Week 7: Reward of Heavenly Garments

8x garments are mentioned in the book of Revelation. This is the only reward that is mentioned twice in the letters to the 7 churches.

Revelation 3: 4-5 “*Yet you have a few in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy*…”

Revelation 3:18, “*I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich and white clothes to wear so you can cover your shameful nakedness…”*

Q: What do you think about when you hear that we will be dressed in white garments?

**INTRO:** From the garden, God has always wanted his people clothed in His Glory. Adam & Eve walked in cloudless glory—naked and unashamed, they were clothed with the Glory of the Lamb.

At the creation of Adam (excerpt taken from *Undone by the Revelation of the Lamb* by Sandy Davis Kirk)

“There in the garden, with the love of the Lamb pouring over him (Adam) like waves lapping over the shore, all he could was breathe a sigh and adore….saying, ‘I love you’ while trembling at the same time. God has always wanted it this way. He set it up this way in the garden and He hasn’t changed.”

At the conclusion of the book of Revelation we see this desire fulfilled for all eternity:

“*The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it*,” Rev. 21:23-24.

The Glory is a summation of all the attributes of God, shining out from the person of Christ—His omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence, changelessness, sovereignty, mercy, kindness, holiness, love, etc…. Glory imbues and sustains all of heaven. It is the air of heaven—His Glory is the tangible, manifestation of the infinite beauty and splendor of His magnificent face.

We will be covered in that GLORY! And our garments will reflect the glory of Jesus.

2 tangible expressions of that are foreshadowed in the OT & the NT:

