



The Girdle of God

(Jer 13:11 KJV) For as the girdle cleaveth to the loins of a man, so have I caused to cleave unto me the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah, saith the LORD; that they might be unto me for a people, and for a name, and for a praise, and for a glory: but they would not hear.

I. Girdles are mentioned 38 times in the Scriptures, Gird is Mentioned Another 27 times

Holman's Dictionary defines a girdle as several items of clothing (1) an ornate sash worn by the officiating priests (Ex. 28:4,40) and by the wealthy of Jerusalem (Isa. 3:24); (2) a decorated band, woven belt, or waistband for the high priest's ephod (Ex. 28:8,27,28); (3) a belt on which a sword or bow might be carried (1 Sam. 18:4; 2 Sam. 20:8; perhaps Isa. 5:27); a leather belt forming part of the proverbial garb of the prophets (2 Kings 1:8; Matt. 3:4); (4) an undergarment (Job 12:18; Jer. 13:1-11), often rendered waistcloth or loincloth.

To gird up one's loins means literally to tuck the loose ends of one's outer garment into one's belt. Loins were girded in preparation for running (1 Kings 18:46), for battle (Isa. 5:27), or for service for a master (Luke 12:35). The call to "gird up the loins of your minds" (1 Peter 1:13) means to be spiritually alert and prepared. See Cloth, Clothing.

B. The priests wore a girdle

(Exo 28:4 KJV) And these are the garments which they shall make; a breastplate, and an ephod, and a robe, and a broidered coat, a mitre, and a girdle: and they shall make holy garments for Aaron thy brother, and his sons, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office.

(Exo 28:8 KJV) And the curious girdle of the ephod, which is upon it, shall be of the same, according to the work thereof; even of gold, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen.

(Exo 28:39 KJV) and thou shalt make the girdle of needlework.

(Exo 29:5 KJV) And thou shalt take the garments, and put upon Aaron the coat, . . . , and gird him with the curious girdle of the ephod:

(Exo 39:5 KJV) And the curious girdle of his ephod, that was upon it, was of the same, according to the work thereof; of gold, blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen; as the LORD commanded Moses.

An Item worn by soldiers to carry their weapons and give them support

(1 Sam 18:4 KJV) And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle.

(2 Sam 18:11 KJV) And Joab said unto the man that told him, And, behold, thou sawest him, and why didst thou not smite him there to the ground? And I would have given thee ten shekels of silver, and a girdle.

(2 Sam 20:8 KJV) And Joab's garment that he had put on was girded unto him, and upon it a girdle with a sword fastened upon his loins in the sheath thereof; and as he went forth it fell out.

(1 Ki 2:5 KJV) Moreover thou knowest also what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me, ...and put the blood of war upon

his girdle that was about his loins,

The Prophets had a Girdle

(2 Ki 1:8 KJV) And they answered him, He was an hairy man, and girt with a girdle of leather about his loins. And he said, It is Elijah the Tishbite.

John The Baptist had a Girdle

(Mat 3:4 KJV) And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.

(Mark 1:6 KJV) And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey;

Jesus Has a Girdle

(Rev 1:13 KJV) And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

(Isa 22:21 KJV) And I will clothe him with thy robe, and strengthen him with thy girdle...

Paul had a Girdle

(Acts 21:11 KJV) And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.

II. So What is the Girdle All About?

The Girdle of God Represents a People Which Had Been Called By His Name, and He had surrounded Himself With

Jeremiah tells us that God wants to be strengthened and uplifted by this kind of people:

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Isaiah says that God will girdle Himself with those that are righteous and faithful:

(Isa 11:5 KJV) And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

That Girdle of God's People Can Become So Soiled that God can no longer use them

The Book of Jeremiah gives us a unique story of how God used the girdle to speak to His people. Look in (Jer 13:1-4) :

Thus saith the LORD unto me, Go and get thee a linen girdle, and put it upon thy loins, and put it not in water. So I got a girdle according to the word of the LORD, and put it on my loins.

The people are watching Jeremiah, as he walks up and down the streets with this girdle on. He's wearing it on the outside of his clothes! What does it mean? They go to the priests and are probably told that this is a sign that we are still God's chosen people! He still has us around Him at all times!

But as time wore on, and the girdle was not taken off for washing, it began to stink and look vile and filthy. The message was clear to the people- they had become vile in the eyes of the Lord, and yet He was still holding on to them, working with them, waiting for them to do right!

Then God spoke to Jeremiah again and said,

Take the girdle that thou hast got, which is upon thy loins, and arise, go to Euphrates, and hide it there in a hole of the rock.

Jeremiah travels 250 miles on foot, wearing the girdle as he went, just to bury it in a hole there. On the way, every tribe and village, every nation saw the prophet as he walked through, wearing the girdle. Euphrates means "the river of fruitfulness", and yet Jeremiah was burying this dirty girdle- representing rebellious Israel- at the place of fruitfulness. Very soon it won't be a girdle, but the nation going into captivity at this very place that would be seen!

Isaiah had prophesied about this: Isa 3:24 says,

And it shall come to pass, that instead of sweet smell there shall be stink; and instead of a girdle a rent; and instead of well set hair baldness; and instead of a stomacher a girding of sackcloth; and burning instead of beauty.

As if that isn't enough, in chapter 13:7, God commands Jeremiah to make the return trip of 250 miles and dig back up the girdle and bring it home.

(Jer 13:6 KJV) And it came to pass after many days, that the LORD said unto me, Arise, go to Euphrates, and take the girdle from thence, which I commanded thee to hide there.

(Jer 13:7 KJV) Then I went to Euphrates, and digged, and took the girdle from the place where I had hid it: and, behold, the girdle was marred, it was profitable for nothing.

(Jer 13:10 KJV) This evil people, which refuse to hear my words, which walk in the imagination of their heart, and walk after other gods, to serve them, and to worship them, shall even be as this girdle, which is good for nothing.

By then it is too rotten to even put on. God must have been telling them two things: First, they had reached the point where they were taken off- God could no longer even work with them. Second, though, is that even in captivity, God was still able to bring them back.

II. We Are Told To Gird Up Our Loins in this Last Day

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

(1 Pet 1:13 KJV) Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

(Joel 1:13 KJV) Gird yourselves, and lament, ye priests: howl, ye ministers of the altar: come, lie all night in sackcloth, ye ministers of my God: for the meat offering and the drink offering is withholden from the house of your God.