



This week we started our time together by noting that the all the 'distance' and 'sanitisation' of the past 18 months give us a great insight into what it means to be unclean and unable to do as we want, serving us well in these chapters.

We spent most of our time in Exodus 28, considering that

1. we need a **representative** and
2. we need **reconciliation**.

We've been rescued for relationship, but that is not possible with our unclean-ness – God needs to deal with that and so he establishes the sacrificial system.

The ***representative*** angle comes as the High Priest's clothes have the names of the families on gems on the ephod and breast-piece. He takes the people of God into God's presence. The ***reconciliation*** angle comes from the emphasis on atonement as blood is shed and so two parties being made 1.

We don't need to seek to represent ourselves or make reconciliation possible

A few questions:

- a) why is the high-priestly garb so extravagant? What is God trying to teach about himself?
- b) why do you think he uses precious stones and jewels to represent his people on the ephod etc?
- c) what would you say to someone who felt they could make themselves more acceptable to God? In what ways do we seek to do that? How does this passage inform us in those moments?