

**How To Keep  
Our Spiritual Garments  
That Clothe Us In  
Readiness For  
Christ's Soon Coming**

by B. R. Hicks

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## Preface

This “how to” booklet reveals the manner, the method, and the means believers should take and use in order to be ready for the LORD’s soon Coming.

Revealed, first, is the *manner* in which believers should behave and the way they should act if they expect to be prepared for the LORD’s personal Coming in the air.

Explained, next, is the *method* or the definite procedure believers must follow if they are to have a morally clean heart when the LORD Jesus Christ comes again. If Christians are to succeed in obtaining and maintaining a continual moral cleanness of heart, they must be methodical in using the Spiritual Principles and Spiritual Substance God has given for keeping their hearts morally clean.

Finally, this booklet also reveals the *right means* Christ Jesus has prepared to help believers achieve the *right end* of their lives in this world. There can be no *right end* without the *right means*, and God provides no means that exempt the believer from assuming his responsibility to be ready at the LORD’s Coming.

My prayer is that all who read this booklet will gain the knowledge that will help them to know how to use the LORD’s revealed manner, method, and means for moral cleansing so that their hearts and lives will be prepared for the soon Coming of the LORD Jesus Christ.

— The Author

# How to Keep Our Spiritual Garments

Christians everywhere should realize that the Coming of the LORD Jesus Christ is even at the door because the prophetic signs of the End Times are being fulfilled with unprecedented swiftness. Therefore, if we are wise, we will heed God's prophetic warning that calls for us, as believers, to *keep* our Spiritual Garments, lest we be found naked when Jesus comes as a thief in the night.

Behold, **I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments**, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame (Revelation 16:15).

This particular verse refers to Jesus' Second Coming. However, the Principle of believers *keeping* their Spiritual Garments is applicable and profitable to all who want to be ready when Jesus Christ appears in the sky to catch away those who are living as overcomers. God's Word explains why it is necessary for us to *keep* our Spiritual Garments and tells us how to *acquire* our Spiritual Garments.

## I. The Necessity for Believers to Keep Their Spiritual Garments

"Behold, I come as a thief..." This is the warning that also is heard in connection with the Rapture of the overcoming Church. Just as the Rapture is secret and sudden, so also will be the Second Coming of the LORD Jesus Christ to Earth.

Watch therefore: for **ye know not what hour your Lord doth come**. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be **ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh** (Matthew 24:42-44).

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. **But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night;...** (II Peter 3:9,10).

Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, **I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee** (Revelation 3:3).

As a thief in the night, the LORD will come to catch away His victorious, overcoming Church. Unfortunately, that day will find many Christians unprepared because they will not have kept their Spiritual Garments clean by washing them in the Blood of the Lamb. If no preparation were involved, there would be no need for Jesus to have exhorted believers to take heed to themselves.

**And take heed to yourselves**, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and **so that day come upon you unawares**. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man (Luke 21:34-36).

A great portion of the Church will be slumbering spiritually when the trumpet heralding the Rapture sounds suddenly, and the great meeting in the air takes place. Many Christians will be left behind to live through the Great Tribulation. Just as the Rapture happens suddenly and unexpectedly when the LORD *secretly* catches away the overcomers who are worthy to escape the Tribulation, Jesus Christ again will appear suddenly, without warning, as a thief in the night, when He, along with His Bridal Armies, burst through the atmospheric Heavens at His Second

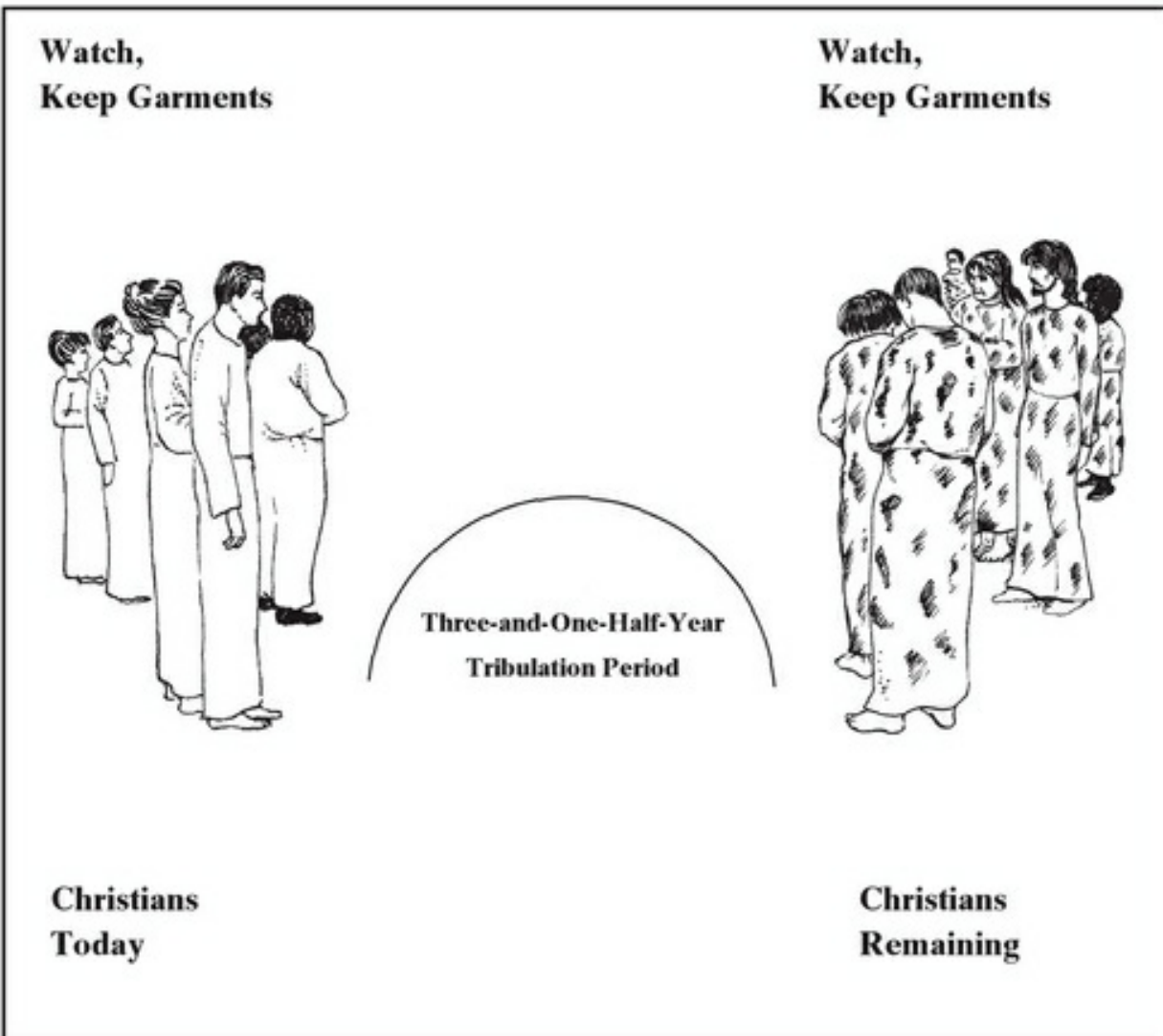
Coming to Earth.

