

# **CLOTHED IN HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS**

by Ruth Hickman

Spring is "new wardrobe" time! The trees have new leaves, the bushes cover their bare boughs with blossoms, and even the birds seem to "sprout" new feathers. In our closets, winter clothes are put away and spring clothes that are cooler come out.

Colossians 3 and Ephesians 4 are what I call the exchange of wardrobe chapters. They speak of putting "off" and putting "on." These passages tell us to lay aside or put off the old self which is corrupted with lust and put on the new self which has been created in righteousness and holiness and is of the truth. This exchange, however, is not seasonal. It is to be permanent.

How can we obtain and put on this new wardrobe? I believe we can "see" it in the clothing of the Priest, the Warrior, and the Bride. Psalm 132:9 indicates, "Let Thy priests be clothed with righteousness and let Thy godly ones sing for joy." I Peter 2:5 and 9 tells us that believers are a holy and royal priesthood. We know that Ephesians 6 calls us to be warriors in full armor and Revelation 21:9 refers to us as the bride, the wife of the Lamb.

In these perilous days, let us examine and clothe ourselves with the clothing mentioned above. It will open our eyes to our calling and purpose for our time.

First of all, let's look at the priest, the one who intercedes, who worships and prays. He wears white breeches and a white tunic that speak of a "covering" of purity and righteousness. The blue robe is ornate with threads of scarlet, purple and gold. On the hem, which represents authority, are golden bells and woven colored pomegranates. The bells ring out in praise, and the pomegranates represent the 613 laws in the Torah as it is said that number of seeds are in each fruit.

The ephod which holds the Urim and Thummim or Lights and Perfections is attached to the robe at the shoulders and tied with a sash. This represents seeking and inquiring of the Lord. The Urim and Thummim were the means of gaining direction and instruction from the Almighty.

The shoulder attachments were flesh colored onyx stones inscribed with the names of the 12 tribes in birth order. Attached to the ephod in front was the breastplate that had 12 precious stones representing the tribes in marching order. This breastplate weighed 40 pounds! The priest "carried" the tribes -- the people of Israel -- on his shoulders and over his heart. We are to carry the burdens of others to the Lord in intercession and prayer.

The Warrior had full armor on his body for protection, but most importantly he carried a large shield and a sword. The shield is "the shield of faith," that defensive weapon that protects us from the fiery darts of the enemy. It was made of six layers of leather soaked daily in oil to keep it from cracking and in water to put out "flaming" arrows. What a picture of the need for the Holy Spirit's anointing and the washing of the Word of God!

The sword was 2 edged and sharp and was carried in the belt of truth. It represents the Word of God, our weapon against the lies of the enemy. As warriors we use the Word of God in prayer and intercession as we make petition with perseverance.

**This "image" of our clothing has no gender. There is neither male nor female in the spirit realm. Not only are all believers priests and warriors; we are all brides. This bride wears combat boots to tread upon the enemy. Ephesians 6:15 says our feet are shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. Peace is the good news of victory over the enemy! The bride can be represented by the veil. The word veil in Hebrew means covering. Psalm 139:13 tells us that God "covered" us in our mother's womb. It portrays the idea of provision and protection that a bridegroom gives his bride. Jewish weddings are conducted under the "huppah," a covering representing God's blessings. Ruth asked Boaz to "cover" her with his "wings," the corners of the prayer shawl.**

**There is amazing revelation in understanding the "veil of the bride" – the idea of preparation, submission, and faithfulness. Yet, Revelation 2-3 speaks of an overcoming bride.**

**As we sense the soon return of our Bridegroom, Jesus, we look to the marriage supper of the Lamb in Revelation 19:9.**

**"Awake, awake, clothe yourself in your strength, O Zion; clothe yourself in your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city." Isaiah 52:1a.**

**(This teaching comes from the year long study at the Wednesday Denver Bible study. We are hoping to put this either in a book or on CDs . Let us know which you would prefer. See "return" on order page.)**