

סֵפֶר תּוֹרָה

Sepher Torah

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 an innocent substitute, foreshadowing our 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.

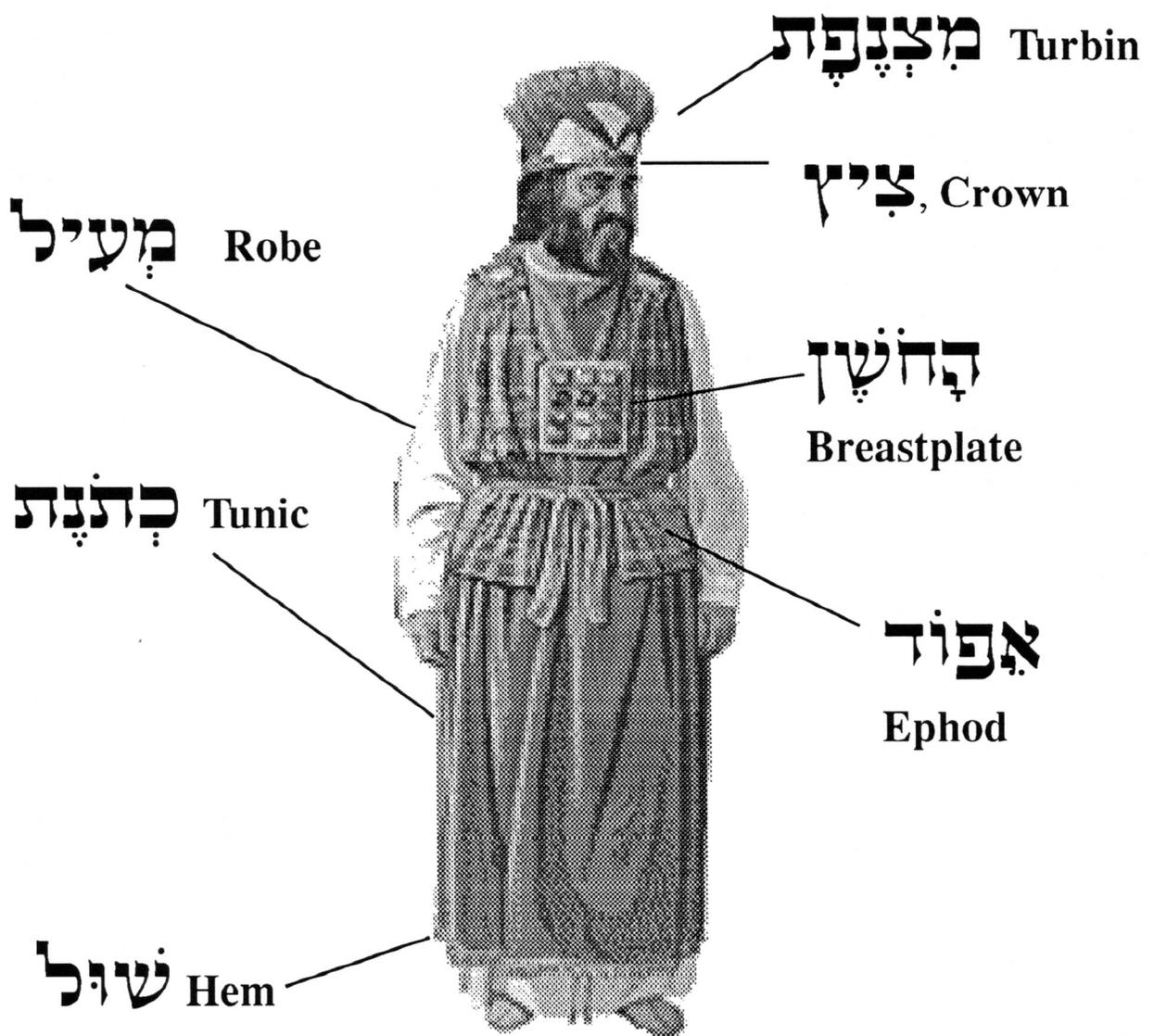
First is the parchment itself, upon which are written the very words of God. The parchment reminds us that the Cohen HaGadol was a man of flesh. Yet the parchment itself is considered sacred, which is why we do not touch it with our hands. In the same way, the Cohen HaGadol was first dressed with white linen garments, which symbolized that he was holy and clean before HaShem. Yeshua Himself was made in the likeness of man, but was entirely without sin.

