordinary Priest i.e. **4** lockers for each watch. (4 x 24) – i.e. **1** locker for all the clothes of 1 type.

GOLDEN GARMENTS OF KOHEN GADOL

TZITZ

Made of gold. **2 etzba** wide. Extends over forehead from one ear to the other. On it was written *Kodesh Lashem* (letters projected outwards).

4 ties of *techelet* ran from two holes (one at each end).

MEIL

Made entirely of *techelet*. Strands were **12-fold**.

The hem was made of *techelet*, *argaman* and *tolaat shani* each **8-fold**. (i.e. **24** threads) These were fashioned into pomegranates. **72** Gold bells were placed between the pomegranates.

☞ | The *Meil* (Robe) should not be torn.¹³

Punishment for tearing *meil* is *malkot*.

EFOD

One strand of gold was placed with **6** strands each of *techelet*, *argaman*, *tolaat shani* and *pishtim* i.e. **4 x 7 = 28** threads. *Maaseh choshev*.

2 Stones on shoulder straps, each square, set in gold with **25** letters engraved on each. (Names of Tribes according to order of birth.)

CHOSHEN

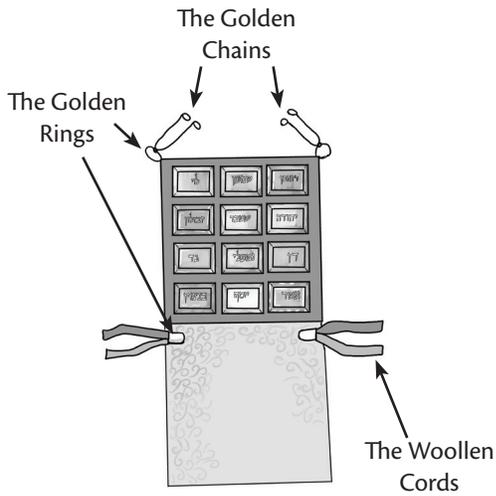
Maaseh choshev of gold, *techelet*, *argaman* and *tolaat shani* **28** strands (same as *Efod*).
1 amah x 1 zeret (½ *amah*).

It was folded in half to be 2 squares of **1 zeret** each.

In it are affixed 4 rows of precious stones (each one square and set in gold).

Each stone had the name of one of the tribes and this was in age order. E.g. the first stone was a ruby and had the name of *Reuven* engraved into it.

The High Priests' Breastplate

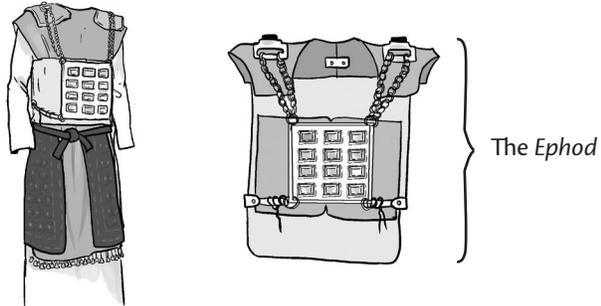


The *Efod* was joined to the *Choshen*.

|| The *Choshen* should not move from the *Efod*.¹⁴

Anyone who separates *choshen* and *efod* with a destructive intent is liable for *malkot*.

The *Efod* with the Breastplate Hanging from it



Order of putting on the *begadim* (clothes).

Order for *Kohen Hedyot* (ordinary) **4 garments**

- *Michnasayim*
- *Kutonet*
- *Avnet* (at elbow height)
- *Mitznefet*

Order for *Kohen Gadol* **8 garments**

- First 3 garments same as *Kohen Hedyot*
- *Meil*
- *Efod* plus *choshen*
- *Mitznefet*

- *Tzitz*

Punishment for wearing more or less than the above, is Death at the Hand of Heaven.

 **Reminder:**

Pack on Punishment for *Sefer Avodah*



Nothing should intervene between the garments and the flesh of the Priests. (Not even one thread.)

Urim and *Tumim* (Refers to the 12 stones on the *Choshen* of the High Priest. Each stone had letters engraved on them, which would miraculously light up and communicate a message.)

In the First Temple, Hashem's Holy Presence was vested there and the King or Court or a representative of the whole community could inquire for an answer from the *Urim* and *Tumim*. The *Kohen Gadol* would stand facing the *Aron*, the enquirer would stand behind him facing the back of the *Kohen Gadol* and ask a single question. Through prophesy the letters of the *Urim* and *Tumim* shone towards the face of the *Kohen Gadol* and he would give the answer accordingly.

In the Second Temple, the *Urim* and *Tumim* were made to be worn, but no enquiry could be made from them.