

## Garments of Grace Clothing Imagery in the Bible Lesson 2 2Q 2011

From Exalted to Cast Down

### SABBATH

Read memory text – “Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.” EZ 28:15

Read first paragraph, “Today’s memory text...” thoughts?

Does this bother anyone that sin could arise out of perfection?

Does this idea tell us anything about God?

### MONDAY

Lucifer means what? It is the Latin word for Morning Star, bearer of light, or bright shining light, or light bearer, it refers to the heavenly body Venus – the bright morning star – and in Scripture is used to refer to both Satan before his fall and Christ.

Why do you think Scripture gives a common name to both Satan and Christ?

This quarter the lesson is on clothing imagery – why are we discussing Lucifer in this context? What lesson do we learn from Lucifer’s clothing?

You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. Eze 28:13

Does this description remind you of anything?

<sup>8</sup> They fashioned the breastpiece—the work of a skilled craftsman. They made it like the ephod: of gold, .. they

mounted four rows of precious stones on it. In the first row there was a ruby, a topaz and a beryl; <sup>11</sup> in the second row a turquoise, a sapphire and an emerald; <sup>12</sup> in the third row a jacinth, an agate and an amethyst; <sup>13</sup> in the fourth row a chrysolite, an onyx and a jasper. Exodus 39:8-14

And who is our High Priest? Do we find other parallels between Christ and Lucifer?

How was Lucifer dressed? Here is a description I found in a book called The Story of Redemption:

Lucifer in heaven, before his rebellion, was a high and exalted angel, next in honor to God's dear Son. His countenance, like those of the other angels, was mild and expressive of happiness. His forehead was high and broad, showing a powerful intellect. His form was perfect; his bearing noble and majestic. **A special light beamed in his countenance and shone around him brighter and more beautiful than around the other angels;** yet Christ, God's dear Son, had the pre-eminence over all the angelic host. He was one with the Father before the angels were created. Lucifer was envious of Christ, and gradually assumed command which devolved on Christ alone. {SR 13.1}

What ideas come to your mind? What do jewels do when you shine light through them?

Can you imagine Lucifer – a being who emanates light, a being who radiates fire, clothed in pure jewels of various shades and as he speaks, or talks or sings or praises the radiance from him goes out through the stones creating magnificent rainbows of colors and patterns of different variety?

## SUNDAY

Read first paragraph, "Our God..." thoughts? Which member of the Godhead was the one who actually created? Was it Jesus? How do we know?

- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made... John 1:1-3
- For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Col 1:16,17

Why was Jesus the member of the Godhead through which all things were made? Why was Jesus the one that created earth and mankind?

With whom had Satan alleged equality? With Jesus! One of the founders of our church saw it the same way -

Little by little Lucifer came to indulge the desire for self-exaltation. The Scripture says, "Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness." Ezekiel 28:17. "Thou hast said in thine heart, . . . I will exalt my throne above the stars of God. . . I will be like the Most High." Isaiah 14:13, 14. Though all his glory was from God, this mighty angel came to regard it as pertaining to himself. Not content with his position, though honored above the heavenly host, he ventured to covet homage due alone to the Creator. Instead of seeking to make God supreme in the affections and allegiance of all created beings, it was his endeavor to secure their service and loyalty to himself. **And coveting the glory with which the infinite Father had invested His Son, this prince of angels aspired**

**to power that was the prerogative of Christ alone.** {PP 35.2}

**To dispute the supremacy of the Son of God, thus impeaching the wisdom and love of the Creator, had become the purpose of this prince of angels.** To this object he was about to bend the energies of that master mind, which, next to Christ's, was first among the hosts of God. {PP 36.1}

Lucifer is jealous of Christ and undermines confidence in God by alleging equality to Christ – how could he do this? Could it be because Christ was manifesting Himself in the form of an angel?

How did God respond?

**The King of the universe summoned the heavenly hosts before Him, that in their presence He might set forth the true position of His Son and show the relation He sustained to all created beings.** The Son of God shared the Father's throne, and the glory of the eternal, self-existent One encircled both. .. **Before the assembled inhabitants of heaven the King declared that none but Christ, the Only Begotten of God, could fully enter into His purposes, and to Him it was committed to execute the mighty counsels of His will.** The Son of God had wrought the Father's will in the creation of all the hosts of heaven; and to Him, as well as to God, their homage and allegiance were due. {PP 36.2}

- Why did God have to hold a counsel to announce the rightful position of His Son?
- Do we need to have a counsel to announce that the sun is bright, or fire is hot, or that water is wet?
- When something is obvious and universally understood does it have to be announced?
- Does the announcement not indicate that it wasn't obvious, that the difference between Christ and Satan was not fully understood by the angels?

