

THE FOLD OF HIS GARMENT

Ezekiel 5:1-17; 14:21-22

Ezekiel was a prophet, a watchman of Judah, who spoke during a time of captivity. He was called a “son of man”; he mourned and identified with humanity.

A. God told Ezekiel to take a sharp KNIFE (or sword), a barber’s RAZOR

1. In biblical days, when hair on the head and beard of a man was cut off, it was a “disgrace”. This is a prophetic portrayal of calamity, ruin and disaster upon the nation.
2. During a time of national calamities and disaster, there is protection for the Remnant Bride of Christ (the few hairs) hidden in the FOLD OF HIS GARMENT; Ezekiel 5:3

B. God told Ezekiel to SHAVE his head and his beard (the hair of the priest was a mark of consecration unto God’s service) Leviticus 21:5; 19:27; Judges 16:17

1. Shaving all the hair was a sign of humiliation; 2 Samuel 10:4-5
2. Shaving all the hair was a sign of catastrophe; Jeremiah 41:5
3. Shaving all the hair was a sign of mourning; Job 1:20; Isaiah 22:12; Jeremiah 7:29
4. The HEAD is the chief city: Jerusalem; Ezekiel 5:5; the HAIR refers to the inhabitants of the land. This is also a symbolic picture of the Church: that which is supposed to be consecrated unto the Lord; see Galatians 4:21-31

C. God told Ezekiel to take BALANCES (scales); Proverbs 11:1

1. “Weigh” the hair on scales (speaks of judgment)
2. “Divide” the hair into thirds; Hebrews 4:12
 - a. Two thirds of the people would be “burned”; they would experience famine, plagues (pestilence), and be smitten by the sword of Babylon
 - b. One third of the people would be “scattered” (will flee, be displaced) and pursued by the “sword”
3. The balances reveal God’s justice; His judgments are fair; His portions of punishment are righteous. He “metes out” to everyone what is just; Job 31:6; Ezekiel 45:10; Ps. 11:1
4. Balances reveal the concept of man’s tribulation and the third seal; Revelation 6:5
5. The “hairs” (inhabitants) are numbered, weighed and divided. The concept of weighing and dividing can be seen in the book of Daniel: “Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting” Daniel 5:27
6. God told Ezekiel that when the land sins against Him by trespassing grievously, then Four Sore Judgments would come upon JerUSAlem; Ezekiel 14:21:
 - a. The Sword – speaks of war, civil unrest, warring factions, oppressive laws, tyranny, invasion by foreigners in the land, destruction, Martial Law
 - b. The Famine – (both spiritual and natural) - crop failure due to fire, drought, disease and destructive weather; scarcity of food: crops and livestock; economic failure that leads to inflated food prices
 - c. The Noisome Beast – a release of demonic entities over the land: rage, chaos, murder, hate, paranoia, depression, suicide, torment, fear
 - d. The Pestilence (plagues) – disease, viruses, toxins, poisoning of the sky, water and land, chemical and engineered weather warfare, nuclear fallout, radioactive waste, seismic activity

D. The Biblical Principle of the SKIRT, in the FOLD OF HIS GARMENT

1. Ezekiel was told to take a FEW HAIRS and “bind them” IN THY SKIRTS (in a hidden place in his garment); Ezekiel 5:3. NIV says: “But take a few strands of hair and tuck them away in the folds of your garment”.

2. The few hairs had to be taken out (separated) prior to the weighing of the hair

3. The “few” points to a REMNANT people, who are “bundled” in a choice covenant; Ezekiel 6:8; “Yet behold, therein shall be left a REMNANT, that shall be brought forth, both sons and daughters...ye shall be comforted concerning the evil that I have brought upon JerUSAlem...they shall comfort you”; Ezekiel 14:22

4. Within the skirt is A SECRET PLACE; the “few hairs” were placed there for safe keeping. They were kept from the rest of the hair.

5. Spreading a SKIRT or MANTLE over another in scripture is a symbolic action that denotes protection.

a. Servants in ancient Eastern cultures frequently slept in the same chamber or tent with their master, and if they sought protection, custom would allow them that benefit from the “covering” of their master’s bed; Psalm 17:8

6. In ancient Israel, when a man would “spread or cover” a woman with the “skirt”, it was a metaphor that was used for taking in MARRIAGE; Ezekiel 16:8

a. “He (Boaz) said, who art thou? And she answered, I am Ruth, thine handmaid: spread therefore THY SKIRT over thine handmaiden: for thou art a near kinsman”; Ruth 3:9

7. The same Hebrew word “kanaph” is used for both SKIRT and WING. Strong’s # 3671 is translated “wing; the extremity of a garment; bed clothing; border, pinnacle, feather; overspreading; skirt”

a. Wings in scripture are also associated with the MERCY SEAT and the Ark of the Covenant; Exodus 25:17-22; 2 Chronicles 5:7-8

b. “Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together even as a hen gathereth her chickens UNDER HER WINGS, and ye would not”; Matthew 23:37

c. “The Lord recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the Lord God of Israel, UNDER WHOSE WINGS thou art come to trust”; Ruth 2:12

d. “He shall cover thee with his feathers, and UNDER HIS WINGS shall thou trust; his truth shall be thy shield and buckler”; Psalm 91:4

8. Healing virtue flows from the HEM of His garment; it brings wholeness to those who reach out in faith to touch Him; Matthew 9:20; 14:36. (It’s one thing to touch Him as He passes by, but it’s another thing to seek refuge under His wings); Malachi 4:2

9. The MANTLE of anointing has been dispersed over the Church; Psalm 133:2

10. We are COVERED by God’s protection, authority and nature.

a. The Lord Jesus is our Head, our Covering; the husband is the head or covering for the wife; Ephesians 5:23. The Person of Christ covers, protects and enables His people.

b. We submit ourselves one to another and are accountable to one another through our relationships; Hebrews 13:17, but a denomination or a local congregation IS NOT our covering. When men make human institutions their “covering”, it is a counterfeit for the sovereignty and rulership of the Holy Spirit within each believer; 2 Corinthians 11:2-3.

c. A false Babylonian religious system imposes its own by-laws and rules, and controls many believers today. These are not a substitute for the direct rule of God in our lives.

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