1. OT: After Moses spent time with God on the mountain, surrounded by His Glory, he descended and his face was radiating the Glory of God. He put on a veil because the light was too much for the Israelites to bear. (Exodus 34)
2. NT: Jesus is transfigured before his disciples, Peter/James & John and his body is radiating with Glory. “*There he transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as the light*,” Matthew 17:2
3. White Garments:
4. White speaks of the brightness of the garments; white refers to glistening or shining; pure & free of defilement
5. The clothing of the priesthood is a shadow of what’s to come
6. The priestly garments of the OT give us insight into the value that God gives to garments and how they speak of spiritual things.
7. God designs them to be beautiful and show off His glory “*You shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty*…” (Exodus 28:2)
8. We all receive a robe of righteousness (this is not earned, but given to us by Jesus~ at salvation) ~ this is a gift to all who will be in eternity
9. The heavenly garments will reflect our obedience & dedication to Jesus on the earth; the lack of heavenly garments will show forth our incomplete obedience
10. There will be dimensions to our garments
11. Fabrics/textures/design/fragrance
12. Different occasions will call for different clothing in eternity
13. Our obedience to Jesus will be known by our garments
14. Revelation Scriptures about the white garments:
15. Revelation 3:4-5 “*Yet you have a few in Sardis who have not soiled their* ***clothes.*** *They will* ***walk with me, dressed in white****, for they are worthy*. *He who overcomes will, like them be dressed in white*…”
16. A level of intimacy with Jesus because of the garment~ those who overcome will walk with him (spend time with him)
17. A vital lesson we learn from Sardis: NEVER LOOK TO THE MAJORITY AS OUR BASIS FOR TRUTH. (Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus~ He is gathering a remnant)
18. The call to the church in Sardis is: WAKE UP (you have a reputation that you are alive, but you are dead. A reputation doesn’t mean anything, unless it is your reputation through Jesus’ eyes)
19. Revelation 3:18, ““*I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich and* ***white clothes to wear*** *so you can cover your shameful nakedness…”*
20. Adam & Eve walked in the garden clothed in God’s glory and they were naked & unashamed. Jesus makes a contrast here to being naked & ashamed. He is giving WISE COUNSEL to all who have ears to hear.
21. JESUS is PERFECT THEOLOGY!
22. What is the currency? What do we “buy” with? REPENTANCE and obedience (turning towards Jesus and away from the flesh/man/etc)
23. Revelation 6:11, “*Then each of them was given a* ***white robe*** *and they were told to wait a little longer…”*
24. These are the martyrs under the altar.
25. Martyrs are honored with a special garment and they will receive a crown too.
26. White robe refers to the martyrs
27. Revelation 7:9, *“….great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the Lamb. They were* ***wearing white robes*** *and were holding palm branches in their hands*….Revelation 7:14-15, “*These (in the white robes) are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have* ***washed their robes and******made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*** *Therefore, they are before the throne of God and serve Him day and night in his temple.”*
28. This multitude is those who have come through the Great Tribulation & have been martyred for their faith
29. Palm branches symbolizes joy & victory
30. It’s the cry “IT WAS ALL WORTH IT”
31. They will wear a special garment that shows forth their dedication to Jesus to the end….and they will serve Him day & night in the temple.
32. They will be close to Jesus.
33. This is an honored position & assignment (increased glory)
34. Their robes are washed ~ past tense
35. Revelation 16:15, “*Behold I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and* ***keeps his clothes with him****, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed.”*
36. Jesus calls us to faithfulness! You can lose your clothes, just like you can lose your crown. FAITHFUL TO THE END!
37. I John 2:8 speaks of this faithfulness, *“And now, dear children, continue in Him so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before Him at His coming.”*
38. Steadfastness; abiding
39. Revelation 19: 6-8, “*Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters, and like loud peals of thunder and shouting: ‘Hallelujah! For the Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him Glory! For the wedding supper of the Lamb has come and the bride has made herself ready.* ***Fine linen, bright and clean was given her to wear.*** *(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints).”*
40. This garment is given to us to wear ~ what we did with our obedience to Jesus will be known by our garments.
41. Jesus rewards righteous living by heavenly garments.
42. Colors reflected in the bright garments~ patterns, designs, fabrics, jewels, fragrance, etc….this is no boring garment!
43. Revelation 19:14, “The armies of heaven were following Him, riding on white horses and *dressed in* ***fine linen, white and clean***.”
44. We join Jesus in his war with the nations of the earth
45. “*They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because He is Lord of Lord and King of Kings~* ***and with Him will be His called, chosen and faithful followers.*”** Rev. 17:14
46. This may be a group of believers (not all of them) who were faithful on the earth and lived a radical life of obedience.
47. They are dressed in contrast to the prostitute who sits upon the beast (Rev. 17:1-6)
48. Revelation 22:14, “*Blessed are those who* ***wash their robes****, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.”*
49. The verb tense of “wash” is a continuous washing ~ on this earth; to strive in faithfulness to God and abiding in Christ; radical obedience in the heart
50. Those who were martyred and were under the altar, had their robes washed (past tense)
51. The call here is to believers who are reading this book of prophesy is to find out what pleases the Lord, like Esther and do it, and to be found like Mary, sitting at the Lord’s feet.
52. This has the beginning as if it was a beatitude: Blessed are those…..Matthew 5-6-7 gives us the radical way of living that Jesus is looking for from His followers.
53. Sewing the Dress
54. In Jewish culture, after the betrothal ceremony:
55. The man would go back to his home and begin to construct a room for he and his bride to live (in his father’s house). The bridal chamber was only finished when the father said it is finished. The groom would return for his bride when his father said, “now is the time”
56. “*Now I go to prepare a place for you in my father’s house. And I will come back to take you to be with me*.” John 14:2-3
57. The woman would go back to her home and begin to sew her dress and prepare for her wedding day (which she knew would most likely be in the middle of the night and about a year after the betrothal ceremony).
58. The dress is perfumed in the fragrances of the King (myrrh, aloes, cassia “*Your garments are all fragrant with myrrh, aloes and cassia*”, Ps 45:8
59. How do we “sew” the dress? “*The bride has made herself ready*”
60. Overcome areas of in our lives that are compromised; lukewarm; asleep; disobedience; laziness:
61. **Power~** to overcome=the ability to receive a supernatural power or strength to conquer or defeat anything that is distressing you or attempting to stop you from advancing on your path.

* Connecting your spirit with the Holy Spirit to say that nothing will hinder love in your heart towards Jesus.

1. **Character~** Preparation of our hearts in intimacy ~

* Matthew 25 (we must keep the oil in our lamps burning)~ Oil speaks to our intimate relationship with the Lord; we must cultivate that ~ time is the currency
* John 15~ Abiding in Christ and let His words abide in you (abiding=obedience)
* Sermon on the Mount lifestyle= valuing what Jesus values
* Loving the Bridegroom by keeping our covenant promise to Him

1. **Understanding~** preparation of our mind so we engage in Jesus’ action plan without being offended, fearful, confused or passive, apathetic, or neglectful.