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# MANTLED WITHTHE EPHOD

UNDERSTANDING THE PRIESTLY GARMENTS AND THEIR POWER

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## Mantled with the Ephod

The Lord has given me some keys as we are preparing to move into a new year. As we are approaching the door of 2022, I believe it is important that we garb ourselves with the ephod.

Only a priest can wear this garment. The ephod represents many things, but as we take a closer look, I believe you will see the spiritual significance of the ephod and how we are to position ourselves to be mantled with this priestly garment. In this book, I'm going to give you some key points to how and why you need to be mantled with the ephod.

- 1. The ephod symbolizes praise, which ushers in the glory of God
- 2. The ephod causes you to hear the Lord's voice in the midst of the battle

- 1. Disrupts and dismantles demonic assignments set against you and others
- 2. The ephod raises a standard against your adversary
- 3. The ephod causes sudden breakthrough, recovery, and turnaround
- 4. We are in need of this weapon of warfare. There are battles you cannot win without the ephod!

Every believer is called to function as a priest and a king. We need the proper understanding and revelation to stand as kings and priests.

"Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice,

voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing." (Revelation 5:9-12)

The primary function of a priest is to minister to the Lord. This is why every believer has a ministry. We actually become the guardians of the glory of God. This was Lucifer's assignment. He was entrusted to be anointed cherub to guard the presence of God in the garden. Now this assignment is given to priests who are called to carry the glory of God. A priest is one who ministers to the Lord's heart. Did you know that God is blessed by your praise? The Lord desires for you to minister to Him and pour your praise & sacrifice out on Him. The greatest honor God could have placed upon you, He has! Ministering to the Lord is the highest honor one could receive. Your life is a ministry. When you have walked through difficult seasons and no one knows the sacrifices you made to be pleasing to the Father - that ministers to the Lord.

"After the men who were carrying the Ark of the LORD had gone six steps, David sacrificed a bull and a fattened calf. And David danced before the LORD with all his might, wearing a priestly garment." 2 Samuel 6:13-14)

David danced before the Lord wearing a linen ephod, a special garment only to be worn by a priest. David's father Jesse was derived from the tribe of Levi, a tribe of priests that the Lord caused to be holy, set apart for an assignment to worship Him. David understood the importance of worship, praise, sacrifice and most importantly, ministering to the Lord. It was David whom the Lord entrusted with so much authority and grace to be a prophet, a priest, and a King. The Lord spoke of David as a man after His own heart. Why did the Lord say this about David and no one else? It was because David not only did what was required of him to stand in the offices that God graced him to stand in, but David did above and beyond what was required, because he was a friend of God. His passion for the Lord caused him to give everything that he had to the Lord. His strength, his worship, his finances; he

exhausted his resources for one thing: to be a friend of God. The glory of the Lord doesn't come into our lives without sacrifice. It doesn't come without surrender & dedication. What came off of David's life was an aroma, a sweet smell to the Lord because he loved the Lord and lived a life of sacrifice. I understand why David danced. Some watched him and didn't understand, but I understand. Do you?

No matter what it costs you, no matter the sacrifice or the hardship, nothing compares to being in his presence. Nothing compares to the glory of God. That is why David was overjoyed as the ark of the Lord was ushered into the city of David. Many that were watching David dance had no idea of the sacrifice that it took for the Ark of the Lord to be placed in that city. Many may have not even known why it was so significant, but David did.

The Ark of the Lord had been placed temporarily at the house of Obed Edom for three months. Everything that Obed Edom had multiplied and increased. His finances multiplied, his cattle, and his family had such blessings that they were overwhelmed. When the Ark of the Lord is in your house, you can't help but be blessed! All Obed Edom did was serve; he made room to be a blessing to the Lord for just a season and by doing so, he and his family had never been so blessed!

It was a long journey that demanded sacrifice; there had to be a sacrifice every six feet. Just think of what it cost David, the amount of sacrifice that was required for the presence of God to rest in His city. So David danced and praised, because the mission had been accomplished!

#### There is a Fragrance in your Praise

The Ephod symbolizes praise, which ushers in the glory of God.

The first key I want to give you is the key of praise. David praised the Lord wearing the ephod, as the priests carried the ark into the city of David (2 Samuel 6;14). It is praise that ushers in the glory of the Lord.

Praise is not only a posture of worship, but praise is released through becoming a living sacrifice. Praise gets God's attention, and also causes us to release the fragrance of Christ! The Lord wants to rest in the fragrance of your worship.