At the Rapture, Jesus will meet the overcomers in the air, but at the end of the Tribulation, He will return to the Earth with His Armies to fight the End-Time battles against Lucifer and all his wickedness.

Revelation 16:15 relates to the Christians who, having missed the Rapture, will continue to live through the Tribulation Period. Therefore, these Christians will be alive at the close of the Tribulation.

Believers who will miss the Rapture will be part of the Church (the woman who flees into the wilderness), as recorded in chapter twelve of Revelation. God prophetically exhorts them — through the Scriptures — by saying, “Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments,…” The word for *keepeth* in Hebrew means to guard from injury or loss by keeping the eye upon. The Garments of these saints in the Book of Revelation are forms of the Nature of Jesus Christ with which one must be clothed in order to be ready for His Coming.

The believers left after the Rapture has taken place must watch and keep their Garments during the Tribulation Period, just as believers, now, must watch and keep their Garments in order to be prepared for the Rapture. If believers do not watch and keep their Garments, they will be found naked and ashamed. If believers are naked of the feelings of hope, expectation, and watchfulness, they will be clothed with the garments of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life. Just as the believers who miss the Rapture will be covered with shame when they find that they are not included in the Wedding Party, some believers shall be ashamed at the end of the Tribulation because they also will have failed to have *kept* their Garments.



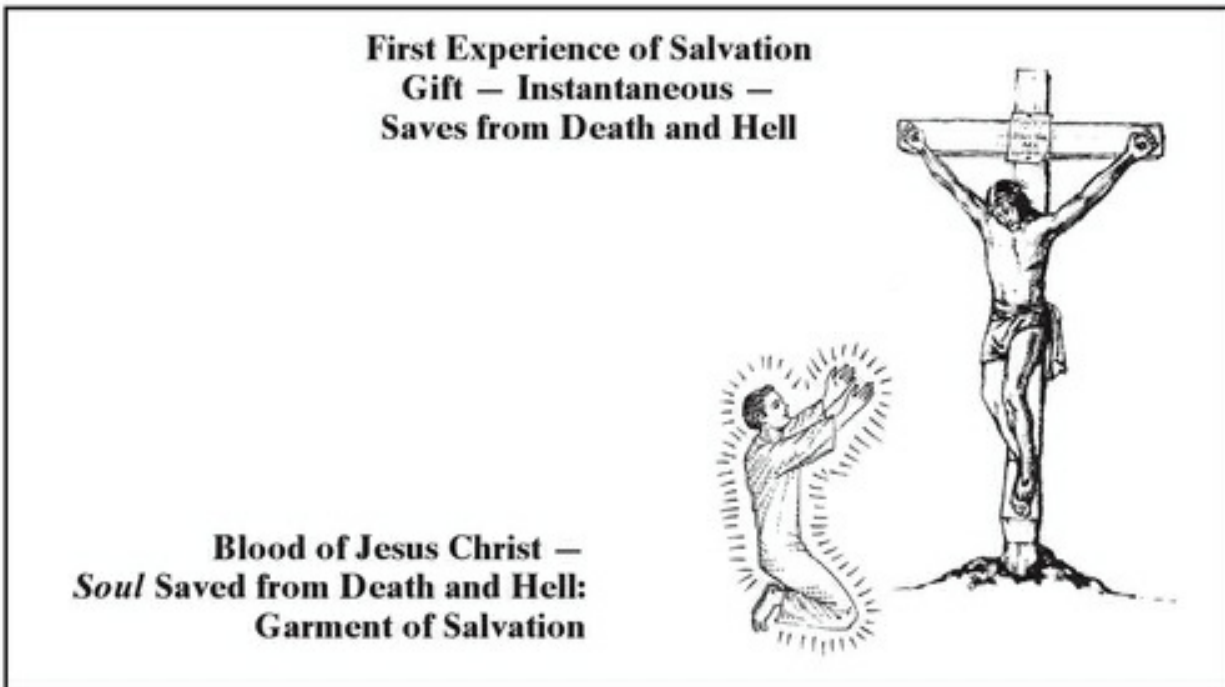
## II. How Believers Acquire Their Spiritual Garments

God commands us, as believers, to *keep* our Spiritual Garments; therefore, we need to understand the Truth about these Garments. First of all, God has promised to clothe His Priests with the Garment of Salvation.

**I will also clothe her priests with salvation:** and her saints shall shout aloud for joy (Psalm 132:16).

In Revelation 7:10, the Apostle John referred to the White Robe of Salvation when he described a great multitude who were clothed in White Robes. They had palms in their hands and were crying, “Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.” This multitude was exalting God with their worship and praise, which caused one of the Elders to ask, “What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?” John answered, “Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”

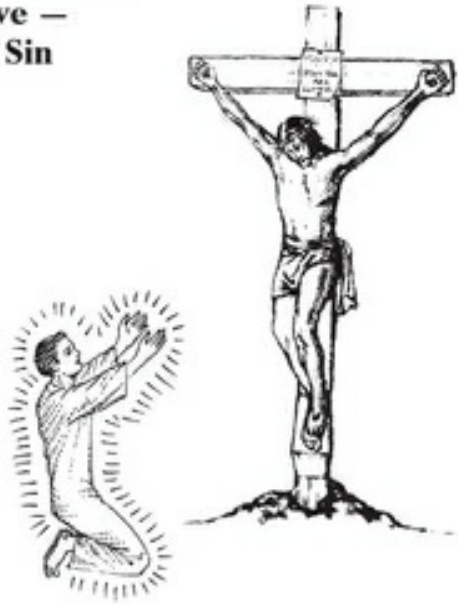
The fact that the multitude had washed their Garments in the Blood of the Lamb indicates that there is something more to the experience of Salvation than accepting Jesus Christ as one’s personal Saviour. Salvation is both instantaneous and progressive. Our initial experience, as believers, is instantaneous in nature. The moment we bow in repentance at the Cross and ask Jesus to save our poor, lost soul, Christ covers our soul’s nakedness with the Garment of Salvation. This Garment is a gift to us through Jesus Christ’s precious shed Blood. It is the gift of the Blood that saves us from the penalty of sin, which is Death and Hell.



Our second experience of Salvation is progressive in nature, for it deals with saving us from the corrupt self-nature that we have inherited from Adam the First. This self-nature is called the body of sin, and it binds us to the beggarly elements of this world and separates us from God’s Holy Presence and Divine Will.

