

Your Clothing Speaks

Clothing Serves to Communicate...

1. To Acknowledge Nakedness and Shame

Gen 3:7 – Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they [were] naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. (c.f. 3:21)

2 Chron 28:15 – Then the men who were designated by name rose up and took the captives, and from the spoil they clothed all who were naked among them, dressed them and gave them sandals, gave them food and drink, and anointed them; and they let all the feeble ones ride on donkeys. So they brought them to their brethren at Jericho, the city of palm trees. Then they returned to Samaria.

Ezek 18:7 – If he has not oppressed anyone, [But] has restored to the debtor his pledge; Has robbed no one by violence, [But] has given his bread to the hungry And covered the naked with clothing;

Matt 25:36 – I [was] naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

2. To Represent Spiritual Truths about Sin and God

Gen 3:21 – Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

3. To Indicate Special Favor

Gen 37:3 – Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he [was] the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of [many] colors.

Gen 37:23 – So it came to pass, when Joseph had come to his brothers, that they stripped Joseph [of] his tunic, the tunic of [many] colors that [was] on him.

2 Sam 13:18 – Now she had on a robe of many colors, for the king's virgin daughters wore such apparel. And his servant put her out and bolted the door behind her.

Esther 8:15 – So Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, with a great crown of gold and a garment of fine linen and purple; and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad.

Luke 15:22 – But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put [it] on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on [his] feet.'

4. To Represent a Position of Authority or Appointment

a. Priests

Ex 28:2-4 – And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty. So you shall speak to all [who are] gifted artisans, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments, to consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest. And these [are] the garments which they shall make: a breastplate, an ephod, a robe, a skillfully woven tunic, a turban, and a sash. So they shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother and his sons, that he may minister to Me as priest.

Ex 39:1 – Of the blue, purple, and scarlet [thread] they made garments of ministry, for ministering in the holy [place,] and made the holy garments for Aaron, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

Ex 39:41 – and the garments of ministry, to minister in the holy [place:] the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and his sons' garments, to minister as priests.

Ezra 3:10 – When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests stood in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the LORD, according to the ordinance of David king of Israel.

John 19:23 – Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier a part, and also the tunic. Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece.

b. Levites

2 Chron 5:12 – and the Levites [who were] the singers, all those of Asaph and Heman and Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, stood at the east end of the altar, clothed in white linen, having cymbals, stringed instruments and harps, and with them one hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets --

c. Angels

Matt 28:3 – His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow.

Luke 24:4 – And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments.

Acts 1:10 – And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel,

Acts 10:30 – So Cornelius said, "Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing,

Rev 15:6 – And out of the temple came the seven angels having the seven plagues, clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands.

d. *Kings and Rulers*

Gen 41:42 – Then Pharaoh took his signet ring off his hand and put it on Joseph's hand; and he clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck.

Judges 5:10 – Speak, you who ride on white donkeys, Who sit in judges' attire, And who walk along the road.

Dan 5:7 – The king cried aloud to bring in the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers. The king spoke, saying to the wise [men] of Babylon, "Whoever reads this writing, and tells me its interpretation, shall be clothed with purple and [have] a chain of gold around his neck; and he shall be the third ruler in the kingdom."

Acts 12:21 – So on a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat on his throne and gave an oration to them.

5. **To Provide Basic Shelter and Warmth**

Ex 21:10 – If he takes another [wife,] he shall not diminish her food, her clothing, and her marriage rights.

Ex 22:26-27 – If you ever take your neighbor's garment as a pledge, you shall return it to him before the sun goes down. For that [is] his only covering, it [is] his garment for his skin. What will he sleep in? And it will be that when he cries to Me, I will hear, for I [am] gracious.

Deut 24:17 – You shall not pervert justice due the stranger or the fatherless, nor take a widow's garment as a pledge.

Prov 31:21 – She is not afraid of snow for her household, For all her household [is] clothed with scarlet.

Matt 5:40 – If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have [your] cloak also.

Matt 6:25 – Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?

Matt 6:28 – So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin;

1 Tim 6:8 – And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.

6. **To Highlight an Occasion**

a. *A Time of Mourning*

Gen 37:34 – Then Jacob tore his clothes, put sackcloth on his waist, and mourned for his son many days.

2 Sam 14:2 – And Joab sent to Tekoa and brought from there a wise woman, and said to her, "Please pretend to be a mourner, and put on mourning apparel; do not anoint yourself with oil, but act like a woman who has been mourning a long time for the dead.