#### Praise is a Lifestyle

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." (Eph 5:1-2)

We become imitators of God, as we walk in love, just as Christ walked in love. It's a heart posture that requires us to forgive our enemies. Love them anyway, love them despite how they have treated you. The cross was Jesus' greatest and deepest betrayal. He had been beaten, mocked, and experienced the greatest level of betrayal that a person could experience. As he was nailed to that cross, and as they were casting lots for his robe, Jesus prayed, 'Father, forgive them for they know not what they do' (Luke 23:34). Persecution and betrayal

occur in different ways and in different forms, even from those who think they are doing God a service. There is glory in your forgiveness. The cross symbolizes persecution, but it also symbolizes the called. Every believer will suffer persecution. There is an even greater level of persecution for prophets, but there is also a greater glory that rests on them because of it. His glory always consumes sacrifice. His fire and glory rests upon sacrifice. God desires for us to pass the test and become a living sacrifice. There is great reward when we overcome this test. Jesus commands us to do two things in relation to our enemies. Love them and pray for them. Jesus did both in the midst of suffering.

David had many enemies, but his greatest betrayal was his experience with Saul. Many times Saul attempted to take David's life. Every prophet will have a measure of betrayal and jealousy that they must overcome. We can see the father's heart within David. What was David's heart posture? Forgiveness! David could have killed Saul but he didn't. David could have been bitter but he chose forgiveness.

"Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My prophets no harm." (Psalms 105:15)

David honored the anointing on Saul's life, and by doing so he honored the Lord, and believed that God would make a way for his destiny. If you sow honor, then honor will always be returned to you.

Every prophet will have betrayal and every prophet must overcome Ziklag. When word came to David over Saul's death, he tore his clothes and mourned for Saul and Jonathan. An amalekite brought David the crown of Saul as a victory and David's response was this,

"Your blood is on your own head, for your own mouth has testified against you, saying, "I have killed the Lord's anointed."

It is never a victory when a man or a woman of God falls into sin or any other failure. There should be mourning in our hearts. David's response over the death of Saul and Jonathan was that they were mighty, swifter than eagles.

The fragrance upon David's life was one of the anointing and honor, sacrifice, and the love of God. We can carry that same fragrance unto the Lord as we value these same spiritual principles.

"For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing." (2 Cor 5:15)

When the olive is crushed it releases a fragrance, an aroma. It is in the trying times, when we have been pressed, that there is a fragrance that is released through our sacrifice of praise! When you have had to walk through seasons of the press, there is an aroma.

God wants to rest in that place of aroma in your life. Storms, demonic assignments, our sacrifices of what we go through is just an opportunity to worship the Lord. His glory rests upon sacrifice. Give him the sacrifice of praise, no matter what others have done to you, no matter how difficult a trial was to walk through; bless the Lord! It's in those times of the press that your life becomes an aroma. Is there an aroma in your praise, in your worship?

It is in the giving of everything we have to the Lord that releases a fragrance! No matter what you are going through in your life this season, I want to encourage you that there is breakthrough in your praise and there is a fragrance of your worship.

"Now while Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured it on His head as He sat at the table. But when His disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste? For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor." (Matt 26:6-9)

Aware of this, Jesus said to them, "Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me.

Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

Mary poured out all that she had upon Jesus' feet. What she did released a fragrance of costly oil that she poured out on his feet. It was the fragrance of her worship, it was a sacrifice of what Jesus meant to her. This act of worship that she performed was an expression of the heart of the Lord for the preaching of the gospel. Where did she pour out the fragrance? At his feet.

"How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel." Romans 10:15

We were forgiven of sin just as she was, and as we pour out honor to the Lord for what he has done for us, he pours out honor upon us!

Mary will always be remembered because the person of the gospel touched her so deeply and transformed her. We must always express honor to the one that has brought us out of darkness and into the marvelous light!

David's journey into destiny was met with tremendous hardship and attack, as well as tremendous victory, brought about from his trust in the Lord. If we could take anything from David's journey into destiny and apply it to our own, it would be this revelation: the call of God is more of an invitation. To be chosen requires everything from you.

#### Remember the Ephod

The priest replied, "The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the Valley of Elah, is here; it is wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you want it, take it; there is no sword here but that one." David said, "There is none like it; give it to me." 1 Samuel 21:9

David had just fled from Saul, he had left in a hurry, and did not take with him a weapon. The priest came to David and spoke to him about Goliath's sword. What came into my spirit as I was meditating upon this verse was that the sword was placed behind the ephod. It was a

sudden reminder to David that you don't win battles with the sword, but with the ephod. It wasn't long after David received the sword of Goliath that he was faced with the greatest challenges of his life.

