

Question: Many places in the Bible speak of men that are very rich. Revelation 3:14-22 (verse 17) says, “Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.” Can a person think he is rich and not be rich? How can a man be poor, when he is rich?

Answer: When we search the Scriptures, we find examples and instructions in the Old Testament concerning the making of garments for those who held different positions and performed different kinds of services in the temple. Concerning these garments, the Scriptures provide much information regarding “needlework.” For lack of space I cannot provide all of this information here, however. Needlework was used in weaving different types and colors of fabric to be used in making different kinds of garments for temple workers to wear. In Matthew 3:4, we find that John the Baptist wore raiment of “camel’s hair” when he came to Jordan preaching the message of repentance. Matthew 11:11 says that under the old covenant there was no one who had light greater than John’s light, but that anyone who was least in the kingdom of God was greater than John’s light.

John’s garments were made with the “needlework” of the women (earthly wisdom) using “camel’s hair” for thread. John’s garments were in the likeness of an animal-man’s covenant. In other words, while John’s light of Truth was great, compared to the light (covenants) that would come after him, his light was considered to be very small. Matthew 19:23-24 says, “Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.” The hair of a camel is short, brittle, coarse, and unclean, unlike the thread one would use to weave linen or silk fabric. So, with much difficulty and hard work in the dimness of his light of mind, John made for himself a garment (covering) using substance in the likeness of “camel’s hair” to cover his nakedness.

In Genesis 3:7 we read that Adam and Eve made themselves garments with “fig leaves” to cover their shame (nakedness). In 1 Corinthians 11:1-15 we learn that the “hair” on the head of a woman is her “glory,” and that the woman is the “glory” of the man. The word “glory” means “increase.” There are different types of “glory” produced by different types of life forms. See 1 Corinthians 15:35-43, noting especially verses 40-41.

The “hair” is a type (or allegory) of knowledge. The “hairs” on the head of the woman are the “seeds” of knowledge that are found in her fruit. Wisdom and understanding are the body (flesh) and fruit of the seed of man. The “hair” is a type of man’s strength, as was Samson’s hair. A man’s strength is the increase and the fruit of his loins, whether the increase is produced by his bodily fluids through the body of a woman, or whether his increase are the “pearls” of wisdom and her fruit (understanding) produced out of the loins of his mind. John’s strength (garment) was likened to the strength, stamina, and determination of the nature of a camel that treads his path in the hot, dry, desert sands of the wilderness and carries upon his back (shoulders) the burdens laid upon him by his task master. Either kind of increase (strength) is called a man’s “riches.”

A man who is rich in earthly things only is a very poor man. His own covering (body of flesh) will grow old and fade away, as will his children (fruit) -- regardless of the kind of his increase. If his riches come through the loins of his mortal flesh they will perish, along with any increase of knowledge he may gain by the works of his five senses through the loins of his mind.

All of man’s earthly knowledge and wisdom is acquired through the avenue of his mortal senses (sins), and all of it, along with his fruit (strength / riches) will pass away. Therefore a man may be rich in knowledge, wisdom, and prudence according to John’s baptism (immersion / covering / covenant) -- which are the riches (fruit) of his own carnal works -- BUT HE DOES NOT HAVE ON THE

The nutritional benefits (whether earthly or heavenly) within the fruit of one's labor will first provide strength and life to the body, and light to the mind, of the one who labors for it. Afterwards, he may feed others with his **"more than enough harvest."** Whatever remains after the digestive process is finished will spoil if it is not expelled from the body.

This same principle applies when we sow "the seed of the word" in our field (mind). Each season (dispensation) when it is time to sow "new seed," we do the same work again to prepare our hearts, that we may be able to receive **a new revelation of the word.** Just as John's message called for men to plow up the ground and root-out the old, dead ways of the Law in preparation for the coming of the "new word" -- that would replenish the earth that then was -- **this same call is going out again.**

As in the past, the form of doctrine that now is has run its course. She has come to the end of her childbearing days. The last generation of her fully ripe fruit is now falling from the tree and must now be harvested. It is time for the old "woman" and her fruit to fade away and a new way of life to be established in the heart of man. Before the **"new revelation"** can come, however, mankind must once again plow up and root out the dead, dry leavings of the doctrines and traditions of men in order to prepare his heart and mind to receive it. See Hebrews 6:1-2.

It is now the hour of time in prophecy for the **"falling away"** from the ways of man in order to prepare the way for **the coming of the Spirit of the Lord** who will write the words of eternal Life in the hearts and minds of a "people" **who are a new kind of Life form.** It is time for the manifestation of the God-Kind (kingdom) of Life forms in the earth who will bring with them **a new way of life that will "never pass away."** Hebrews 10:16-23 says, **"This is the covenant that I will make with them 'after those days' -- I will put my laws (Truth) into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them."** See also Hebrews 8. **"Those days" mentioned here are now at hand.** Once again it is time to tear down the Jerusalem (the bodily form of doctrine) that now is, and prepare the hearts and minds of all men to receive the "new revelation" (covenant) that will restore and make all things new **for the last time.** These words of the Lord are "not new words, but new revelations." New Jerusalem is a new "bodily form" of the same Word that was in the beginning -- God!

The new bodily temple called New Jerusalem is built by the arm of the Spirit **while one is yet in the body,** and it will never pass away. **This is the house of the Lord, and its builder and maker is God.** This house is not built with "wood, hay, and stubble," but with "gold, silver, and all manner of precious stones" by the Father Himself. Man's bodily form created by the doctrine that now is, is of the earth -- and it is flesh that is made of wood, hay, and stubble. Its builder and maker is man. He thinks himself to be rich, but he is poor, wretched, naked, and miserable. But New Jerusalem that descends down out of heaven is made by the arm of Spirit, and its builder and maker are rich in both earthly and heavenly goods!

The baptism of John is the baptism in the "water of the word." This word of knowledge and wisdom is of the earth. It is the word that became flesh, therefore **it is of man.** The baptism from heaven is **"the baptism in the Holy Ghost."** **This baptism is in the Living Waters -- the Wisdom of God from above.** **The last baptism is by Fire, and it is a quickening Spirit** which follows the descent of the heavenly Wisdom (New Jerusalem). The baptism by Fire will fit together, solidify, and make all members of the body **one body.**

These are the things that are now at work in the earth. Every stone of this old house and its fruit must be thrown down and removed from the minds of mankind. A new foundation (preparation of the heart and mind) must be laid before the new house (body) can be built. Man's religions, doctrines, philosophies, and traditions will all pass away from his memory, and there will be a change of the molecular structure of his mortal body. His carnal nature will be transformed.