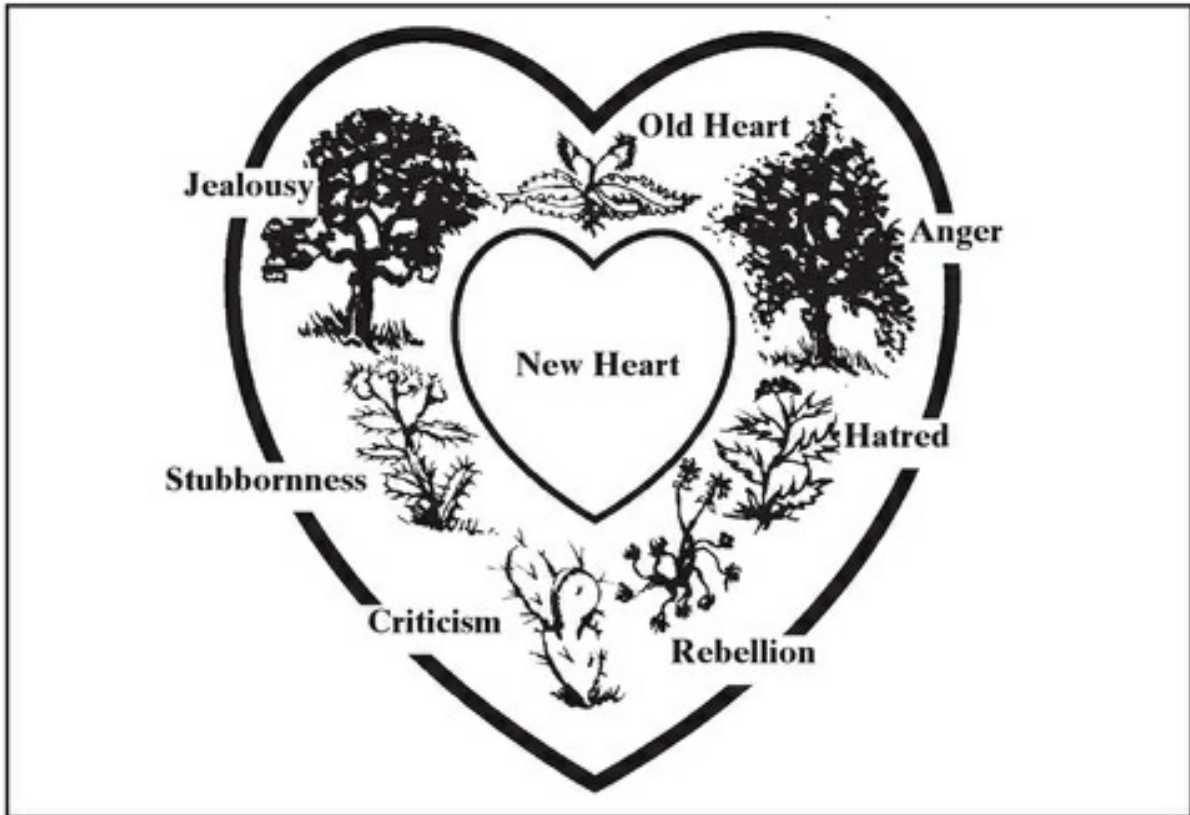
**Second Experience of Salvation  
Growth — Progressive —  
Saves from Body of Sin**

**Blood of Jesus Christ —  
Self Saved from Body of Sin:  
Garment of Salvation**



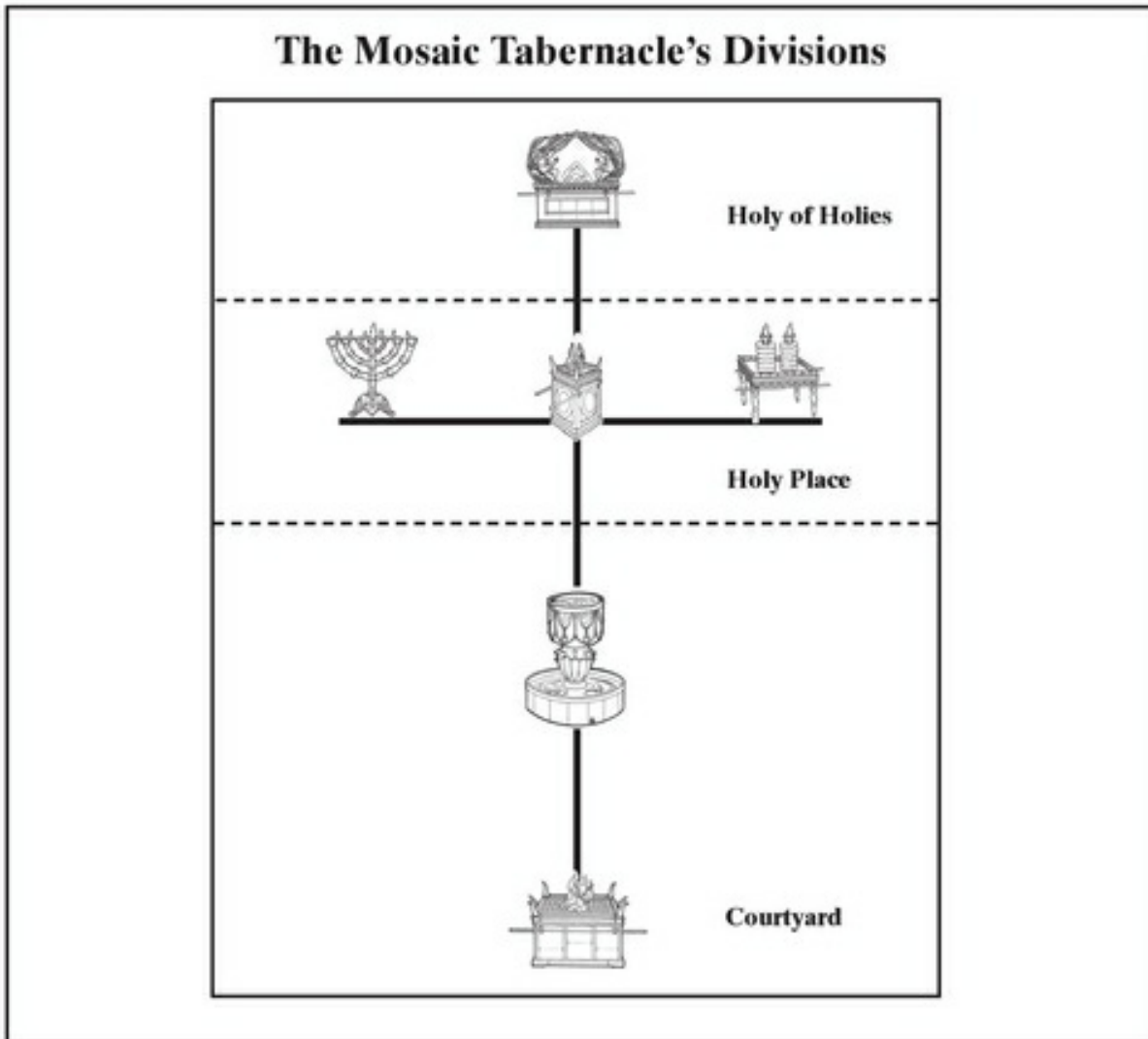
Every man is a sinner by birth and by deed. King David cried, “Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me” (Psalm 51:5). He also said, “The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies” (Psalm 58:3). The gift of Salvation takes care of the sin we have acquired by birth into the human family, and it gives us the birth of a New Heart or a New Man inside. Although we have a New Heart, we still have our old heart that is not clothed in Jesus’ Nature.

We each need the Garments of Jesus’ Nature to clothe our soul, mind, and the will of our old heart or our old nature. We all are born with a stature of dispositional sins, such as rebellion, stubbornness, and self-will that are manifested in our humanity through attitudes of selfishness, criticism, and other fleshly attitudes. Therefore, it is necessary for us to have a daily experience with Jesus Christ’s sanctifying Blood in order to destroy the body of dispositional sins that, if allowed to grow, will strangle the growth of the Seed of Christ in our hearts.