2 Sam 19:24 – Now Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to meet the king. And he had not cared for his feet, nor trimmed his mustache, nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he returned in peace.

1 Kings 21:27 – So it was, when Ahab heard those words, that he tore his clothes and put sackcloth on his body, and fasted and lay in sackcloth, and went about mourning.

Esther 4:2 – He went as far as the front of the king's gate, for no one [might] enter the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. (Mordecai)

Rev 11:3 – And I will give [power] to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."

b. *A Time of Celebration*

1 Chron 15:27 – David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, as were all the Levites who bore the ark, the singers, and Chenaniah the music master [with] the singers. David also wore a linen ephod.

Is 3:22 – the festal apparel, and the mantles; The outer garments, the purses,

c. *A Wedding*

Is 49:18 – Lift up your eyes, look around and see; All these gather together [and] come to you. [As] I live," says the LORD, "You shall surely clothe yourselves with them all as an ornament, And bind them [on you] as a bride [does.]

Is 61:10 – I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks [himself] with ornaments, And as a bride adorns [herself] with her jewels.

Jer 2:32 – Can a virgin forget her ornaments, [Or] a bride her attire? Yet My people have forgotten Me days without number.

Matt 22:11-12 - But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. "So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless.

Rev 21:2 – Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

7. **To Indicate Attitude or Activity or State**

a. *Wrath*

Is 63:2 – Why [is] Your apparel red, And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress?

Rev 19:13 – He [was] clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

b. Holiness

Ex 19:14 – So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and sanctified the people, and they washed their clothes. (repeated many times in Leviticus)

Acts 1:10 – And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel,
1 Tim 2:9 – in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing,

Jude 1:23 – but others save with fear, pulling [them] out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

Rev 3:4-5 – You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

Rev 3:18 – I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, [that] the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

Rev 4:4 – Around the throne [were] twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads.

Rev 6:11 – Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both [the number of] their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they [were,] was completed.

Rev 7:9 – After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

Rev 7:13-14 – Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Rev 16:15 – "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed [is] he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."

Rev 19:14 – And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

c. Normalcy

2 Sam 12:20 – So David arose from the ground, washed and anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped. Then he went to his own house; and when he requested, they set food before him, and he ate.

2 Kings 25:29 – So Jehoiachin changed from his prison garments, and he ate bread regularly before the king all the days of his life.

Mark 5:15 – Then they came to Jesus, and saw the one [who had been] demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. (cf. Luke 8:35)

d. Death

John 11:44 – And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."

e. Repentance

Gen 35:2 – And Jacob said to his household and to all who [were] with him, "Put away the foreign gods that [are] among you, purify yourselves, and change your garments.

f. Widowhood

Gen 38:14 – So she took off her widow's garments, covered [herself] with a veil and wrapped herself, and sat in an open place which [was] on the way to Timnah; for she saw that Shelah was grown, and she was not given to him as a wife. (cf. 38:19)

g. Ministry Status

Ez 44:19 – "When they go out to the outer court, to the [outer] court to the people, they shall take off their garments in which they have ministered, leave them in the holy chambers, and put on other garments; and in their holy garments they shall not sanctify the people.

John 13:4 – rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself.

John 13:12 – So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?"

8. To Indicate Wealth or Material Status

Jer 4:30 – "And [when] you [are] plundered, What will you do? Though you clothe yourself with crimson, Though you adorn [yourself] with ornaments of gold, Though you enlarge your eyes with paint, In vain you will make yourself fair; [Your] lovers will despise you; They will seek your life.

Matt 3:4 – And John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.

Luke 7:25 – But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed those who are gorgeously appareled and live in luxury are in kings' courts.

Luke 16:19 – "There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day.

1 Cor 4:11 – To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless.

Rev 18:16 – and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls!

9. To Use as a Means of Adornment

1 Pet 3:3 – Do not let your adornment be [merely] outward -- arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on [fine] apparel --

10. To Reveal or Emphasize Glory

Dan 7:9 – I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment [was] white as snow, And the hair of His head [was] like pure wool. His throne [was] a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire;

Matt 17:2 – and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.

Rev 1:13 – and in the midst of the seven lampstands [One] like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

Rev 19:16 – And He has on [His] robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

11. To Present Oneself Appropriately

Gen 41:14 – Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him quickly out of the dungeon; and he shaved, changed his clothing, and came to Pharaoh.