Second 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 makes us fruitful.

Third 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 and He bears them upon His shoulders.

Fourth, 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 קֹדֶשׁ 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.

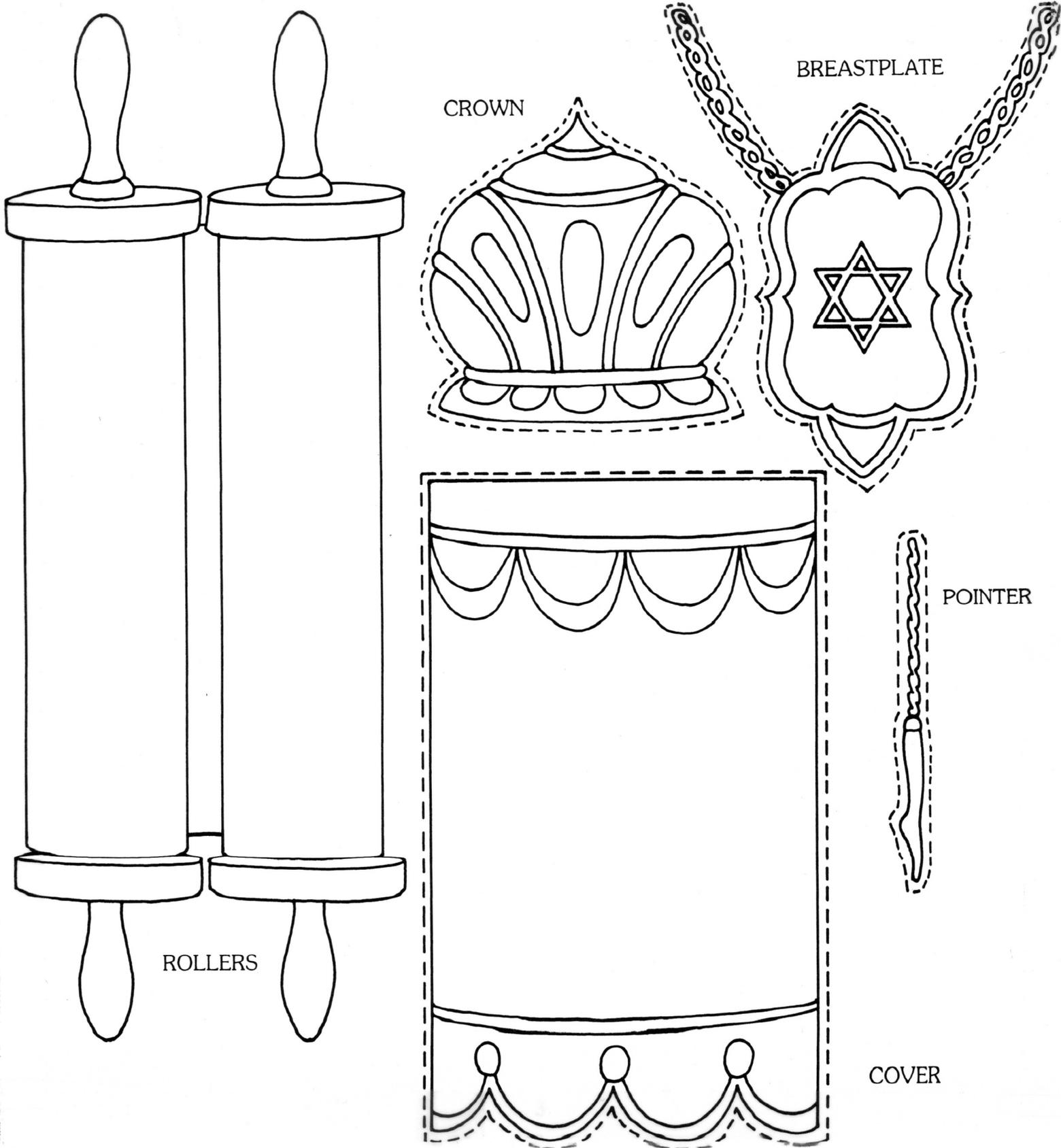
So whenever you see the Sefer Torah all dressed up as a Cohen HaGadol, remember that Yeshua is the Living Torah, and that He is our Cohen HaGadol every day!



