The Breastplate

The Royal Arch High Priest – Joshua the 3rd Principal, at one time wore a breastplate (see picture) resembling the precise description given in Exodus xxxviii, 15-30. It is mentioned in both Old and New Testaments as “the breastplate of righteousness” and in the New Testament as “the breastplate of faith and love.”

The breastplate was approximately 10” of “fine twisted linen, four square and doubled. It was richly embroidered in gold, blue, purple and scarlet”. Mounted on it in four rows were twelve different precious stones set in gold. The name of a tribe, twelve in all, was engraved on each stone. The Biblical High Priests wore this rich piece of embroidery over the Ephod, (an apron or tabard like garment) attached via gold rings to two gold chains. It was a kind of bag or purse in which was carried the Urim and Thummin.

The breastplate was also called the “the badge of judgement” as Aaron was instructed to bear the names of judgement of the children of Israel on his heart “when he goeth in before the Lord”.

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