

Instructions concerning the Ministers of the Sanctuary

(Exodus 28:1 - 30:10)

- Priestly Vestments (Exodus 28:2-45): The ephod has 2 onyx stones with 6 tribes engraved on each. The breastplate has 12 precious stones

‘Aaron shall bear the names of the sons of Israel in the breastpiece of judgment on his heart when he goes into the holy place, for a continual remembrance before Yahweh. In the breastpiece of judgment you shall put the Urim and the Thummim, and they shall be on Aaron’s heart when he goes in before Yahweh; thus Aaron shall bear the judgment of the Israelites on his heart before Yahweh continually’(Exodus 28:29-30).

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- Ordination of priests (Exodus 29:1-35)

‘You shall take the anointing oil, and pour it on his head and anoint him ... You shall ordain Aaron and his sons.’

(Exodus 29:7, 9).

- Regular Morning and Evening Sacrifices (Exodus 29:36-46)

- The Altar of Incense (Exodus 30:1-10)

‘Once a year Aaron shall perform the rite of atonement on its horns. Throughout your generations he shall perform the atonement for it once a year with the blood of the atoning sin offering. It is most holy to Yahweh’(Exodus 30:10).

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‘The levitical priests, the whole tribe of Levi, shall have no allotment or inheritance within Israel. They may eat the sacrifices that are Yahweh’s portion but they shall have no inheritance among the other members of the community; Yahweh is their inheritance, as he promised them ... For Yahweh your God has chosen Levi out of all your tribes, to stand and minister in the name of Yahweh, him and his sons for all time. If a Levite leaves any of your towns and comes to the place that Yahweh will choose, then he may minister in the name of Yahweh his God, like all his fellow-levites who stand to minister there before Yahweh.’(Deuteronomy 18:1-8).

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