Our personal growth in Christ's Spiritual Stature is related to the experiences that the Old Testament Priests encountered as they ministered at the seven pieces of furniture in the Mosaic Tabernacle. The Tabernacle, with its furniture, is the shadow and type of all that is available to us through Christ Jesus because it is a blueprint of the LORD Jesus Christ's Spiritual Stature.

The furniture in the Holy Place and in the Holy of Holies was screened from view and inaccessible to those who were in the Courtyard. Hence, it is evident that spiritual growth in Christ's Stature takes place in progressive stages, for we have to go beyond the foundational experiences found in the Courtyard in order to lay hold of the experiences found in the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies.



Our corrupt wills have to be crucified little by little, in order for us to experience new levels of spiritual growth in Jesus Christ, as we move from the Foot-realm up to the Head-realm of Christ's Spiritual Stature. The Apostle Paul spoke of this progressive sanctification when he said, "I die daily."

I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, **I die daily** (I Corinthians 15:31).

As we walk in the way of daily sanctification, we are saved from new levels of our corrupt will, which is manifested through our Pride of Revelation (proud thoughts, ideas, and opinions), our Pride of Redemption (proud, independent works of the flesh), and our Pride of Satisfaction (proud, independent satisfaction apart from God's Will). We have inherited our corrupt wills from fallen Adammale and Adamfemale, who chose to join their wills to the corrupt will of fallen Lucifer.

In the Garden of Eden, fallen Lucifer offered Adamfemale his will, which consisted of the Pride of Revelation, the Pride of Redemption, and the Pride of Satisfaction.\* Lucifer presented his proud Will of Revelation, first, by saying, "Ye shall *not* surely die." Thus, he belittled God's Word that said that, if they ate of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, they would *surely* die. In essence, through the Serpent, Lucifer said, "My revelation is greater than God's Revelation." By receiving Lucifer's lie, Adam-female took her first step into sin that led to Death.

But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath

conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and **sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death** (James 1:14,15).

Every person despises humbling himself, since every human being is the same as Adam-female — a sinful creature. Our Pride of Revelation causes us to think we deserve something better than we are receiving. Our pride makes us feel we are worthy of a more honourable position than God's Will has appointed to us. Our pride causes us to esteem ourselves better and higher than others. This proud attitude always leads us into spiritual Death.

After Adam-female had joined her will to Lucifer's Pride of Revelation, Lucifer offered her the second portion of his will, called the Pride of Redemption. After assuring her that she would not die, he said, "...Ye shall be as gods, ..." (Genesis 3:5). Thus, he prophesied that her eyes would be opened. He urged her to redeem herself from under the Command of God's Word and His Will. The opening of her eyes would make her independent of God, he suggested. So refusing the humble position of obedience to God's Word, Adamfemale accepted Lucifer's Pride of Redemption. Thus, her heart was fertile ground for the Pride of Satisfaction, the final portion of Lucifer's corrupt will. He promised her that, "...Ye shall be as gods, KNOWING GOOD AND EVIL." He tempted her with the promise of the Satisfaction of Knowledge. Knowledge is satisfying because it inflates the mind with understanding and enlightenment. Knowledge causes the mind to stretch and expand to receive all thoughts and ideas tossed its way. Adamfemale was deceived because she had no previous knowledge or understanding of sin and its consequences.

The Serpent (fallen Lucifer) caused Adam-female to doubt God's Word and Nature by offering her independence from her Creator. Although God had provided for mankind's complete happiness in the Garden, the Serpent, with his perverted will of the Pride of Revelation, the Pride of Redemption, and the Pride of Satisfaction, caused Adam-female to choose his will instead of God's Holy and Righteous Will.

Jesus has provided Salvation for our proud will. Our redemption begins at the Brazen Altar and leads us on up to the Headship of the Ark in the Head-realm of Christ's Spiritual Stature. As we are being saved from ourselves, we are being clothed with Christ's Garments of Salvation.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; **for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation**, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh *himself* with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth *herself* with her jewels (Isaiah 61:10).

Notice that the writer used the plural term *Garments* when speaking of Salvation. Just as a seed's substance (the root, the trunk, the branches, leaves, and fruit) is manifested gradually through the process of growth, so are these Garments of Salvation unfolded progressively, as we daily go to the Cross of Jesus Christ for new Salvation from our corrupt human will.

God has provided nine Bridal Garments of Adornment in the Seed of Salvation; however, they are manifested in our lives only through the process of crucifixion of the corrupt self so that the cleansed natural man might grow up into Him in all things— even to Christ's Head.

But speaking the truth in love, **may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:** (Ephesians 4:15).

### III. The Nine Garments of Salvation

The nine Garments of Salvation are revealed to us, as believers, as we yield ourselves in obedient submission to God's Will. As we bend our knees before Christ, and bend our wills inwardly as well, we can pray, "Dear LORD, I want to do your Will." And if we are unable to pray this prayer and mean it, God still will meet us if we pray, "LORD, I am willing to be made willing." God will begin to crucify those things that are still rebellious in us, and in doing so, He will begin to wrap a new Garment around us. Before long, we will find ourselves walking in a new place with God. How exciting and wonderful it is to walk and fellowship with God!

These nine Garments are available to believers through God's Son, Jesus Christ. Therefore, it behooves Christians to understand what these Garments or Robes are and to learn their importance to all believers.

#### A. The Garment of Humility

Because for thy sake I have borne reproach; shame hath covered my face. I am become a stranger unto my

brethren, and an alien unto my mother's children. For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me. When I wept, *and chastened* my soul with fasting, that was to my reproach. **I made sackcloth also my garment;** and I became a proverb to them. They that sit in the gate speak against me; and I *was* the song of the drunkards. But as for me, my prayer is unto thee, O LORD, *in* an acceptable time: O God, in the multitude of thy mercy hear me, in the truth of thy salvation (Psalm 69:7-13).

One reason God used sackcloth as a symbol of humility was because sackcloth was not beautiful to the natural eye. It was made of coarse camel's hair that was not pleasant to the natural man because it irritated the wearer's flesh! Our fleshly, carnal man hates to wear the Garment of Humility because he wants to appear beautiful before the world. Also, our proud, carnal nature is *irritated* by the thought of putting on the Garment of Humility and taking the low place before God and others. Man's flesh is chafed by sackcloth; his pride is chafed by humility; thus, sackcloth is an apt symbol of humility.

Humility implies sweetness, kindness, and having the right attitude and right spirit in all situations. Humility implies the quality or state of being humble, free from pride, arrogance, or self-confidence; lowliness, or humbleness of mind; modesty, a deep sense of one's own unworthiness in the sight of God and submission to His own precious Will. Humility is abasement of one's heart and will, accompanied by contrition of heart and repentance for sin.

Humility embodies courtesy and condescension. Humbleness in a person's mind makes him submit readily to those *above* him and to condescend readily to those *below* him. Humility empowers a person to be kind toward those who have provoked him or who have been injurious to him, while it prevents him from being transported into any state of resentment because of any indignities and neglect he might suffer from another. Humility helps a person to be prudent in bridling his own anger until he can pour it out before the LORD and get it cleansed and changed into righteous energy. Humility helps a person patiently bear the anger of others until they, too, can experience having their anger changed into righteous energy.