What did Satan do in response to God's announcement? What would you have done in his shoes?

Leaving his place in the immediate presence of the Father, Lucifer went forth to diffuse the spirit of discontent among the angels. **He worked with mysterious secrecy**, and for a time concealed his real purpose under an appearance of reverence for God. ... **The exaltation of the Son of God as equal with the Father was represented as an injustice to Lucifer**, who, it was claimed, was also entitled to reverence and honor. If this prince of angels could but attain to his true, exalted position, great good would accrue to the entire host of heaven; for it was his object to secure freedom for all. **But now even the liberty which they had hitherto enjoyed was at an end; for an absolute Ruler had been appointed them, and to His authority all must pay homage.** Such were the subtle deceptions that through the wiles of Lucifer were fast obtaining in the heavenly courts. {PP 37.1}

Was this true? Was Christ elevated to position greater than Lucifer placed as a ruler over the angels?

**“There had been no change in the position or authority of Christ. Lucifer's envy and misrepresentation and his claims to equality with Christ had made necessary a statement of the true position of the Son of God; but this had been the same from the beginning.** Many of the angels were, however, blinded by Lucifer's deceptions.” PP 38

Does this give any insight as to why Jesus is the member of the Godhead through which earth was created? Does it give any insight as to why Jesus was the one who came as our Savior?

THURSDAY

Read middle paragraph, “Fortunately, because of the Cross...” thoughts?

What methods does Satan use to keep us from finding righteousness?

Is Satan not the father of lies? What is the primary focus of his lies?

What would happen in the heart and mind of a person who believed lies about God? What happens in the heart and mind of a person who believed lies about God, but then comes to embrace and accept the truth about God? How would you describe that experience?

If you used the Biblical metaphor of Paul, “Don’t you know you are a temple of God and God’s spirit dwells in you.” If you used this metaphor to describe the experience of having the lies about God removed from the heart/mind, how might you describe it?

What about the 2300 year prophecy? Could it be speaking of this process?

Daniel 8:14 “unto 2300 days and the sanctuary will be cleansed” or “reconsecrated” or “set right” or “justified” or “put back right” or “restored to its right state” or made righteous!

What might this be referring to? Is it referring to refurbishing a building in heaven? Is it referring to changing the record books by erasing data, facts and evidence from the accounts of the saved? Is it referring to cleansing the hearts and minds of God’s people?

One of the people involved in crafting our current sanctuary doctrine wrote:

“The coming of Christ as our high priest to the most holy place, for the cleansing of the sanctuary, brought to view in Daniel 8:14; the coming of the Son of man to the Ancient of Days, as presented in Daniel 7:13; and the coming of the Lord to His temple, foretold by Malachi[3:1-3], **are descriptions of the same event**; and this is also represented by the coming of the bridegroom to the marriage, described by Christ in the parable of the ten virgins, of Matthew 25.” Great Controversy 426

The quotation cites Daniel 7:13 as describing the same event, what is happening in this passage?

<sup>13</sup> “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. <sup>14</sup> He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. Daniel 7:13,-14

What is being described? In the context of the passage, what is happening, a judicial review or something else? The text is describing a coronation, a crowning, a time in the universe in which God is on His throne and all the intelligences of the universe have gathered and Christ is brought into God’s presence and **“all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him.”**

How many languages do you think there are in heaven? Before the tower of Babel how many languages were on earth? So what is implied by the idea that men of every language worshiped him? Is it suggesting the future restored new heaven and earth, the current beings in heaven, or the humans still on earth?

What does this mean? Would it not mean that this is the time in history when the lies of God are removed from the minds of men so we can worship Him instead of some superstitious false system?

If we keep reading in Daniel seven, we are told that an evil power will arise and will war against the saints until something happens? What?

As I watched, this horn was waging war against the saints and defeating them, <sup>22</sup> until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom. Daniel 7:21,22

What does it mean, pronounced judgment? Some have concluded this means a court room is ongoing in heaven in which God is judging men on earth and thus conclude Rev 14 (Fear God and give glory to him for the hour of his judgment has come) is God sitting in judgment. Does the Biblical evidence support this as a judicial proceeding by God in heaven?

