

סֵפֶר תּוֹרָה

Sepher Torah, Lesson 2

After our Temple was destroyed in Jerusalem (that happened almost 2000 years ago!), we came to realize how much we had taken for granted! The Temple was beautiful—a place of great joy and worship. There the priests performed their duties before HaShem, and there, once a year, on Yom Kippur, the Cohen HaGadol (High Priest) went into the Kodesh HaKodeshim (Most Holy Place) to put the blood on the Ark as a sacred reminder of how the penalty for our sins is paid for—by the sacrifice of God’s Lamb, the Messiah.

But after the Temple was destroyed there were no more priests making sacrifices, and the Cohen HaGadol simply ceased to be. HaShem wanted us to realize that Yeshua, our Messiah, Who ascended to the Father after He rose from the dead, was now our Cohen HaGadol in the heavenly Temple. The very One who had come as God’s Word (read John 1:1) had died for us as the Lamb of God. He had risen on the third day as He said He would, and He had ascended to heaven in a cloud right before our eyes! Now He serves us as our High Priest in the very presence of the Father. He prays for us there, and just like the Cohen HaGadol in the Temple of old, He covers our sins with His own blood at the place of God’s glory, the Mercy Seat (top of the Ark).

Since we no longer have a Cohen HaGadol or a Temple, we have created symbols to help us remember that Yeshua is our Cohen HaGadol now. And what better symbol than the Sefer Torah, for Yeshua is the Word of God—He is the living Torah! That’s why we dress the Torah the way the Cohen HaGadol was dressed, because Yeshua is both our Cohen HaGadol, and He is God’s living Torah.

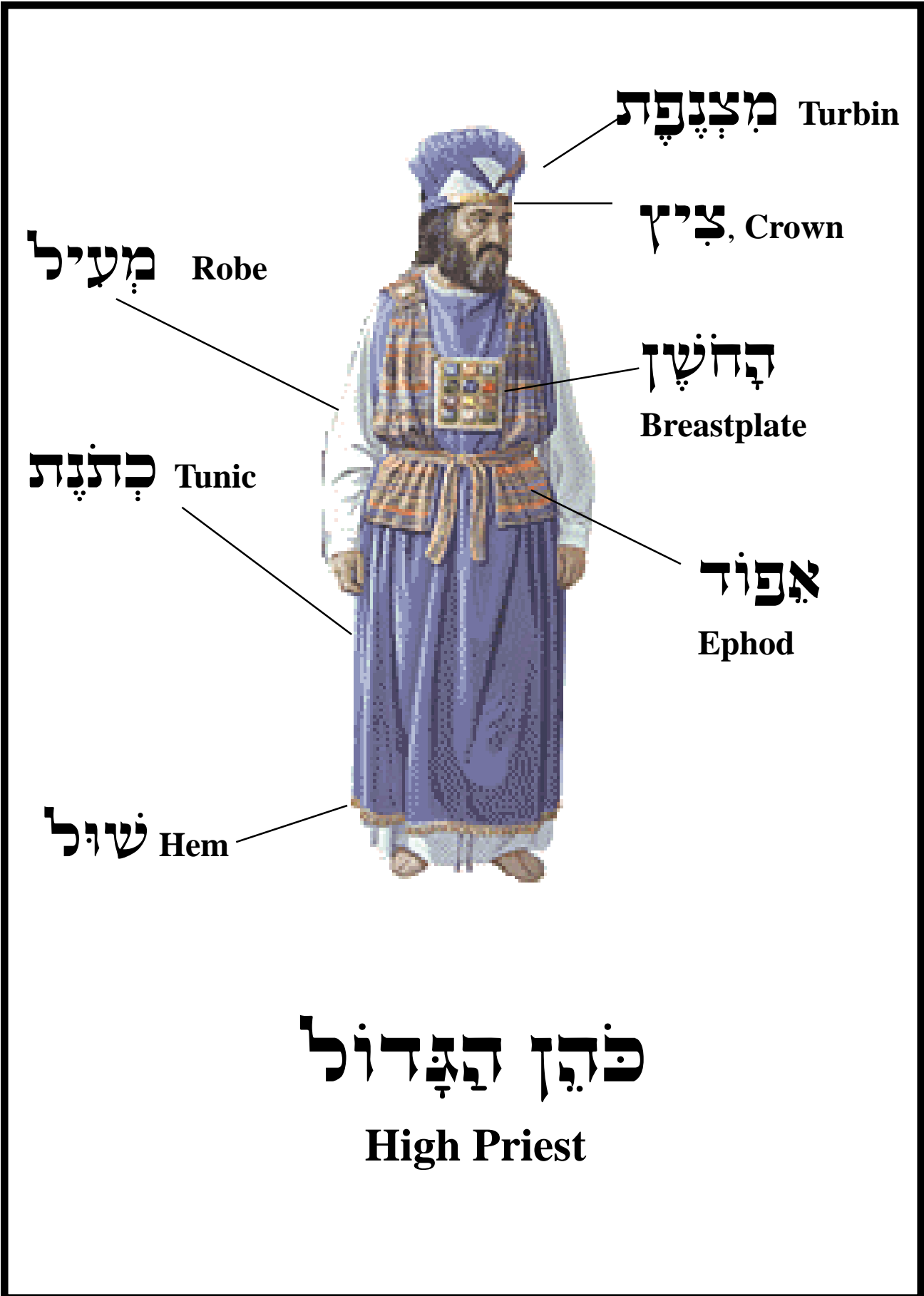
First is the garment of blue, reminding us of the Ephod which the Cohen HaGadol wore. It had the Techelet in it, symbolic of the blue of the sky. Yeshua, our Cohen HaGadol ascended into the heavens there to serve us in God’s presence. Do you see the golden fringe around the bottom of the blue covering for our Sefer Torah? Well, the robe of the Cohen HaGadol also had beautiful embroidery around the hem of his robe, symbolizing Life (bells) and Fruitfulness (pomegranate). In Yeshua our Cohen HaGadol we have life and He make us fruitful.

Second is the breastplate. The Cohen HaGadol always wore a breastplate with the names of the tribes of Israel upon it. He bore their names upon his heart as he served the Lord in the Temple. So Yeshua, the living Torah, performs the duties of the Cohen HaGadol for all who are His—for all who have believed in Him and confessed Him as their Messiah. He has their very names placed upon His heart.

Thirdly, the Sefer Torah has a crown upon it. Sometimes the crown has bells, and it is very beautiful. But the crown reminds us of the special hat the Cohen HaGadol wore when He went into the Temple. A golden banner attached to his hat read קֹדֵשׁ לַיהוָה, “Holy to Adonai.” Yeshua, our Cohen HaGadol, is the spotless Lamb of God. And He goes to God on our behalf, bearing our needs and securing forgiveness for our sins.

So whenever you see the Sefer Torah all dressed up as a Cohen HaGadol, remember that Yeshua is the Living Torah, and that He is our Cohen HaGadol every day!

(This lesson has the Name of God written on it. Please treat it accordingly.)



מִצְנֶפֶת Turbin

צִיץ, Crown

מְעִיל Robe

הַחֹשֶׁן
Breastplate

כֵּתָנֶת Tunic

אֶפֹד
Ephod

שׁוּל Hem

כֹּהֵן הַגָּדוֹל

High Priest