

~OFFICIAL GARMENT (147)

[Hebrew, *ad-de'reth*, Greek, *me-lo-te*]

- The Hebrew word *'ad-de'reth* describes that which is, majestic.
- To a good field, by vast waters, it was already transplanted, in order to produce boughs and to bear fruit, to become a **majestic** vine. (**Ezekiel 17:8**)
- Listen! The howling of shepherds, for their **majesty** has been despoiled. Listen! The roaring of maned young lions, for the proud thickets along the Jordan have been despoiled. (**Zechariah 11:3**)
- And, in its references to a garment, evidently refers to a wide cloak or robe, perhaps worn over the shoulders and made of skins or of cloth woven from hair or wool.
- Evidence that the term describes a hairy garment is seen in the description of Isaac's firstborn Esau. At birth, he came out red all over like an **official** garment of hair, so they called his name Esau.
- Then the first came out red all over like an **official garment** of hair, so they called his name Esau. (**Genesis 25:25**)
- His resemblance to an **official garment** was likely not his reddish color but his hairiness.
- When translating, *'ad-de'reth*, for the **official garment** used by Elijah and Elisha, the **Septuagint** uses the Greek word *me-lo-te*, meaning **sheepskin** or any **rough woolly skin**.
- And it came about that as soon as Elijah heard it, he immediately wrapped his face in his **official garment** and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave, and, look! There was a voice for him, and it proceeded to say to him; What is your business here, Elijah? (**1 Kings 19:13**)
- This suggests that the garment was made of skins with the hair left on, similar to the garb worn by certain Bedouin. Paul's description of persecuted servants of God who went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, may refer to the dress of such prophets of Yehowah.

- They were stoned, they were tried, they were sawn asunder, they died by slaughter with the sword, they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, while they were in want, in tribulation, under ill-treatment. (**Hebrews 11:37**)
- John the Baptizer wore clothing of camel hair, though it is not stated that this was his **official garment** as a prophet.
- Now John was clothed with camels hair and with a leather girdle around his loins, and was eating insect locusts and wild honey. (**Mark 1:6**)
- However designed, these **official garments** of hair appear to have been an identifying mark of certain prophets. When King Ahaziah heard the description of a man possessing a **hair garment**, with a leather belt girded about his loins, he immediately recognized that it was the prophet Elijah.
- So they said to him; A man possessing a **hair garment**, with a leather belt girded about his loins. Immediately he said; It was Elijah the Tishbite. (**2 Kings 1:8**)
- This **official garment** served as the anointing instrument that was thrown upon Elisha when he was called to leave the plow and follow Elijah.
- Accordingly he went from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat while he was plowing with twelve spans before him, and he with the twelfth. So Elijah crossed over to him and threw his **official** garment upon him. (**1 Kings 19:19**)
- At that he left the bulls and went running after Elijah and said; Let me, please, kiss my father and my mother. Then I will go following you. At this he said to him; Go, return, for what have I done to you? (**1 Kings 19:20**)
- So he returned from following him and then took a span of the bulls and sacrificed them, and with the implements of the bulls he boiled their flesh and then gave it to the people, and they proceeded to eat. After that he rose up and went following Elijah and began to minister to him. (**1 Kings 19:21**)

- Later, at the time Elijah went up in the windstorm, this **garment** was left for his successor, who soon used it in dividing the Jordan River, just as his master had done.
- Then the sons of the prophets that were at Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him; Do you really know that today Yehowah is taking your master from headship over you? At this he said; I, too, well know it. Be silent. (2 Kings 2:3)
- Then Elijah took his **official garment** and wrapped it up and struck the waters, and gradually they were divided this way and that way, so that both of them went across on the dry ground. (2 Kings 2:8)
- After that he picked up the **official garment** of Elijah that had fallen off him, and went back and stood by the shore of the Jordan. (2 Kings 2:13)
- Then he took the **official garment** of Elijah that had fallen off him and struck the waters and said; Where is Yehowah the God of Elijah, even He? When he struck the waters, then they were gradually divided this way and that way, so that Elisha went across. (2 Kings 2:14)
- False prophets, it appears, sometimes wore **similar garments** of hair to deceive the people into accepting them as reputable prophets of Yehowah, thus making their messages seem more credible.
- And it must occur in that day that the prophets will become ashamed, each one of his vision when he prophesies, and they will **not wear an official garment** of hair for the purpose of deceiving. (Zechariah 13:4)
- The term *'ad-de'reth* was also used in reference to costly and royal garments, like the one stolen by Achan, an **official garment** from Shinar, a good-looking one.
- When I got to see among the spoil an **official garment** from Shinar, a good-looking one, and two hundred shekels of silver and one gold bar, fifty shekels being its weight, then I wanted them, and I took them, and, look! They are hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent with the money underneath it. (Joshua 7:21)

- Joshua, and all Israel with him, now took Achan the son of Zerah and the silver and the **official garment** and the bar of gold and his sons and his daughters and his bull and his ass and his flock and his tent and everything that was his and they brought them up to the low plain of Achor. (**Joshua 7:24**)
- Ancient Babylon, or Shinar, was noted for its beautiful robes. The king of Nineveh put off his **official garment**, undoubtedly a splendid robe, and clothed himself with sackcloth to show his repentance.
- When the word reached the king of Nineveh, then he rose up from his throne and put off his **official garment** from himself and covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the ashes. (**Jonah 3:6**)