John 21:7 – Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on [his] outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea.

12. To Deflect Attention

1 Tim 2:9 – in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing,

Prov 7:10 – And there a woman met him, [With] the attire of a harlot, and a crafty heart.

13. To Differentiate Gender

Deut 22:5 – A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so [are] an abomination to the LORD your God.

1 Tim 2:9 – in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing,

Other Mentions of Clothing

1. A Means of Charitable Provision

Acts 9:39 – Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought [him] to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them.

2. A Commodity of Wealth

Genesis 45:22 – He gave to all of them, to each man, changes of garments; but to Benjamin he gave three hundred [pieces] of silver and five changes of garments.

Exodus 3:22 – "But every woman shall ask of her neighbor, namely, of her who dwells near her house, articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing; and you shall put [them] on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians."

Joshua 22:8 – and spoke to them, saying, "Return with much riches to your tents, with very much livestock, with silver, with gold, with bronze, with iron, and with very much clothing. Divide the spoil of your enemies with your brethren."

Judges 14:12 – Then Samson said to them, "Let me pose a riddle to you. If you can correctly solve and explain it to me within the seven days of the feast, then I will give you thirty linen garments and thirty changes of clothing.

1 Samuel 27:9 – Whenever David attacked the land, he left neither man nor woman alive, but took away the sheep, the oxen, the donkeys, the camels, and the apparel, and returned and came to Achish.

Ezekiel 27:24 – These [were] your merchants in choice items -- in purple clothes, in embroidered garments, in chests of multicolored apparel, in sturdy woven cords, which were in your marketplace.

Zechariah 14:14 – Judah also will fight at Jerusalem. And the wealth of all the surrounding nations Shall be gathered together: Gold, silver, and apparel in great abundance.

3. An Indicator of Nationality

Zephaniah 1:8 – And it shall be, In the day of the LORD's sacrifice, That I will punish the princes and the king's children, And all such as are clothed with foreign apparel.

Deuteronomy 21:13 – She shall put off the clothes of her captivity, remain in your house, and mourn her father and her mother a full month; after that you may go in to her and be her husband, and she shall be your wife.

4. A Focus of Covetousness

Joshua 7:21 – "When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it." (Achan)

Luke 10:30 – Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain [man] went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded [him,] and departed, leaving [him] half dead.

Acts 20:33 – I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel.

5. A Basis of Prejudicial Treatment

James 2:2-3 – For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool,"

6. A Means of Adornment

1 Peter 3:3 – Do not let your adornment be [merely] outward -- arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on [fine] apparel --

7. A Means of Carrying

Exodus 12:34 – So the people took their dough before it was leavened, having their kneading bowls bound up in their clothes on their shoulders.

8. A Supernatural Provision

Deuteronomy 10:18 – He [God] administers justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing.

Deuteronomy 29:5 – And I have led you forty years in the wilderness. Your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandals have not worn out on your feet.

Matthew 6:30 – Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, [will He] not much more [clothe] you, O you of little faith?

9. A Means of Hiding Weapons

Judges 3:16 – Now Ehud made himself a dagger (it was double-edged and a cubit in length) and fastened it under his clothes on his right thigh.

10. A Means of Payment

Judges 17:10 – Micah said to him, "Dwell with me, and be a father and a priest to me, and I will give you ten [shekels] of silver per year, a suit of clothes, and your sustenance." So the Levite went in.

2 Kings 5:5 – Then the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So he departed and took with him ten talents of silver, six thousand [shekels] of gold, and ten changes of clothing.

11. A Means of Protection

1 Samuel 17:38 – So Saul clothed David with his armor, and he put a bronze helmet on his head; he also clothed him with a coat of mail.

12. A Tool of Deception

1 Samuel 19:13 – And Michal took an image and laid [it] in the bed, put a cover of goats' [hair] for his head, and covered [it] with clothes.

13. A Means of Disguise

1 Samuel 28:8 – So Saul disguised himself and put on other clothes, and he went, and two men with him; and they came to the woman by night. And he said, "Please conduct a seance for me, and bring up for me the one I shall name to you."

