Parashah Tetzaveh

The one with detailed instructions about clothing to be worn by the high priest Aaron and his sons during their service in the sanctuary.

In this parashah, **there are detailed instructions for the special clothing to be worn by the high priest Aaron and his sons during their time in the sanctuary**. These garments include the ephod (a sleeveless garment), a breastplate, a robe, a tunic, a turban, a sash, and a golden plate with an inscription.

The breastplate is of particular interest. It contains 12 precious stones, each one engraved with the name of one of the 12 tribes of Israel. This made sure that the high priest always carried the names of the tribes on his heart when he entered the sanctuary.

The parashah then gives instructions for Aaron and his sons to be ordained as high priests. A seven-day ceremony is described, which involves the offering of sacrifices and the application of special anointing oil. Aaron and his sons were to be brought to the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, washed, and then dressed in the priestly garments.

A bull was to be offered as a sin offering, and two rams were to be prepared. One ram was sacrificed, and its blood was put on the tip of Aaron's and his sons' right ear, thumb, and big toe. The second ram, the "ram of ordination," was slaughtered. Moses took some of its blood and anointed the altar, sanctifying it. The remainder of the blood and some anointing oil was sprinkled on Aaron and his garments, consecrating him and his clothing. His sons and their clothing were consecrated.

Parts of the "ram of ordination" and some unleavened breads were placed in the hands of Aaron and his sons as an offering. These items were then burnt on the altar. The breast of this ram was Moses' portion, while the remainder was cooked and eaten by Aaron and his sons.

The parashah concludes with the command to light the sanctuary's menorah with pure olive oil every day, ensuring its lamps burn continuously.

Throughout Tetzaveh, the **importance of following the given instructions meticulously is emphasized**, ensuring that the rituals and services are performed with precision and reverence.

Throughout these specific details and commands, the **emphasis is on the sanctity of the services and the importance of adherence to these divine instructions**.

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Teen Takeaways from Parashah Tetzaveh

1. **Importance of details**: The detailed description of the priestly garments and rituals teaches the importance of paying attention to details. In our own lives, it reminds us that every little thing matters, and we should give attention and care to the tasks we undertake.
2. **Representing the community**: The high priest carried the names of all the tribes on his heart and shoulders, symbolizing his role as a representative for the entire nation. It's a lesson in leadership and responsibility - true leaders carry their communities with them, bearing their needs, hopes, and aspirations.
3. **The sacredness of service**: The ordination process and daily rituals highlighted the sanctity of serving the community and the divine. It reminds us that any act of genuine service, whether spiritual or secular, is sacred and should be approached with sincerity and reverence.
4. **Continuity and commitment**: The commandment to keep the menorah's lamps burning continuously shows the importance of consistency, dedication, and perseverance in our commitments.
5. **Holiness in appearance**: The unique and beautiful priestly garments were not just functional, but also intended to inspire awe and reverence. This can teach us about the significance of dressing appropriately and with dignity for various occasions in our lives, and how our external appearance can reflect our internal values.
6. **Internal vs. external beauty**: While the garments were visually stunning, they were meant to enhance the spiritual service, not detract from it. This reminds us to strike a balance between external beauty or presentation and internal worth or intent.
7. **Consecration and preparation**: The seven-day ordination ritual signifies the importance of adequate preparation and consecration before undertaking a sacred role or task. This can be applied in our lives as the need to prepare and purify ourselves before major undertakings or transitions.
8. **Interconnectedness**: Just as each stone on the breastplate represented a tribe, it teaches us that every individual plays a unique and valuable role in the larger community. Unity doesn't mean uniformity, and each person contributes in their own way.
9. **The power of ritual**: The repetitive and structured nature of the rituals can teach us the value of having meaningful rituals in our lives. Rituals can ground us, provide a sense of purpose, and connect us to something larger than ourselves.

Summary

Parashah Tetzaveh emphasizes the importance of **service**, **responsibility**, and the **balance between external appearances and internal intentions**.

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