First, this evil power wages war against the saints but what kind of war?

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. <sup>4</sup>The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. <sup>5</sup>We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. 2 Cor 10:3-5

What kind of war? Where is it being fought? In our minds!

Second, these passages have something to do with cleansing the Temple – how might the Temple be connected to this war going on in our minds? Daniel describes a little horn power that wars against the saints, Paul describes the same power and notice carefully what he says:

Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, <sup>2</sup>not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come. <sup>3</sup>Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. <sup>4</sup>He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's **temple**, proclaiming himself to be God. 2Thes 2:1-4.



In the after math of Christ death and resurrection and ascension into heaven, did this man of lawlessness ride into heaven overthrow God, set himself up in God's temple in heaven and proclaim himself to be God? No, where did this happen? In the Spirit Temple! In our minds!

Then what is Daniel 7:21,22 talking about?

The Hebrew word translated "pronounced" actually means "to give" or "to impart" and thus the KJV states:

Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. Daniel 7:22

Daniel is told in vision that an evil power would arise that would lie, distort, misrepresent God and defile the Spirit Temple by getting humans to accept, worship and teach a false picture of God. That it would be 2300 years before enough truth would be recovered for Christ to empower His people on earth with judgment to break free from the lies and be cleansed in their minds and characters about Him!

This evil power is able to succeed against the saints until we are given "judgment" or "discernment" or "ability" to see through the lies and have our minds cleansed by the truth. Thus we read in Malachi 3:1-3, another passage describing the same event as Daniel 8:14:

Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty.

<sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. <sup>3</sup> He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver.

According to Malachi, what is being cleansed by the Lord when He comes to His temple? The Levites! And who are the Levites? The priesthood of believers!

We are living in the time in earth's history where Christ is working to cleanse our minds, hearts and characters from all the lies, distortions and misrepresentations of God. This wins us to trust and in trust we open the heart, experience the indwelling of His Spirit and we partake of the divine nature, the law is written on our hearts and minds and real transformation occurs where we love others more than ourselves!

Now, what objections do you think we might hear when we present these evidences and ideas? "Don't you believe in a real temple in heaven?" My answer, Absolutely – question, "Out of what material is the heavenly temple constructed?" The Bible indicates it is a living temple constructed out of living beings:

- Paul says, "Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's HOUSE [sanctuary/temple], built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building [sanctuary/temple] is joined together and rises to become a HOLY TEMPLE in the Lord. And in him YOU too [you all] are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. Ephesians 2:19-22.
- And Peter says, "As you come to him, the living Stone--rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him-- YOU also, like LIVING STONES [building blocks of the Temple], are being built into a SPIRITUAL HOUSE [Temple] to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." 1 Pet 2:4,5.
- And Paul says, "For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building [Temple]...Don't you know that you yourselves [the church] are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy

him; for God's temple is sacred, and you [you all] are that temple.” 1 Cor 3:9,16,17.

- Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name. Revelation 3:12
- Or David is Ps 23 “I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” Was he describing a literal building where he will be an eternal prisoner, or the fact that the saved are building blocks of the temple of God?

One of the founders of our church saw it the same way:

In order that we may become instruments fit for a valuable service, we must be prepared for our labor. **We are as rough stones from the quarry**, and we must be chiseled and hewn, until God sees that the unsightly edges are all taken off, and we are fitted and polished for a place **in the heavenly temple**. {RH, May 1, 1888 par. 11}

Most of the distortion on the heavenly sanctuary doctrine comes from studying the OT sanctuary and then projecting that idea onto the heavenly temple in an overly concrete fashion. Notice what the same founder says about the relationship between the old earthly lesson book and the real temple in heaven:

The first tabernacle, built according to God's directions, was indeed blessed of Him. The people thus were preparing themselves to worship in the temple not made with hands--a temple in the heavens. The stones of the Temple built by Solomon were all prepared at the quarry and then brought to the Temple site. They came together without the sound of ax or hammer. The timbers were also fitted in the forest. The furniture was likewise brought to this house all prepared for use. {3MR 231.3}

