

## THE ROBE OF DISTINCTION

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he coat of many colors in the Hebrew language denotes an ornamented, colorful, or embroidered tunic.

*Wycliffe Bible Dictionary* translates the literal meaning of the “coat of many colors” as a robe of soles and palms. This signifies that the breadth of the tunic reached from the palm of the hand to the sole of the foot.

*Wycliffe* further states that a robe, such as this “would have been a mark of aristocracy,” thus making it clear that the intent for Joseph’s tunic was not manual labor but rather, “This gift indicated that Jacob intended to make Joseph his principal heir...”

*The Lion Encyclopedia of the Bible*, purports, “In Joseph’s time, a long-sleeved coat of many pieces was worn by the future leader of the clan...”

These Old Testament traditions bring clarity to the New Testament narrative of the prodigal son. Upon his return home, he, too, received a robe. In fact, Luke 15:22 tells us the father specifically called for the best robe.

In the Greek language the word, “best,” connotes foremost or chief. This long-fitting gown, according to *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, was a mark of special honor, signifying sonship status.

Hence, the Sonship School of the Firstborn coat of many colors is a mark of sonship, the clothing of God’s sons and daughters.” This robe is emblematic of the fruit of the Spirit being fully operational and in full bloom in a Believer’s life.

# THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE COLORS

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The colorful lining and trim worn by the students reflect the following:

**THE CRIMSON RED** is worn by those who fall under the category of *Ministers of Worship*. It represents the blood of Jesus Christ, which was shed to purchase our redemption. It bespeaks the cost of sacrifice.

Ministers of Worship point the way to the mercy seat, where Jesus spilled His blood so that we could obtain mercy, thus indicating the way of entry into the very presence of God.

Those in the banner ministry, praise and worship, sign language, drama ministry, sound, and orchestra, all function under the classification of Ministers of Worship.

**BLUE** symbolizes heaven. It is indicative of the fact that we are heaven bound. Therefore, our affections are set on things above and our mindset is steadfast on kingdom business.

Those wearing the blue robe represent the spirit and constitution of Bezaleel and Aholiab, workers behind the scene. These men captured the vision of the heavenly tabernacle; then with their very own hands, adorned and beautified it with skillful and cunning craftsmanship.

Such are the Beautification (both indoors and outdoors), and the Unseen Hands ministries. These auxiliaries denote *Pillars of Support*. They are to God's infrastructure, what a frame is to a building. Although they operate behind the scenes, their handiwork is evident and enjoyed by all. They provide the setting for us to behold the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

**GREEN** bespeaks everlasting life. It is a metaphor for ongoing growth and productivity and speaks of the 30, 60, 100-fold fruit bearing.

From the very beginning, God commanded us to be fruitful, multiply, and replenish the earth by producing after our kind. One type of produce is the fruit of

the Spirit—love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, meekness, faith, and temperance, as set forth in Galatians 5:22-23. Our lives are to be teeming with this fruit.

Another type of fruit is mankind. Jesus commanded us to be fishers of men. Accordingly, Proverbs 11:30 states, “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.” Such fruit is everlasting.

While releasing faith for growth and increase in the body of Christ, these ushers, greeters, parking lot attendants, children’s church workers, counselors, bookstore helpers, and healthcare ministers perform practical ministerial duties.

Hence, they fall under the category of *Helping Hands*. Like the Levites of old, they extend their hands of ministry to the service of the temple on any given Sunday or midweek service, thus ensuring the needs of God’s people are met.

**PURPLE** represents royalty. It bespeaks ambassadorship, for we are representatives of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:9-10 in *The Message Bible* says, we are “...chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God’s instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you...”

Such outreach is indicative of the following auxiliaries: Pen Touch ministry, Scribes ministry, It’s All About Him radio and television broadcast, Soul-winning Action Team, Refuge Corporation, the telephone counselors, convalescent home visitorial ministers, and the prison and jail ministry. These we call *Beyond the Walls* ministries.

The **GOLD** symbolizes deity or the divine. When people look at us, they ought to see the touch of God’s divine hand upon our lives.

Pharaoh saw gold in Joseph. It caused him to ask, “Can we find such a man as this in whom the Spirit of God is?” Though Pharaoh did not know God, when he looked at Joseph, he came to know God. Thus, an ungodly ruler recognized the Spirit of God in Joseph.

Gold is also representative of those who are partakers of the divine nature; those who are born of God’s Spirit, according to 2 Peter 1:4.

Hence, the gold signifies *The Shepherd’s Staff*. These ministers operate under the Law of Representation. Functioning as extensions of the leader’s hand, they

serve as a metaphor of a leader leaning on his or her staff. This means the staff is dependable, responsible, and reliable. Like the picture of Moses, Aaron, and Hur, these men and women hold up their leader's hands, helping to bear the load.

The Shepherd's Staff is comprised of: Christian House of Prayer staff members; CCI, apostles, evangelists, pastors, first ladies, and missionaries; preachers; Sonship administrative workers, and the Deacon's ministry.

**Robe Cleaning Care** The robes are 100% polyester *DRY CLEANING* is recommended.