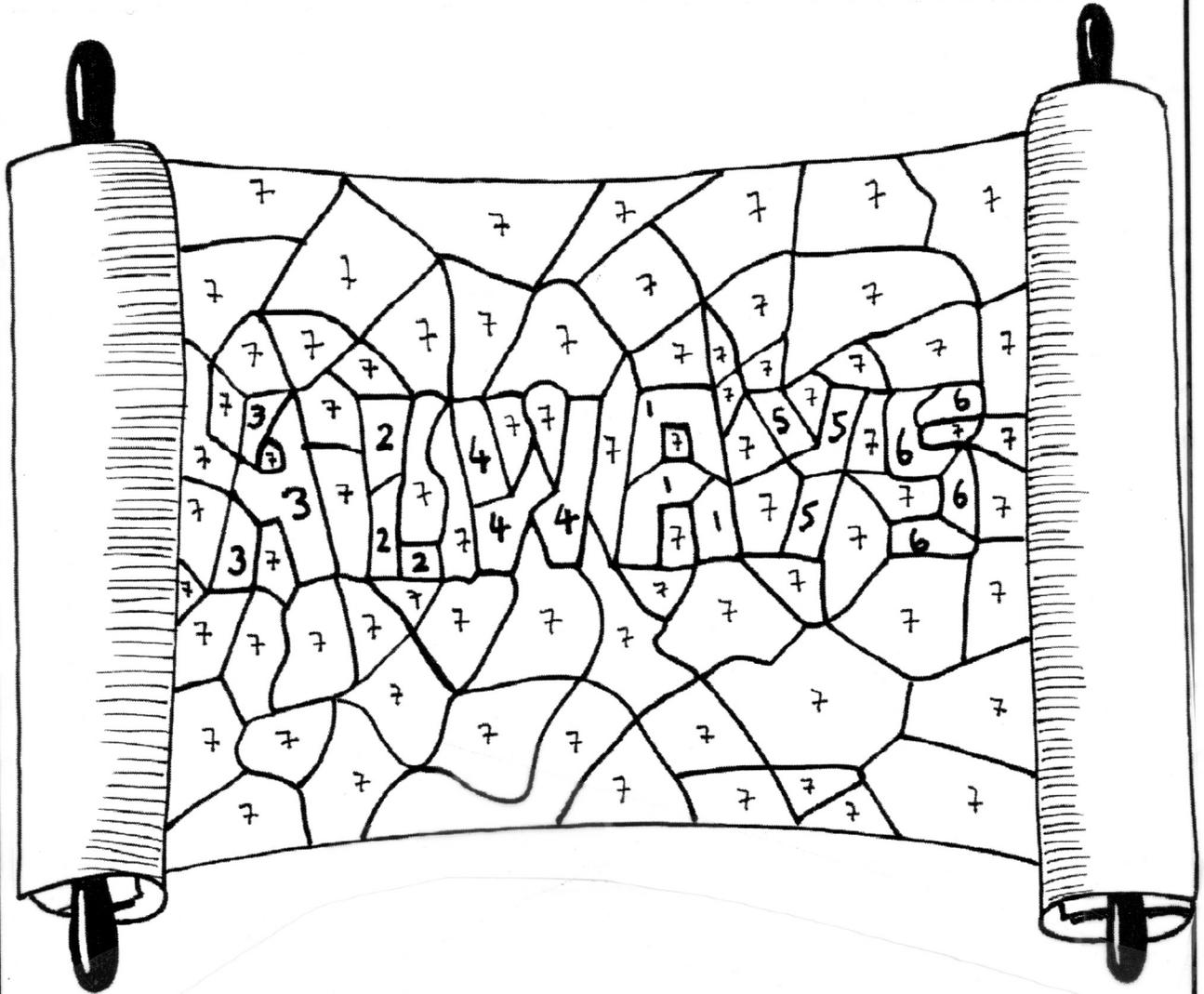
כֹּהֵן הַגָּדוֹל

High Priest

Here's a picture of the Sefer Torah that you can color, cut out, and paste together. First color everything so that it looks real: make the handles of the Sefer Torah BROWN, the mantle (Robe) BLUE, the crown YELLOW, and the breastplate SILVER (if you have that color, or else leave it WHITE). After you color everything they way you like it, then cut it out and glue the mantle over the Torah, the crown on top of the Torah, and the breastplate and yad over the mantle.



Use the coloring pattern below to color the Sepher
Torah and find out how long HaShem keeps His
promises to us



1 = Blue

5 = Purple

2 = Red

6 = Brown

3 = Green

7 = Yellow

4 = Orange