Even so, the mighty cleaver of truth has **taken out a people from the quarry of the world and is fitting this people, who profess to be the children of God, for a place in His heavenly temple.** We want the cleaver of truth to do its work for us. **We are taken from the quarry of the world. The material must not be a dead substance but living souls, and these souls must be brought out of the quarry of the world, where the hand of God can fit them for the temple in heaven.** We are here as probationers, and we must pass under the hand of God. All rough edges and rough surfaces must be removed and **we must be stones fitted for the building.** We are brought into church capacity with defects of character, but we must not retain them. **We must be fitted and squared for the building. We must be "laborers together with God," for we are "God's husbandry," we are "God's building."** In view of this we must see that our temple is not defiled with sin. We should be lively stones, not dead ones, but live ones that will reflect the image of Christ. We must be worshipers in spirit and in truth. {3MR 231.4}

So how does Satan work today to obstruct people from experiencing righteousness? By distorting the truth of God, His methods, principles, kingdom, what Christ accomplished and accepting a distorted theology of God which fails to transform the believer.

TUESDAY

Read Ezekiel 28:17,18

Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings. By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching.

What does this mean? What brought Lucifer down? And what does it mean he desecrated his sanctuaries?

And what about the idea that fire comes out from him and consumes him? What does this mean?

### WEDNESDAY

- How you have fallen from heaven,  
 O morning star, son of the dawn!  
 You have been cast down to the earth,  
 you who once laid low the nations!
- <sup>13</sup> You said in your heart,  
 “**I will ascend** to heaven;  
**I will raise my throne**  
 above the stars of God;  
**I will sit enthroned** on the mount of assembly,  
 on **the utmost heights** of the sacred mountain.
- <sup>14</sup> **I will ascend above the tops** of the clouds;  
**I will make myself like** the Most High.”
- <sup>15</sup> But you are brought down to the grave,  
 to the depths of the pit. <sup>1</sup>

What lessons do we learn from this?

- What does self promotion lead to? Why?
- Lucifer was jealous of Christ, he was comparing himself to Christ, he was alleging equality to Christ – how does he actually compare to Christ?

<sup>5</sup> Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

- <sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God,  
**did not consider equality** with God something to be grasped,

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<sup>1</sup> *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. 1996 (electronic ed.) (Is 14:12–15). Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

7           **but made himself nothing,**  
**taking the very nature of a servant,**  
**being made in human** likeness.

8           And being found in appearance as a man,  
**he humbled** himself  
**and became obedient** to death—  
**even death on a cross!**

9           **Therefore God exalted him to the highest place**  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
10           that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
11           and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father. <sup>2</sup>

What do we learn? Satan takes six steps “up” to exalt self, but ends up going down. Jesus humbles self seven steps down and ends up being exalted.

So if Satan really wanted to be like God he would have humbled himself.

What does that say about his understanding of God? Did sin not only start with distorted ideas about self but distorted ideas about God?

Read last paragraph, “The temptation...” thoughts? How do we do this today? Refusing to forgive self? Calculating to control outcomes rather than trusting God with outcomes and merely doing what is right because it is right?

Read bottom pink section – thoughts? When is it appropriate to be in the role of God? What about parents to small children?

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<sup>2</sup> *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. 1996 (electronic ed.) (Php 2:5–11). Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

## FRIDAY

Read first paragraph – “When Satan...” thoughts? How do you understand it? Is it emotional guilt or legal guilt? Did he take our place, our infirmities, our iniquities, our sinfulness, our sick condition and experience the anguish of guilt that this sick state inflicts? Or did He assume legal position of guilt in God’s universe and suffer a legal penalty imposed? Or is it both?

Well are we legally guilty? Imagine an HIV infected man and woman get together and have a baby born HIV infected – what did the baby do wrong? Is the baby legally guilty? Even though the baby did nothing wrong does the baby still have a condition if unremedied will kill it? That is our situation, God knows we “are born in sin conceived in iniquity” that we did not choose to be rebels, sinners, infected with fear and distrust. He does not blame us anymore that we would blame the baby born HIV infected.

But he “diagnosis” us accurately – i.e. He “judges” our actual condition for what it is, and prescribes a remedy that will cure and that remedy is Christ. Christ came to heal mankind and restore us back into unity and harmony with God!

But if the HIV infected baby, once old enough to decide for itself, rejects a free remedy that will cure it – the baby will be responsible for that choice. That is our situation with God!

Question # 3 – notice what character those have who overcome – they are changed such that selfishness, survival of the fittest is replaced with self-sacrificing love! This is cleansing of God’s temple!