

TEARS: GOD'S GIFT TO MEN

Did you know that humans are the only one of God's creation that cries as a result of emotion? This is a wonderful gift of God. Our lacrimal glands produce tears which not only have infection-fighting chemicals, but chemical analysis of tears show that there are different chemicals produced by different types of tears. When emotions cause the tears rather than an irritant (like cutting onions or getting something in your eye), the chemical makeup is different. The release of certain chemicals in "sad tears" even makes one feel better by cleansing the body of certain toxins. Not only does this show God's merciful characteristics, but it is also a problem for evolution. Evolution is built upon the idea of new characteristics developing based upon needed qualities that best help it to survive, not what makes it feel better. In fact, holding in emotions usually causes greater aggression which should be more fit to survive. Therefore, crying to feel better wouldn't be a good thing for human evolution. This trait should have never evolved. The good news is, it didn't evolve, it was created by a loving God who created us as emotional beings with a spiritual nature, unique only to humans. This design allows us to deal with our emotions and even feel better after having a good cry.

On another note, human beings are also the only mammals that are born without a covering. Today, our garments serve a very practical purpose in the natural, but also give us a picture of the spiritual. While in the natural our bodies are covered for modesty, but in the spiritual there is greater symbolism, which is why many pastors and priests wear special garments to serve the Lord. So what does our spiritual clothing look like?

To answer this question we must remember that the natural is always a picture of the supernatural. Animals (warm blooded) are born with a special covering of skin, but man is not. Why do humans wear clothes? It can't be to keep warm or else summer would get very interesting. Genesis tells us clothing was given as a covering of sin once it entered into existence. God took an animal skin to cover man's nakedness. It is quite possible the animal He killed was a Lamb that foreshadowed the Lamb of God 4000 years later that would shed his blood to cover our sins today. Here, the natural points to a supernatural covering in Christ. Note also that animals were already clothed before the fall into sin, but man was not. Why is this distinction made between man and animals? Before we can answer this let's see further evidence how the natural clothing is a picture of something more.

In Revelation 3:4 we see seven churches, which were not only literal churches, but also symbolic of historical periods with a spiritual application for all of time. In the church of Sardis they had put on their spiritual garments. In Rev 16:15 it says the church needs to be covered or they will be put to shame. There was no First Church of Nudity so this covering spoken of must be spiritual. Also, in Revelation 4:14-17 the Laodiceans think they are rich but don't realize they are poor and naked. Again, they were clearly clothed in expensive garments so this is a spiritual covering that is being referred to. In the wedding banquet of Matt 22:1,11 there is a man who has no wedding garments on and, therefore, is cast to hell. In Rev 19:8 there are white robes, symbolizing righteousness,

given to the saints for the wedding with the Lamb. Even with the priestly garments, most were made of white linen, just like these in Revelation. (Remember Jesus said certain garments are required to enter the wedding feast). Clothing is clearly pointing us to a spiritual covering.

With all of this in mind we see that Isaiah 61:3,6,10 is the first scroll Jesus ever read from publicly. These verses speak of a “garment of praise.” In Isaiah this message addressed the priests. (v.3 speaks of garments, v. 6 shows for priests, v. 10 shows clothes represent the priesthood, salvation and righteousness.) Note the ROBE of righteousness and salvation is related to wedding feasts as well. Isaiah 61:3 it says, “and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a *garment of praise* instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor. . . .⁶And you will be *called priests of the Lord*, you will be named ministers of our God. You will feed on the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast. . . .¹⁰ I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has *clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness*, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.” There you have it, clothing is a picture of salvation and righteousness, just as seen in Revelation. Animals were already covered at creation but man was not. Or was he?

In Genesis 1 God creates man in HIS OWN image. Therefore, to see what God looks like one must look to see what Adam was like and vice versa. Psalm 104 is prayed every day by most Jews. In this Psalm David is speaking of God himself and states that God is *clothed with honor and majesty*. Therefore, if God is clothed in honor and majesty, Adam and Eve were too. Verse 2 David says God covers himself with *light as with a garment*. This light is often called the Shekinah glory of God and is seen in His shining face. If God was clothed in light, Adam must have been as well. However, when Adam sinned the first thing he realized was his nakedness, whereas before sin, this was not seen, even though there was not any physical clothing. How can this be? Before sin, they were covered in glory, but after sin, man was separated from this glory. Let me explain. In Gen 2:25 Adam and Eve are naked and NOT ashamed, but in Gen 3:7 and 3:10 they are naked and ASHAMED. The difference is this: In 2:25 the Hebrew word for naked is *ah-rome* meaning “partly covered” but in chapter 3 it is *air-rome* which is “completely naked.” In other words, it seems that Adam and Eve were partly covered with God’s light, or His shekinah glory, until sin came and that glory had to depart, revealing man’s sinful nature. Therefore, unlike animals man was always intended to be covered by God’s glory and light. When man fell from glory they became naked without a skin covering as such that animals have. Therefore, God stepped in and gave us temporary covering until we are once again given the wedding robes of righteousness in Revelation 19. This truth should cause us to shed tears of joy, which also by God’s mercy and grace, should make us feel great!

1 Cor 15:44 says same natural to spiritual connection. 1 Corinthians 15:44–46 (NIV84)
⁴⁴ it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. DAVID says the heavens declare your glory. Prov 6 Solomon sees the Ant for a spiritual application. Parables do the same.