



Christmas Sunday #2

A Sermon in Garments

from the Gospel of St. Luke

Ryken's Dictionary of Biblical Imagery

The imagery of garments and clothing is of the major importance in the Bible. Its significance can be physical, economic, social, moral or spiritual. The imagery of investing and divesting a person of clothing is usually symbolic of larger issues.

The function of clothing, moreover, is multiple: clothing can protect, conceal, display or represent a person's current state and can be symbolic of moral and spiritual qualities.

*God, as well as people, is portrayed as wearing garments....Literal and figurative meanings are intertwined in virtually every category of usages. **It is no exaggeration to say that one can trace the whole outline of biblical theology and salvation history through the motif of clothing.***

The Garment of Glory

Psalm 104:1-2

*O Lord my God, you are very great!
You are clothed with splendor and majesty,
covering yourself with light as with a garment...*



Isaiah 63:1-2

*Who is this who comes from Edom,
in crimsoned garments from Bozrah,
he who is splendid in his apparel,
marching in the greatness of his strength?
“It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save.
Why is your apparel red,
and your garments like his who treads in the winepress?*



The Garment of Humanity

Interlude: Nakedness



Luke 1:31

*And behold, you will conceive in your womb
and bear a son,
and you shall call his name Jesus.*

Luke 2:6-7

*And while they were there,
the time came for her to give birth.
And she gave birth to her firstborn son*

The Garment of Infancy

Luke 2:7

*And she gave birth to her firstborn son
and wrapped him in swaddling cloths
and laid him in a manger,
because there was no place for them in the inn.*



The Garment of the Ordinary

The silence in regards to Jesus' garments growing up, his life as a carpenter-builder, and through his Messianic mission conveys the sense that his garments were that of the common Jewish man.



Luke 8:44

*She came up behind him
and touched the fringe of his garment,
and immediately her discharge of blood ceased.*

The Garment of the Mockery

Luke 23:11

And Herod with his soldiers

treated him with contempt and mocked him.

Then, arraying him in splendid clothing,

he sent him back to Pilate.



Interlude: The Nakedness of Death

Luke 23:33-34

*And when they came to the place
that is called The Skull,*

*there they crucified him, and the criminals,
one on his right and one on his left.*

*And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them,
for they know not what they do.”*

And they cast lots to divide his garments.



The Garment of Burial

Luke 23:50-53

*Now there was a man named Joseph,
from the Jewish town of Arimathea.*

*He was a member of the council,
a good and righteous man,*

*who had not consented to their decision and action
and he was looking for the kingdom of God.*

This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

*Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud
and laid him in a tomb cut in stone,*

where no one had ever yet been laid.



Interlude: The Burial Garment

Luke 24:12

*But Peter rose and ran to the tomb;
stooping and looking in,*

he saw the linen cloths by themselves; (Jn 20:7)

and he went home marveling at what had happened.



The Garment of Victory

Luke 24:13-16

*That very day two of them
were going to a village named Emmaus,
about seven miles from Jerusalem,
and they were talking with each other
about all these things that had happened.*

*While they were talking and discussing together
Jesus himself drew near and went with them.*

But their eyes were kept from recognizing him



Preview: The Garment of Glory

Luke 9:28-32

Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray.

And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white.

And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him.



The Garment of Glory

Revelation 19:11-16

Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse!

*The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True,
and in righteousness he judges and makes war.*

His eyes are like a flame of fire,

and on his head are many diadems,

and he has a name written that no one knows but himself.

He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood,

and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.

*And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure,
were following him on white horses.*

*From his mouth comes a sharp sword
with which to strike down the nations,*

and he will rule them with a rod of iron.

He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.

On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.



And so...

Humanity/Infancy-Ordinary

-Mockery-Death/Burial

-Victory—> Glory!

- The Gospel in garments
 - Marvel at the mystery and majesty of the Son of God becoming man so that men could become the sons of God.
- Embrace the paradigm as a follower of Jesus.
 - The call to bear the shame in His Name
 - Victory in the ordinary
 - Glory to come