

Elder Vernon Johnson
Colors

White Garments

God created man upright. After God had created Adam and formed Eve from the rib of Adam and before the fall in the garden it was stated: Gen. 2:25 "And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed." Before the fall, Adam and Eve had no covering and needed no covering for their nakedness. They were without sin and had no reason to have shame.

Once Adam and Eve transgressed in the garden they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons in an attempt to cover their nakedness. Nakedness in the scriptures is a symbol of the shame of sin:

1. Is. 47:3 "Thy nakedness shall be uncovered, yea, thy shame shall be seen: I will take vengeance, and I will not meet thee as a man."
2. Nahum 3:5 "Behold, I am against thee, saith the LORD of hosts; and I will discover thy skirts upon thy face, and I will show the nations thy nakedness, and the kingdoms thy shame."
3. Rev. 3:18 "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see."
4. Ex. 32:25 "And when Moses saw that the people were naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies:)"
5. Is. 20:4 "So shall the king of Assyria lead away the Egyptians prisoners, and the Ethiopians captives, young and old, naked and barefoot, even with their buttocks uncovered, to the shame of Egypt."
6. Micah 1:11 "Pass ye away, thou inhabitant of Saphir, having thy shame naked: the inhabitant of Zaanan came not forth in the mourning of Bethel; he shall receive of you his standing."
7. Rev. 16:15 "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame."

In an effort to cover the shame of their sin, Adam and Eve had sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons. This act was like the actions of people today, who through their works and efforts try to cover the shame of their sins by their perceived good works. The problem is that it just is not sufficient in the eyes of a just and holy God. God is the judge of all the earth and his judgment is just. Every sin and disobedience receives a just recompense of reward. Our works and labors will never

satisfy God's wrath for sin. It takes somewhat far better for the shame of our sin to be covered.

In the case of Adam and Eve God made coats of skin: Gen. 3:21 "Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them." The only suitable covering for sin is the atoning blood of the Lamb of God. Anything else is insufficient to satisfy the wrathful judgment of God.

The blood of the Lamb covers our sin. The garments of the High Priest and of his sons were made of fine linen. This white linen is symbolic of the imputed righteousness that we receive by the substitutionary sacrifice of Christ. Ex. 39:27 "And they made coats of fine linen of woven work for Aaron, and for his sons, 28 And a mitre of fine linen, and goodly bonnets of fine linen, and linen breeches of fine twined linen, 29 And a girdle of fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet, of needlework; as the LORD commanded Moses."

These garments covered the nakedness both of Aaron and of his sons. As such, they are typical of the righteous covering of the imputed righteousness of Christ who has covered the shame of our sin: 2 Cor. 5:21 "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

In Mark 14:51, 52 we read of a young man who had come to the trial of Jesus before the high priest: "And there followed him a certain young man, having a linen cloth cast about his naked body; and the young men laid hold on him: And he left the linen cloth, and fled from them naked." In a word picture, this young man typified what was soon to happen to Jesus. Jesus was altogether righteous, yet on the cross of Calvary, he became sin for us (represented by the naked body of the young man). Jesus knew no sin and thus had no shame, yet he bore the shame of our sins for us on the tree of the cross that we be made the righteousness of God in him.

Consequently, the shame of our sin has been eternally removed from the eyes of a just and holy God: Rom. 8:33 "Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. 34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us." Because of the covenant atoning work of Christ there is no sin or charge of sin that can be brought against the elect of God. Christ has justified us and no one can condemn us before God. We stand before God clothed with the garments of Christ's righteousness.