Matthew 7:15 – Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

14. A Means of Padding

Jeremiah 38:11-12 – So Ebed-Melech took the men with him and went into the house of the king under the treasury, and took from there old clothes and old rags, and let them down by ropes into the dungeon to Jeremiah. Then Ebed-Melech the Ethiopian said to Jeremiah, "Please put these old clothes and rags under your armpits, under the ropes." And Jeremiah did so.

15. An Avenue of Power

Mark 5:28 – For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well."

Mark 5:30 – And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My clothes?"

16. A Way to Mock

2 Samuel 10:4 – Therefore Hanun took David's servants, shaved off half of their beards, cut off their garments in the middle, at their buttocks, and sent them away.

Mark 15:17 – And they clothed Him with purple; and they twisted a crown of thorns, put it on His [head,]

17. A Type of Gift

Genesis 24:53 – Then the servant brought out jewelry of silver, jewelry of gold, and clothing, and gave [them] to Rebekah. He also gave precious things to her brother and to her mother.

18. A Realm of Provision

Exodus 21:10 – If he takes another [wife,] he shall not diminish her food, her clothing, and her marriage rights.

19. An Potential Area of Trespass

Exodus 22:9 – For any kind of trespass, [whether it concerns] an ox, a donkey, a sheep, or clothing, [or] for any kind of lost thing which [another] claims to be his, the cause of both parties shall come before the judges; [and] whomever the judges condemn shall pay double to his neighbor.

20. An Avenue of Transmission for Illness

Leviticus 11:32 – Anything on which [any] of them falls, when they are dead shall be unclean, whether [it is] any item of wood or clothing or skin or sack, whatever item [it is,] in which [any] work is done, it must be put in water. And it shall be unclean until evening; then it shall be clean.

Leviticus 13:52 – He shall therefore burn that garment in which is the plague, whether warp or woof, in wool or in linen, or anything of leather, for it [is] an active leprosy; [the garment] shall be burned in the fire.

21. A Form of Evidence

Genesis 39:15-16 – "And it happened, when he heard that I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me, and fled and went outside." So she kept his garment with her until his master came home.

22. A Way to Hide Evidence

2 Samuel 20:12 – But Amasa wallowed in [his] blood in the middle of the highway. And when the man saw that all the people stood still, he moved Amasa from the highway to the field and threw a garment over him, when he saw that everyone who came upon him halted.

23. A Type of Tax

1 Kings 10:25 – Each man brought his present: articles of silver and gold, garments, armor, spices, horses, and mules, at a set rate year by year.

24. A Means of Income

Proverbs 31:24 – She makes linen garments and sells [them,] And supplies sashes for the merchants.

25. A Means of Drawing Attention

Matthew 23:5 – But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments.

26. An Object Lesson

Acts 18:6 – But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook [his] garments and said to them, "Your blood [be] upon your [own] heads; I [am] clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

27. A Means of Enticement

Proverbs 7:10 – And there a woman met him, [With] the attire of a harlot, and a crafty heart.

28. A Way to Honor

Matthew 21:7-8 – They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set [Him] on them. And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread [them] on the road.

Analogous Usage

Psalms 93:1 – The LORD reigns, He is **clothed** with majesty; The LORD is **clothed**, He has girded Himself with strength. Surely the world is established, so that it cannot be moved.

Psalms 104:1 – Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, You are very great: You are **clothed** with honor and majesty,

Psalms 109:18 – As he **clothed** himself with cursing as with his garment, So let it enter his body like water, And like oil into his bones.

Psalms 109:29 – Let my accusers be **clothed** with shame, And let them cover themselves with their own disgrace as with a mantle.

Psalms 132:9 – Let Your priests be **clothed** with righteousness, And let Your saints shout for joy.

Psalms 132:16 – I will also **clothe** her priests with salvation, And her saints shall shout aloud for joy.

Psalms 132:18 – His enemies I will **clothe** with shame, But upon Himself His crown shall flourish."

Ezekiel 7:27 – 'The king will mourn, The prince will be **clothed** with desolation, And the hands of the common people will tremble. I will do to them according to their way, And according to what they deserve I will judge them; Then they shall know that I [am] the LORD!' "

2 Cor 5:2 – For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be **clothed** with our habitation which is from heaven,

2 Cor 5:3 – if indeed, having been **clothed**, we shall not be found naked.

1 Peter 5:5 – Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to [your] elders. Yes, all of [you] be submissive to one another, and be **clothed** with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

Types of Attire Mentioned (Not Complete)

Prison Attire

Judge's Attire

Bride's Attire

Harlot's Attire