

I wanted to share just a short commentary with you this week which was triggered by a teaching from Ariel in Kibbutz Merchavia. In concerns the **breastplate of the High Priest**:

Shemot 39:8 And he made the **breastplate**, artistically woven like the workmanship of the ephod, of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and of fine woven linen. ⁹ They made the breastplate square by doubling it; a span was its length and a span its width when doubled. ¹⁰ And they set in it **four rows of stones**: a row with a sardius, a topaz, and an emerald was the first row; ¹¹ the second row, a turquoise, a sapphire, and a diamond; ¹² the third row, a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst; ¹³ the fourth row, a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper. They were enclosed in settings of gold in their mountings. ¹⁴ There were twelve stones according to the names of the sons of Israel: according to their names, engraved like a signet, each one with its own name according to the twelve tribes.

It is very interesting that the “*twelve stones*” that are **inset into the breastplate** are **engraved with “names.”** Notice it does **not** say that the stones are **engraved with the “tribes”** of the sons of Israel, but with the “*names*” of the sons of Israel. Friends, **we** are the “*sons of Israel*”, therefore **our names** are **also written on these stones!** This piece of his **garment** was **worn over the heart of the High Priest** and is even noted to be **immovable**:

Shemot 39:21 And they bound the breastplate by means of its rings to the rings of the ephod with a blue cord, so that it would be above the intricately woven band of the ephod, and **that the breastplate would not come loose from the ephod**, as **וַיִּצַו** had commanded Moshe.

It was the **job of the High Priest** to **intercede** for the **sons of Israel**. Today **our High Priest** continues to perform **intercession** for the “*sons of Israel*” at the “*right hand of Elohim*”:

Romans 8:34 ...*Messiah* who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the **right hand of Elohim**, who also makes intercession for us.

The **importance** of the **individual tribes**, as represented by the **stones** continues to be of **importance** as we see in the book of **Revelation**. The **New Jerusalem** will come down from heaven with **twelve gates**, each representing a **tribe**:

Revelation 21:10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the **great city, the holy Jerusalem**, descending out of heaven from Yah, ¹¹ having the glory of Yah. **Her light was like a most precious stone**, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. ¹² Also she had a **great and high wall with twelve gates**, and twelve angels at the gates, and **names written on them**, which are the **names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel**....

Complete restoration, and we can already see **it happening** in our **midst today!**

Shabbat Shalom!

Ardelle

Be strong! Be strong! And may we be strengthened!

חֹזֵק חֹזֵק וְנִתְחַזַּק