



Jewish Community Center of Paramus

A Home, A Family, A Spiritual Community



Tetzaveh

Shemot (Exodus) 27:20 - 30:10

As *Parshat Tetzaveh* begins, Moses is instructed about the “*Shemen Zayit Zach*” the special oil that the Israelites were to bring for lighting of the *Ner Tamid* (the eternal flame) that would burn continually in the *Mishkan*. The light was to burn from evening to morning, every day, for all time.

Moses is told to ordain Aaron and his sons as *Kohanim* (priests), and is instructed regarding the special clothes they were to wear while serving in the *Mishkan*. All the priests were to wear four garments; linen breeches, tunics, sashes, and turbans. In addition to these four articles, the high priest (Aaron) had four additional items. The first was a special robe of pure blue decorated at the hem with pomegranates and golden bells. Over this robe, he wore the *ephod*, an apron-like layer woven of gold, purple, and crimson. A breastplate, inlaid with precious stones and the names of the twelve tribes of Israel, was worn over the *ephod*, and the eighth special item was a gold plate engraved “Holy to the Lord.”

The priests were ordained in a special seven day ceremony involving a special washing, dressing, and anointing with oil, and the offering of various sacrifices. The priests were responsible for the daily offerings as well as other special functions in the *Mishkan*.



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