

Elder Vernon Johnson
Colors

White Robes of Righteousness

High Priests, kings, and those of the kings' household are the primary ones who wore robes in the scriptures. There were robes of different colors and each color has a significance, but this will be covered in a subsequent essay. The High Priest wore a robe of blue. The king's daughters wore coats of many colors. The kings and their princes often wore robes of white. The Roman soldiers mocked Jesus by placing on him a scarlet robe. Kings sometimes wore purple robes.

In this essay, we will deal primarily with the white robes worn by Kings and their sons. 1 Chr. 15:27 "And David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, and all the Levites that bare the ark, and the singers, and Chenaniah the master of the song with the singers: David also had upon him an ephod of linen." Christ is sometimes referred to as the son of David because of the promise God made to David prior to David's death. Christ certainly was righteousness itself. He was altogether righteous and the walk of his life was altogether righteous. He is referred to as the righteous one. Since, he is King of kings, he is arrayed with righteousness as the scriptures call him by the name Melchisedec that is interpreted King of righteousness. He is the one whom the scriptures prophesied: Is. 32:1 "Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment."

The king's sons also wore white robes. These sons according to the scriptures are also kings: Rev. 1:5 "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, 6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." Jesus is the prince (representative) of the kings of the earth. As such he represented his people on the cross and he has made them kings as they are born of royal blood (new birth).

We read of these kings and their white robes in the book of Revelation:

1. Rev. 6:11 "And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled."
2. Rev. 7:9 "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;"

3. Rev. 7:1 "And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?"

4. Rev 7:14 "And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

Jesus has clothed his people with white robes and they are of royal blood and thus they are kings unto God. They are clothes with the white robes of righteousness.

There is a sense in which they put on the white robes of righteousness in a practical manner. We read of Job: Job 29:14 "I put on righteousness, and it clothed me: my judgment was as a robe and a diadem." Likewise, we as the spirit-born children of God are to put on righteousness as a manner of living. This principle of putting on righteousness is taught in the following verses:

1. Rom. 13:12 "The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light."

2. Eph' 4:22 "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; 24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. 25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. 26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: 27 Neither give place to the devil. 28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. 29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. 30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

3. Col. 3:10 "And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: 11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all. 12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. 14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness."

