~PURSE (89) [Greek, *zo'ne*]

•

• A bag or pouch used by both men and women to carry gold, silver, copper, coined money, or other items. Women sometimes had ornamental purses, or handbags, possibly of a long, round shape.

- And Yehowah says; For the reason that the daughters of Zion have become haughty and they walk with their throats stretched forth and ogling with their eyes, they go walking with tripping steps, and with their feet they make a tinkling sound. (Isaiah 3:16)
- The robes of state and the overtunics and the cloaks and the purses. (Isaiah 3:22)
- There are those who are lavishing out the gold from the purse, and with the scale beam they weigh out the silver. They hire a metalworker, and he makes it into a god. They prostrate themselves, yes, they bow down. (Isaiah 46:6)
- Do not procure gold or silver or copper for your girdle purses. (Matthew 10:9)

• Early purses were made of leather, of woven rushes, or of cotton. Since they were in the form of bags, they were drawn together and secured at the neck by means of leather straps or other cords.

## See Also BAG

- Also in use was the girdle purse, literally, girdle, Greek, *zo'ne*
- Do not procure gold or silver or copper for your girdle purses.
  (Matthew 10:9)
- Also, he gave them orders to carry nothing for the trip except a staff alone, no bread, no food pouch, no copper money in their girdle purses. (Mark 6:8)

• Perhaps a type of money belt. Either the girdle had a hollow space in which money could be carried, or if the girdle was made of cloth and worn in folds, the money was kept in its folds.

Jesus, when sending out his 70 disciples in preaching work, evidently in Judea, told them not to provide themselves with purses, indicating that Yehowah God would provide for them through fellow Israelites, among whom hospitality was a custom.

- After these things the Lord designated seventy others and sent them forth by twos in advance of him into every city and place to which he himself was going to come. (Luke 10:1)
- Do not carry a **purse**, nor a food pouch, nor sandals, and do not embrace anybody in greeting along the road. (Luke 10:4)
- So stay in that house, eating and drinking the things they provide, for the worker is worthy of his wages. Do not be transferring from house to house. (Luke 10:7)

Shortly before his death, however, Jesus advised the apostles to carry **purses**, for he knew that his disciples would soon be scattered and persecuted. Because of official opposition, even persons favoring their message might be afraid to assist them.

• Also, they would soon be carrying the Kingdom message to Gentile lands. All of this would require that Jesus followers be prepared to care for themselves materially.

- He also said to them; When I sent you forth without purse and food pouch and sandals, you did not want for anything, did you? They said; No! (Luke 22:35)
  - Then he said to them; But now let the one that has a purse take it up, likewise also a food pouch, and let the one having no sword sell his outer garment and buy one. (Luke 22:36)

Highlighting the excelling value of spiritual things, Jesus urged his followers to make lasting purses for themselves, acquiring heavenly treasure.

 Sell the things belonging to you and give gifts of mercy. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, a never-failing treasure in the heavens, where a thief does not get near nor moth consumes. (Luke 12:33)