The Apostle Peter exhorted Christians to be clothed with the Garment of Humility.

Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all *of you* be subject one to another, and **be clothed with humility:** for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble (I Peter 5:5).

Putting on humility so that it covers us, just as clothing covers our body, obviously involves an act of our human will. We must *choose* to humble ourselves.

Our spiritual Foundation, which consists of Jesus Christ's shed Blood, the Baptism of the Holy Ghost (Fire), and Water Baptism in the Name of Jesus Christ, is a gift to us. The Apostle Paul admonished us, as believers, to take heed how we build upon our spiritual foundation.

According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, **I have laid the foundation,** and another buildeth thereon. But **let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon** (I Corinthians 3:10).

Spiritual building or growth involves our works. In order to progress beyond the foundational experiences in God, we must yield our wills and bend our knees in humble surrender and obedience to God. When we bend ourselves low in order to honour the Father, regardless of the direction God sees fit to take us, then we practice true humility. When God sees us gratefully accepting any pain and pleasure that His Headship metes out to us in our daily circumstances of life, He enfolds us in an *inward* Garment of Humility. When we are enveloped with Christ's Meekness, Kindness, and Sweetness, our Christian walk will carry a new fragrance and loveliness. Others, then, will take note of our Christlike meekness, which is the fruit of our inward humility.

Unfortunately, not everyone appreciates the Garment of Humility. King David discovered this and recorded his feelings in the sixty-ninth Psalm. The sufferings and reproaches recorded in this Psalm go beyond David's personal sufferings; they point to Christ's sufferings and reproaches. However, David's own experience is noteworthy.

David's enemies ridiculed him and took occasion to trample upon him while he was taking the low place, chastening his soul and clothing himself with sackcloth. David found that it is impossible to please people. If men lift themselves up in pride and vainglory, they are laughed at for their folly. Conversely, if men, in pure devotion and respect toward God, weep and chasten their souls with fasting and prayer, clothing themselves with the

sackcloth of humility, they are laughed at and considered fools for mortifying themselves. Enemies will do all they can to discourage and prevent a person from humbling himself before God. Christian believers must not think it strange if men speak ill of them when they do good and honour God by abasing themselves.

When David found himself being persecuted for righteousness' sake, he penned the following verses:

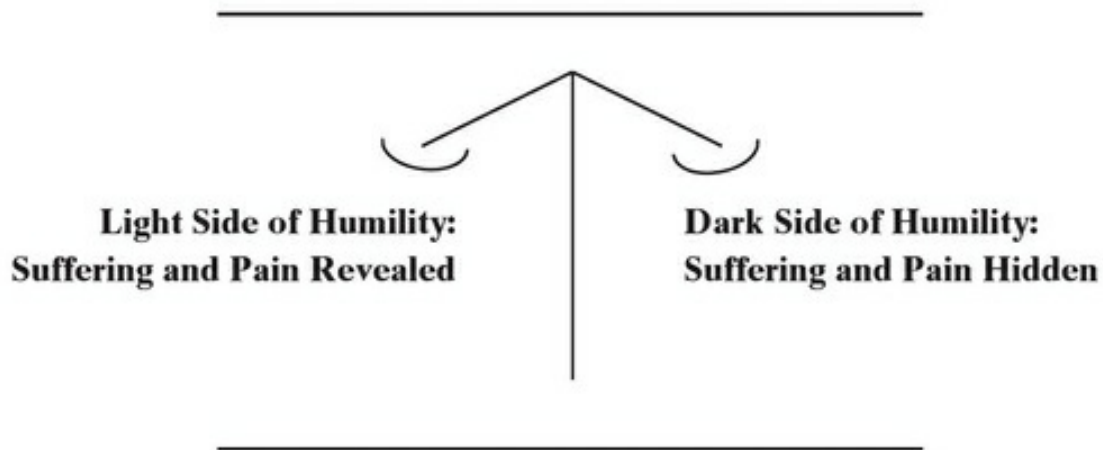
**Save me, O God;**for the waters are come in unto *my* soul. I sink in deep mire, where *there is* no standing: I am come into deep waters, where the floods overflow me. **I am weary of my crying:** my throat is dried: mine eyes fail while I wait for my God. **They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head:** they that would destroy me, *being* mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty: then I restored *that* which I took not away. **O God, thou knowest my foolishness; and my sins are not hid from thee.** Let not them that wait on thee, O Lord GOD of hosts, be ashamed for my sake: let not those that seek thee be confounded for my sake, **O God of Israel. Because for thy sake I have borne reproach;** shame hath covered my face. I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother's children. **For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me. When I wept, and chastened my soul with fasting, that was to my reproach. I made sackcloth also my garment; and I became a proverb to them.** They that sit in the gate speak against me; and I was the song of the drunkards. But as for me, my prayer *is* unto thee, O LORD, *in* an acceptable time: O God, in the multitude of thy mercy hear me, in the truth of thy salvation. Deliver me out of the mire, and let me not sink: let me be delivered from them that hate me, and out of the deep waters. Let not the waterflood overflow me, neither let the deep swallow me up, and let not the pit shut her mouth upon me (Psalm 69:1-15).

In this instance, David's humility was being greatly tested. Likewise, every believer's Garment of Humility must be tried and tested. Believers must choose the Garment of Humility *before* they obtain it, and they must choose to protect and keep it *after* they get it.

After believers have received a portion of Jesus' Humility, they sometimes must humble themselves to greater degrees in order to hold onto their precious Treasure. This was David's experience. After receiving his Garment of Humility, he felt the ridicule, scorn, rejection, and persecution that his relatives and friends heaped upon him.

We must be prepared for the scorn from the highest person to the lowest, from those who are near to us, as well as from an enemy who is afar off. When under attack, we must remember *to watch*; that is, we must stay awake and be alert. We have no time to sleep spiritually or lightly esteem the beautiful feelings of sweetness and meekness that come with the Garment of Humility. God permits these attacks for two reasons: He wants to see how much we love our Humility Garment, and He wants to see if we will choose, again, to humble ourselves.

Sometimes, people humble themselves, to a degree, on the "dark" side of humility because the pain and persecution that will follow are hidden from their view. But when they are brought to the "light" side of humility that reveals the suffering they must go through as a result of humbling themselves, they often are unwilling to continue in their choice for humility. The revelation of the pain is too much for them.



God must test us on both sides of humility — the dark side and the light side. We must ask ourselves: “Will I stay awake, alert, and watchful? Will I be willing to suffer in order to keep my Humility Garments washed clean in the Blood of the Lamb? Will I protect my Garment of Humility against every enemy of pride?” The choice to overcome in adversities is a personal one.

The child of God who seeks to acquire Christ’s Humility Garment is placing himself under attack. He must decide how meaningful and precious this Garment of Humility is to him. If his spiritual eyes are open, he will be aware of his enemies and their intention to rob him of his Garment, which would leave him naked and ashamed before God.