"Now it happened, when David and his men came to Ziklag, on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the South and Ziklag, attacked Ziklag and burned it with fire, And had taken the women captives, that were therein: they slew not any, either great or small, but carried them away, and went on their way. So David and his men came to the city, and there it was, burned with fire; and their wives, their sons, and their daughters had been taken captive. Then David and the people who were with him lifted up their voices and wept, until they had no more power to weep."

(1 Samuel 30:1-4)

David and his men had no more power to weep. In times of spiritual warfare, it is sometimes necessary to weep, but we must also, as

David did, seek the Lord for strategy to overcome the obstacles set before us.

It was in Ziklag that David was faced with his greatest battle. Many theologians believe that David was somewhere between sixteen to eighteen years old when he received a prophetic word from the prophet Samuel, that he would be king over Israel. In his weakest moment, the Word of God says David, "Strengthened himself", or, "Encouraged himself in the Lord."

There are times when you have others that can strengthen you in the Lord. As believers we are to bear one another's burdens. David at this moment had no one to strengthen him. He was greatly distressed. The men that for years David had fought beside are now speaking of stoning him. David knew that he had to encourage himself in the Lord and as he did, faith rose up in him.

The key of overcoming David's Ziklag moment is found here in verse 7 of 1 Samuel 30.

"Then David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, "Please bring the ephod here to me." And Abiathar brought the ephod to David."

David sought for the ephod, in his weakest moment. Even when it seemed as though, all hope was lost in Ziklag, but David knew that it was through the ephod that he would hear his father's voice. He knew that he would receive the strategy for the present warfare, to bring the victory.

"So David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I pursue this troop? Shall I overtake them?" And He answered him, "Pursue, for you shall surely overtake them and without fail recover all." Placed into the ephod were twelve stones that represented the twelve tribes of Israel. Behind the ephod were two prophetic stones, that we know to be *urim* and *thummim*. These stones were pulled as the individual was inquiring of the Lord. There would only be one stone that would be pulled; it would either be a black stone or a white stone. The black stone simply would mean no, but the white stone would mean yes! It was an affirmation stone. Through this practice the high priest could determine God's will and hear the voice of the Lord over a matter.

The Lord spoke to David through the Ephod. "Pursue, overtake, and recover all."

"David and his men then sought after the amalekites and recovered all that was taken. They also returned with a spoil. They returned with more than what was originally taken from them. The word of God teaches us that when a thief is found out he must repay sevenfold" (Proverbs 6:31).

We must find the thief in our life. Where is the thief robbing you of blessing? Once you find out where a thief is stealing, you can then take authority!

David is an example and testimony of our faith. Just as David had a destiny, we each have a destiny and it's worth fighting for. Though the enemy would like to silence you, hinder you, and discourage you, we can have the heart posture of David in the midst of battles. What did David receive? The white stone, the lightning stone, the affirmation stone, because David had the heart posture of an overcomer and that's what it takes. God loves overcomers! You have to take the courage from the story of Ziklag and make it part of your own story. No matter what you are facing, remember the ephod!

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it." (Rev 2:17)

#### The White Stone

David was an overcomer, we too can overcome and receive the white stone. There is also hidden manna and a new name for those who overcome. Hidden manna is the revelation hidden in God's word for those only who have eyes to see and ears to hear.

Manna represents the Word of God. David also ate the showbread with his men. David was not only a prophet, but also a priest and a king. David was able to eat the showbread because he was a priest. Uzziah was anointed as a king, but he was not anointed to be a priest. Whatever God has anointed us to do, we will be the most fruitful in. It is an open door for the enemy to attack when we try to operate in areas of authority God never called us to. Pride was Uzziah's weakness. He performed the duties of a priest, but he contracted leprosy because God had not graced him to function as a priest. If anyone other than a priest would have eaten the showbread, they would have died, but David had the authority.

David and his men were able to partake of the showbread. Walking with prophets brings you into places just as David brought his men. Prophets have authority to teach deep revelation and others get to partake of the revelation that comes forth in the form of hidden manna. Hidden Manna is hidden revelation.

When we are faithful stewards of the manna we have received, the Lord will then cause us to access the hidden manna. Deep revelation doesn't come to just anyone, but it comes to the faithful steward. When you learn to overcome and walk in humility with God, the Lord increases the knowledge, wisdom, and revelation you have. Prophets are different from pastors; they have a different grace that they operate in. Pastors are to be fed and be shepherds. Yet, it is prophets who are interested in building on the proper foundation of revelation and understanding of Christ. What are prophets? They are stewards of revelation and mysteries.

