



## BETWEEN 6:00 AM—9:00 AM: BEARING THEM UP

This is Kyler Murray, rookie quarterback for the Arizona Cardinals in his sleek black uniform. (I haven't totally forgiven him for deciding to play football instead of signing a contract with my beloved Oakland A's.) I noticed in a recent game that he wore the number "8" near his left shoulder. I was curious so I googled it and discovered that Murray was commemorating an Arizona Cardinals' hero named Larry Wilson. Murray and his teammates kept Wilson's memory alive by having his number sewn onto their uniforms.



This got me thinking about Aaron the High Priest. He too wore a special uniform according to God's commandment, a garment featuring memory-inducing decorations on the two shoulders. Read Ex. 28:6-12 and discover the unique items he wore and why he wore them.

**Ex. 28:6** *"And they shall make the ephod of gold, of blue and purple and scarlet yarns, and of fine twined linen, skillfully worked.*

**Ex. 28:7** *It shall have two shoulder pieces attached to its two edges, so that it may be joined together.*

**Ex. 28:8** *And the skillfully woven band on it shall be made like it and be of one piece with it, of gold, blue and purple and scarlet yarns, and fine twined linen.*

**Ex. 28:9** *You shall take two onyx stones, and engrave on them the names of the sons of Israel,*

**Ex. 28:10** *six of their names on the one stone, and the names of the remaining six on the other stone, in the order of their birth.*

**Ex. 28:11** *As a jeweler engraves signets, so shall you engrave the two stones with the names of the sons of Israel. You shall enclose them in settings of gold filigree.*

**Ex. 28:12** *And you shall set the two stones on the shoulder pieces of the ephod, as stones of remembrance for the sons of Israel. And Aaron shall bear their names before the LORD on his two shoulders for remembrance.*



These are the Hebrew names of six of the sons of Jacob: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar and Joseph.

First, think about King Jesus, our Great High Priest, who represents us before the Father in the heavenly Holy of Holies. Then think about this earthy priest Aaron and how he physically bore his fellow Israelite family members into God's presence so that the Lord would remember them favorably and act mercifully on their behalf.

**BETWEEN 9:00 AM-12:00 PM: PRIEST, INSCRIBE TWO BLANK STONES**

Notice that the onyx stone in the picture on the right is *uninscribed*. There are no names on it. Let's take some time during these three hours to write the names of people whom we desire to bring into the presence of God, especially our brothers and sisters at Valley Church. Then "*bear their names before the LORD,*" asking God to strengthen their faith, to turn them from unbelief and sin, and to empower them to live entirely for God's glory. Let's mention their physical and emotional needs as well.



**Left Shoulder**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

**Right Shoulder**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

**BETWEEN 12:00 PM — 3:00 PM: A PRIEST WITH CELL SERVICE**

Close your Bible, leave the "tent" and make contact with someone whom you inscribed on either of your two shoulder stones. Last Sunday, Pastor Kurt talked about engaging one another in our church family during this scattering time. This is so important. Let's follow up our "bearing up" activity (which we did in the last three-hour block), with a "breaking out" activity, that is, making phone contact with a brother or sister who might need some encouragement. Think especially about Valley family members whom you haven't seen or heard from in a while.



**BETWEEN 3:00 PM—4:00 PM: Join the Joel Moment Prayer Gathering. Go to Zoom.com and enter Meeting ID and Password.**





**ASTHA SHRIVASTAVA** [You'll hear from another one of the many quiet, gracious women at Valley Church who don't demand the spotlight but who have depth and spiritual reality that can build us up.]

**2Cor. 12:9** *But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

**PETER GRILLI** [You'll hear Scripture passages on our big theme (“Shouldering our Brothers and Sisters”) that are read from a man who has seen God move a mountain. He's not scheduled to tell the story tomorrow, so you'll have to ask him! : ) ]

**1Pet. 2:4** *As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious,*

**1Pet. 2:5** *you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

**1Pet. 2:9** *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*

**Rom. 15:15** *But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God*

**Rom. 15:16** *to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.*

**Rev. 5:10** *and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”*

**DARREN SEITZ** [He'll share a couple of thoughts on today's big theme before we divide into our Zoom Prayer groups.]



**GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #1 (7 min.): *3John 2a Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you...***

Let's start by praying for our church family members in a way that doesn't sound too holy and spiritual. However, this is how John prays for his friend Gaius in the verse above. So, ask that circumstances will turn out well for those on your prayer list (i.e., you personally inscribed onyx stones) and that they'll prosper in school, work, finances, friendship, love, marriage and life.

**GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #2 (7 min.): *3John 2b Beloved, I pray that...you may be in good health,***

Now, pray for the physical and medical conditions of our Valley Church family members and for the people you inscribed on your stones. Ask God to give them robust bodies and relief from pain and illness.

**GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #3 (7 min.): *3John 2c Beloved, I pray that all...goes well with your soul.***

Finally, pray that the people in our church and on our stones will succeed in ways that transcend the earthly. That what John means when he says that he prays that all would go well with his letter recipient's "soul." As we know, our souls are subject to temptations (1 Pet. 2:11), get impure fast (1 Pet. 1:22), long for rest (Matt. 11:29) and must always be entrusted to God (1 Pet. 4:19). With the thoughts in mind, please lift up the "soul needs" of others.

**BETWEEN 5:00 PM-10:00 PM: *[Priests in pursuit — for a second time today.]***

Dear Fellow Priests, let's go back to our personally inscribed onyx stones on page 2. Slide your finger down each "stone" and call at least one person on your lists. Do it tonight after dinner. Then, over the next week, try to call each person on your list. Ask them how they're doing spiritually, physically and emotionally. Let them know that you're thinking about them. Invite them to one of the groups you attend, or to a Coffee Connection or to Joel Moment. Ask how you can pray for them.