Although the warfare commences when we choose the route of humility, we are not alone in our battles. God stands with us. God gives us a flaming Sword of His Word with which to cut down the proud, deceitful words that come against us through other people and through the Devil. The enemy takes great pleasure in fighting against humility. The Devil will degrade the humble Crucified Way to us. While our enemies *outside* us are trying to persuade us to go contrary to the Truth of humility, our enemies *within* our own flesh will be busy denigrating the humility we have been able to attain. These enemies will try to make us feel that others have taken unfair advantage of us and that our humility in the situation has made us a fool.

If, in the midst of the enemy’s attack, we pray, “Jesus, I’ll die for You, if necessary; I’ll bend my will to do your Will. I want to be real and sincere. Thank You for your Robe of Humility that makes me feel so good and causes me to love everybody.” Then, Jesus will arise with the Sword of God’s Word and begin to war, using the Truth that will defeat the deceitful thoughts that come from within ourselves, from others, and from the Devil.

The enemy would like for us to become entangled with the things of this world, but Jesus told Martha, for instance, that her sister Mary had chosen the good part—to sit at His Feet and receive His Word.

We should seek the *future* eternal Kingdom of God, first, but often we allow worldly cares to have priority over our spiritual responsibility. When we seek to please Jesus Christ, we will be less desirous of pleasing ourselves. Spiritual thoughtfulness for one’s soul is an effectual cure for carnal thoughtfulness for the world and its cares. By seeking the Kingdom of God, first, we will be blessed both naturally and spiritually. If we continue to be concerned about our spiritual welfare, we will find our Garment of Humility perfected in the end. If we seek our comfort, glory, felicity, and honour in the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, we will find these things, now, for our souls, and we also will be prepared for the Prize in Eternity. The Garment of Humility will empower us to seek the Kingdom of God first.

King David suffered the shame, reproach, and rejection of those closest to him, but he kept his Sackcloth Garment as he wept, prayed, and continued to resist the attack against him. Because David could not be persuaded to leave his position of humility, he became an object of ridicule and received mockery from his enemies.

I made sackcloth also my garment; **and I became a proverb** [a byword] **to them**. They that sit in the gate speak against me; and I was the song of the drunkards (Psalm 69:11,12).

In Biblical days, the elders and notable ones sat in the gate, discussing official business and counseling the needy. Here, too, sat the drunkards, the revilers, the jesters, the social ones. Both groups esteemed David a silly fool as he sat in sackcloth, fasting and praying. David looked disgustingly humble and utterly ridiculous to them! Instead of living sumptuously, he put himself low and denied himself pleasures in which the others were indulging. While his enemies ridiculed him, David clung to his Humility Garment and prayed, “...O LORD, in an acceptable time: O God, in the multitude of thy mercy hear me...” Throughout the entire Psalm, David’s petition to the LORD remained beautiful as he continued to humble himself.

As believers, we guard our Garments of Humility by watching and praying and by surrendering to wait for God’s acceptable time as David did.

God is the Head over everyone’s season of suffering. He knows when to turn off the heat of the enemy’s attack against us. Then, after God has proven our love and appreciation for his Garment of Humility and after He has proven our determination to keep our Garment, God will deliver us from our enemies.

On the other hand, if we fail to prove our appreciation for the Garment of Humility when the suffering and ridicule intensifies around us, our prayers will become threatening toward God. Although we may not say, “LORD, get me out of this place, or I will quit serving You,” our attitude shows that this is in our hearts. Displaying this attitude evidences that we lack the Garment of Humility in this area of our wills. Therefore, when we are naked and exposed, our wills are open to the Devil’s fiery arrows, which he shoots at us, bringing us discouragement,

paralyzing our wills, and stripping our hearts of our desire for the things of God.

Only as our wills are clothed, totally, with the Garment of Humility can we keep a right spirit on all occasions and acknowledge God's Will and Headship in all circumstances. Clothed in a Garment of Humility, we can wait patiently for God's acceptable time to change our circumstances and situations in our lives.

We war against opposition as we gain our Garments of Humility; and, then, we must war to maintain them. A person's fleshly nature of rebellion may rise up in the old heart at any time. There always will be times during which our carnal nature will not want to submit, humbly, when we find ourselves in adverse circumstances. Our carnal flesh is not enveloped all at once in the sackcloth Garment of Humility. God counts only the portion of our fleshly Pride of Rebellion that has been offered up to Jesus for crucifixion as worthy of being clothed with His Humility. God is the Father of all spirits; therefore, He still is in command. He permits our enemies, the Devil and his legions of demons, to come against areas of our uncrucified nature so that we might be made aware of the portion of our being that has not yet been made like Jesus Christ's Nature.

Another interesting point about these Garments of Humility is that when we refuse to bow our wills in a situation, we lose a portion of our Garment. For a season, we may be deceived by the garments of pride. However, God will bring us to the realization that we have lost the sweetness of Christ's Humble Mind. Our awareness of our loss will give us a craving to be clothed once again with Christ's precious Garment of Humility. Then, in His Mercy and Faithfulness, God will bring us back to the same Principle of Surrender that was the means of our having been clothed, the first time, with the Garment of Humility. When we bend our wills to God, embrace the Principle of Truth that God desires to teach us, and accept His Headship, God restores the fullness of what we previously acquired of His Humility. We may not want to live by a particular one of God's Principles of Truth that the LORD desires to incorporate into our nature, but if we are to walk further with God, we must return to the particular Principle that we previously refused to accept so that we may receive, again, the humility we lost because of our refusal of God's Headship in the matter.

Our Robes are our *personal* possessions. They are tailored to fit us individually. Our spiritual Humility Robes continue to grow as our Spiritual Statures grow. Just as God clothed Israel in her wilderness journey and caused her shoes and garments to grow, and also kept them from wearing out, so will our spiritual Garments grow.

The Israelites' children grew to maturity in the wilderness, and their garments grew with them. This miracle, which was performed in the natural realm for the children of Israel, will be performed for believers in the spiritual realm.

The Humility Garment is the first or foundational Garment of the Bride's nine Garments of Spiritual Adornment.

## **B. The Garment of Praise**

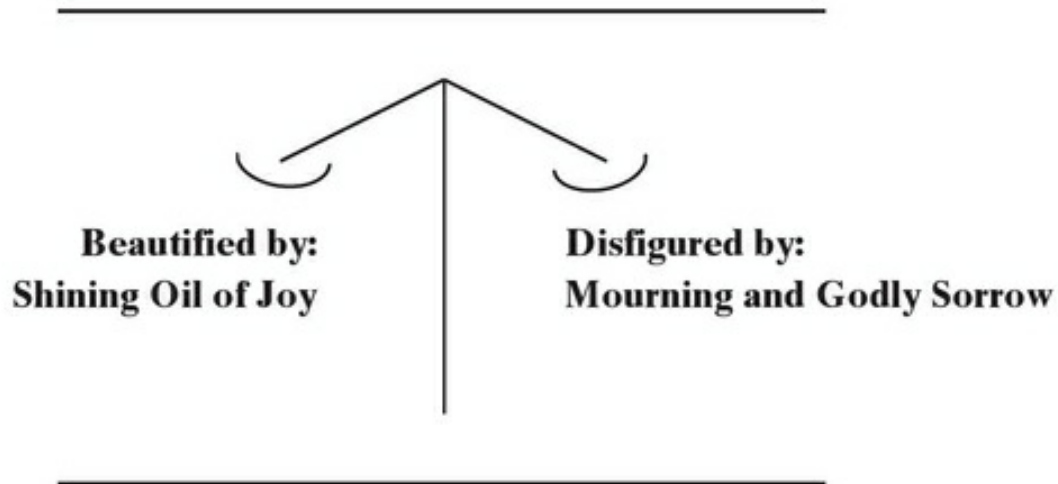
To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, **the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness**, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified (Isaiah 61:3).