The church is not built upon the foundation of pastors, but apostles and prophets. Prophets have a different function. Some have been built upon the wrong foundation. As believers, it's essential that we have the proper alignments with prophets and apostles, or we will not be built upon a solid foundation. This is crucial especially to those that are called into five-fold ministry, without proper alignment to a prophet the call is limited as prophets carry a greater level of impartation. We cannot be established properly without prophets. The reason there is so much confusion in the body of Christ today is because there is improper alignment. Many calls are aborted because some are solely under pastors who claim to be prophets and apostles.

"Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God." (Eph 2:19)

"And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone." (Eph 2:20)

Paul speaking of himself. Apollos and Peter gave important insight to these offices.

"Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful." (1 Cor 4:1-2)

### Mystery of the Stones

In Ezekiel 28, we read of Lucifer, who was a Cherubim angel. Cherubim angels are guardians of the glory of God. The Prince of Tyre represents Lucifer. God created an angel for His purpose. It is important for a believer to know that God didn't create Satan, nor is God in partnership with Satan. God created a beautiful angel that had instruments built into his being.

"You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God, EVERY STONE WAS YOUR COVERING." (Ezekiel 28:12-13)

"You were the anointed Cherub, who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God, You walked back and forth in the midst of FIERY STONES." (Ezekiel 28:14-15)

Ezekiel 28 teaches us that Eden was and is a mountain. God's glory dwelt in Eden. Lucifer was an angel that was created to be a covering for the glory of God. This passage reveals that the stones of the Lord are living stones, fiery stones. The white stone, known as the affirmation stone, is a covering for us, as it was for David! Wisdom, revelation and understanding are stones. These are living stones, living revelation, that through receiving the revelation of them, they begin to burn in the heart of the believer.

The stones of the ephod were laid over the heart of a priest. It is these stones that become encrypted, branded upon our Ephod. What is the enemy after? Our hearts. What he wants to rob from you is your inheritance in God. He lures believers and ministers in with pride. It is only God that lifts us into places of influence and authority and we must walk in the grace that He has entrusted us with, in humility. True humility is walking in the grace that the Lord has given us. When we begin to move outside of that grace, pride enters in and pollutes and corrupts the heart.

# Pride Corrupts Gifts, Anointings, and Assignments

"Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, that they might gaze at you." (Ezekiel 28:17)

To access these stones, we must have revelation and understanding of what they represent. To access the white stone, it takes courage, humility, faith, and trusting in the Lord with all your might.

As believers, the importance of the ephod is that it is a weapon of warfare! What I want you to see is not only what the ephod represents, but how to be mantled with the ephod, how to function in the ephod! It is the ephod that brings about sudden victory in our lives! Notice how David postured himself before this priestly vest was brought to him, he first encouraged himself in the Lord.

What does the ephod represent? It is a symbol of victory, praise, triumphing over your adversary!



David was 30 years old when he became king over Israel. All the tribes gathered under one kingdom. A three-fold anointing came upon the nation through this alignment with David: the kingly anointing, priestly anointing, and the anointing of the prophet.

Alignments are very important to the Lord. It's not only that we need teaching & someone to speak life into us, but we need anointed alignments. Many times the anointing will draw out your enemies. David's enemies came in like a flood.

The Word of God says,

"When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him." (Isaiah 59:19)

David's enemies soon received word that he was positioned as king over Israel. The Philistines then came down to make war.

When David was told of this the Bible says "he went down to the stronghold." (2 Sam 5:17)

David was 30 years old when he became king over Israel. David went to seek the Lord on this matter and sought after the ephod. We all need a place to seek the Lord and hear His voice on matters that are out of our control. We need a place of prayer. I like how the Bible calls David's place of prayer a stronghold. This was a place of prayer. That's why David said, "Lord, you are my strong tower." The enemy cannot reach you in the place of prayer, It is a strong tower! Again the Bible says that David, "Enquired of the Lord. Shall I go up to the Philistines? Will you deliver them into my hand?"

"The Lord said, unto David, Go up, for I will doubtless deliver them into thine hand."

David soon overcame his enemies! David then said, "The Lord hath broken forth upon mine enemies before me, as a breach of waters. Therefore he called that place Baal-perazim." (2 Samuel 5:20)

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He is Lord of the breakthrough but the ephod is significant in this passage, as it is the ephod that ushers in the Lord of the breakthrough.

I want to pray for you that you would step into this revelation of the ephod.

I pray that you would be mantled with prayer, with praise, and also with the victory of the ephod. Lord, I pray that this anointing of victory that you are releasing this hour would blanket the hearts of your people. Father, we thank you for the weapons of our warfare!