The Garment of Praise, the Bride's second Garment of Spiritual Adornment, is for the spirit of heaviness that we, as believers, encounter in life's journey. When, in the midst of mourning, we seek Jesus Christ's Comfort, rather than worldly comfort, Jesus appoints and applies comfort to our hearts.

There is abundant comfort in Jesus Christ for *all* who mourn with godly mourning. God measures out the Beauty, the Oil of Joy, and the Garment of Praise in portions equal to our tears of mourning.

When we mingle our own tears with holy sympathy for God's Truth, and when we weep over the enmity in our human nature that arises against the Truth, God preserves these tears in a bottle so that He can measure out an equal amount of comfort and blessings to us. God will measure out beauty for ashes. As we lie on an ash heap of suffering and mingle our tears with the ashes of humility, God raises us in the beauty of His Resurrection, which causes us to look pleasant.

In exchange for our tears that are mingled with Godly Sorrow, God will give us His holy Cheerfulness. He will turn our sorrow into the Oil of Joy, which makes the face to shine. Mourning disfigures the countenance; whereas, the Oil of Joy beautifies the countenance and makes it shine with an elegant loveliness.



God gives Garments of Praise in exchange for tearstained garments of heaviness. On thanksgiving days, the Israelites wore colourful garments instead of the ordinary dull clothing worn on other days. These special, natural garments pictured the inner Garments of Praise and Joy that God has provided for the soul.

When God fills our hearts with His precious Presence, they are enlarged in joyful praise and gratitude. We keep our Garments of Praise clean by Jesus Christ's Blood, as we ask Him to apply His Blood to all our fleshly sorrow and to all our rejection of His Headship in the daily circumstances of our lives. We keep our Garments of Praise by giving thanks in everything. God desires that we, as Christians, have a cheerful attitude of praise for His Headship, whether it brings pleasure or pain into our lives.

### **C. The Shepherd Garment of Judgment**

And I will kindle a fire in the houses of the gods of Egypt; and he shall burn them, and carry them away captives: and **he shall array himself with the land of Egypt, as a shepherd putteth on his garment; and he shall go forth from thence in peace** (Jeremiah 43:12).

Since all Scripture is profitable for spiritual Doctrine and Principles, this verse can teach us a beautiful Truth about the Shepherd Garment of Judgment that God chose for Nebuchadnezzar of Chaldea to wear and that God gave to him by gift.

A *Shepherd Coat* was given to King Nebuchadnezzar so that he could minister God's Judgment on the idolatrous, disobedient *sheep* of Israel — her sinful people. God permitted the king to carry many sheep (Israelites) captive to Babylon. By the mouth of Jeremiah the Prophet, God warned the remaining *sheep* in Judah to come under subjection to their new shepherd, Nebuchadnezzar.

Thinking to escape the hand of the new shepherd, the proud men of Judah accused Jeremiah of being a false Prophet, so they forsook the land of Israel and fled into Egypt. Jeremiah, too, was forced to flee to Egypt, and there he found himself in the midst of the idolatrous Egyptians and treacherous Israelites. But the Word of the LORD *found* him and *came* to him.

Jeremiah went into Egyptian bondage by constraint, not by choice. The Prophet was bound, but God's Word in him was not bound. Although the captive Israelites in Egypt called him a false Prophet, Jeremiah shared with them what he had received from the LORD. He revealed to God's people that they could not run away from the hand of Judgment that belonged to their new shepherd, Nebuchadnezzar, because God had put His Shepherd Garment of Judgment on the king. Just as Nebuchadnezzar ministered destruction in Jerusalem, he also would minister Judgment in Egypt's royal city.

The Word of God calls Nebuchadnezzar the *shepherd-servant* of God, for he executed God's Will, accomplished His Purposes, and was instrumental in carrying out God's Design.

Although Babylon was a great distance from Egypt, Nebuchadnezzar went there, and he brought Judgment and Destruction with him that proved that God can fetch His Judgments from afar.

The man Nebuchadnezzar presents a twofold picture: first, he is a type of Jesus Christ, the true Shepherd, Who wears the Shepherd Garment to minister God's divine Judgment on all idols. Second, he is a picture of the carnal flesh that likes to minister judgment on the idols of others, while protecting its own idols.

We obtain the Shepherd-Garment of Judgment by accepting God's holy Judgment against the idols of our own thoughts, actions, and feelings that are against God's Truth and Will.

Since Nebuchadnezzar used the Shepherd-Garment of Judgment to punish the gods of others, while he neglected to destroy the idols of Babylon, his own city, God eventually gave the Shepherd Garment of Judgment to another "shepherd," who appeared on the scene in the form of the Medes and Persians. These were the nations God used, then, to come against Babylon to wreak God's Judgment upon their idolatrous ways.

We keep our Shepherd-Garment of Judgment by continuing to be respectful toward God when He brings Judgment against our idolatrous self.

It profits us nothing if, while possessing the power to judge every idol in another person's life, we fail to deal with the idols in our own hearts.

As we keep our Shepherd-Garments clean, by appropriating the Blood of Jesus Christ, God opens our eyes to see clearly the idols in our own lives that are contrary to God's Will and Purpose for us.

#### **D. The Garment of Hope and Prophecy**

And it shall come to pass in that day, *that the prophets shall be ashamed every one of his vision, when he hath prophesied; neither shall they wear a rough garment to deceive:* (Zechariah 13:4).

The true Prophets of old wore rough garments of camel's hair as a token of being mortified to the pleasure and delights of this world.

Just as those Prophets wore plain, humble clothing, God intends modest dress to indicate a humble heart in those who are chosen, today, to minister Prophetic Hope.

The Old Testament Prophets continually ministered the Blessed Hope of the Coming of the Messiah, the LORD Jesus Christ. Being clothed with the Garment of Hope themselves, they were able to clothe true, spiritual Israel with the Humility Hope of the Coming of the humble Christ in Flesh.

And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was **Simeon**; and the same man **was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel:** and the Holy Ghost was upon him (Luke 2:25).

Simeon was just and devout, waiting or hoping for the consolation of Israel. When Simeon saw Jesus, the tiny Baby, he was not disappointed at the *smallness* of the Word, the Christ, that was brought to him.

When our hearts are clothed with Humility Hope for more Living Word, we are grateful for the smallest Seeds of Truth that are cast our way.

We must keep our Garment of Humility Hope washed white in the Blood of the Lamb. God's Word declares in the Book of Proverbs that when Hope is deferred it makes the heart sick.

**Hope deferred maketh the heart sick:** but *when* the desire cometh, *it is* a tree of life (Proverbs 13:12).

When our Garment of Hope is clean and is ministering to our hearts and minds, we will be assured, in faith, that the Word, the Christ, will continue to come into our flesh to rule and to reign over our wills so that we may fulfill God's Perfect Will in our lives.

#### **E. The Garment of Violence**

Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; **violence covereth them as a garment** (Psalm 73:6).

In this verse, God compared violence to a garment. However, the violence mentioned in this instance is an *evil* garment, worn by the wicked to enrich and increase themselves by fraud and oppression.

In the Book of Matthew, Jesus spoke of the *good* Garment of Violence that is worn by the righteous in order to gain the Prize of the Kingdom of Heaven. God's Kingdom is such a Prize of Light and Love that all the opposing forces of darkness and hatred try to prevent the aspiring believer from being successful in his endeavours to enter it.

And from the days of John the Baptist until now **the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force** (Matthew 11:12).

If we desire to be in the Bride of Jesus Christ, the Kingdom of God, we must wash our Garments of Holy Violence in Jesus' Blood and be clothed with a desire to press, to force, to seize, and to suffer in the way that a violent army suffers who takes a city by storm or as a crowd that bursts into a house.

We must be violent in forcing our way through the world, the flesh, and the Devil. In Jesus' day, the publicans and harlots who wore the LORD's Garments of Violence pressed past the rejection of the scribes and Pharisees. In order to make a torturous entry into the Kingdom, they were willing to be labeled as intruders.

The Garment of Holy Violence denotes strength, vigour, earnestness of desire, and endeavour to enter the Kingdom of God, regardless of the cost. Self must be denied. Our bent and biased wills must be straightened. The evil frame and temper of our minds must be altered. Hard services must be performed. Sufferings that are seemingly unbearable must be endured, and our corrupt natures must be forced into subjection.

As believers, we must run, wrestle, fight, and agonize in order to overcome the forces that oppose us from within and without, if we are to gain the Prize, the Kingdom of God.

Precious Jesus, help believers everywhere not to be angry and contentious, thrusting *others out of* the Kingdom. Clothe believers, instead, with Holy Violence and Holy Contention that will thrust *others into* the Kingdom of God.

#### **F. The Garment of Love**

**And Shem and Japheth took a garment**, and laid *it* upon both their shoulders, and went backward, **and covered the nakedness of their father**; and their faces *were* backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness (Genesis 9:23).

Shem and Japheth, refusing to look upon their father's nakedness, covered him with a Garment of Love so that others might not see his shame. What a beautiful example of Christ's Love Garment that is most careful to conceal the sin and shame of others.

And above all things have fervent charity among your-selves: for **charity shall cover the multitude of sins** (I Peter 4:8).

Just as Noah's two sons used the Love Garment to cover their father's nakedness, so everyone should use Christ's Love Garment to cover the faults and failures of parents and other superiors. The Love Garment covers the sins of all, both inferior and superior ones.

We must keep our Love Garments washed white in the Blood of the Lamb; otherwise, we will defeat the purpose of our Love Garment, which is to cover the unlovely.

Just as snow assumes the shape of whatever it covers, so does the covering Garment of Love assume the shape of the object beneath. If our Love Garment is not clean, it will be like dirty snow; it will call attention to the shameful form beneath it.

#### **G. The Garment of Ministry**

And **the priest shall put on his linen garment**, and his linen breeches shall he put upon his flesh, and take up the ashes which the fire hath consumed with the burnt offering on the altar, and he shall put them beside the altar (Leviticus 6:10).

The Priest in the Old Testament wore his Linen Garment of Humility Ministry in disposing the ashes of the burnt offering. Every morning he cleared the ashes from the Altar and placed them on the Altar's east side, which was the most distant point from the Ark in the Sanctuary. Then, the ashes were carried to a clean place without the camp. These ashes, representing the sacrificial, dead Body of our LORD Jesus, were laid up in a new sepulcher, which was a clean place.

Through this Ministry of the Old Testament Priest, we learn the necessity for being clothed with the Linen-Ministry Garment that enables us to stoop to do the lowest and the most humble service for the true Altar, Jesus Christ. We can clean the Altar, kindle the Fire, and carry out the ashes, if we keep our Ministry Garment washed in

Jesus' precious Blood; then, we will not resent even the lowest service for our LORD.

## H. The Garment of Virginity

**And she had a garment of divers colours upon her: for with such robes were the king's daughters that were virgins apparelled.** Then his servant brought her out, and bolted the door after her (II Samuel 13:18).

According to ancient customs, the king's daughter, if pure and undefiled, clothed herself with a special virgin's garment. Thus, the whole nation beheld her testimony of virginity as they looked upon her garment.

On this occasion, mentioned in Second Samuel, Amnon had forced his sister Tamar to lie with him in an immoral act of sin. Amnon was an outrageous, base villain, who robbed his sister of her virginity, thus defiling and destroying her Virgin Garment.

This lesson teaches us how the malignity of sin, with its unbridled passions and appetites, destroys our Virgin Garment.

Just as the king's daughter wore a natural garment as a witness of her virginity, so does the LORD clothe our hearts with spiritual Virgin Garments so that others may see, by the witness of our words of Truth and our deeds of Truth, that our hearts are pure and Holy unto our Spiritual Bridegroom, Jesus Christ.

We keep the Virgin Garments of our testimonies clean by washing them in the precious Blood of the Lamb. Even if others do not want to wear this Garment, personally, they cannot deny the Bridegroom's Power to make a heart Pure and Holy.

## I. The Garment of Separation

And it came to pass at that time when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him in the way; and **he had clad himself with a new garment; and they two were alone in the field: And Ahijah caught the new garment that was on him, and rent it in twelve pieces:** And he said to Jeroboam, Take thee ten pieces: for thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, Behold, I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and will give ten tribes to thee: (I Kings 11:29-31).

After King Solomon's death, God separated ten tribes from the line of Judah and gave them to Jeroboam's northern kingdom. When the Prophet rent his new garment into twelve pieces, he depicted the future separation of the twelve tribes of Israel into two kingdoms. The Prophet Ahijah purposely clad himself in a new garment so that he could separate it into twelve pieces and give ten of them to Jeroboam.

God did not give these ten tribes to Jeroboam to rule over because of *Jeroboam's own holiness and righteousness*, but for the *chastening of King Solomon's apostasy*.

If the Prophet Ahijah had not discerned that God was chastening the House of Solomon through Jeroboam, he would not have chosen such a person to become the prince and ruler of Israel because Jeroboam did not deserve such exaltation. *However, Israel did deserve* all the humiliation that came through this evil prince.

The spiritual lesson presented here is this: if we keep our Separation Garment clean through Jesus Christ's precious Blood, we will be able to discern and to do God's Will in the most difficult circumstances, as Ahijah the Prophet did.

These, then, are the nine Garments which we, as believers, must keep if we are to be ready when Jesus Christ comes as a thief in the night: (1) Garment of Humility; (2) Garment of Praise; (3) Shepherd Garment of Judgment; (4) Garment of Hope and Prophecy; (5) Garment of Violence; (6) Garment of Love; (7) Garment of Ministry; (8) Garment of Virginity; and (9) Garment of Separation.

We must strive to overcome all opposing forces, within and without, in order to keep our Spiritual Garments. Washing them in the Blood of the Lamb keeps them clean; wearing them clothes us with Jesus' Nature.

Thank God for His Provision of the Spiritual Garments that prepare us for His soon Coming.



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