

Jeremiah's Girdle

"GOD'S GIRDLE" or "THE DIRTY MESSAGE"

[Jeremiah 13: 1-27](#)

The words of the prophet have fallen on deaf ears. Now God will begin to use many illustrations to speak to Judah. He begins with a linen girdle.

I. THE LINEN GIRDLE ([Jeremiah 13: 1, 2](#))

1. *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.'*
2. *So I got a girdle according to the word of the LORD, and put it on my loins.* The girdle in Biblical days was a type of belt that wrapped around the waist. It was worn by soldiers, priest, kings, and prophets and by common men and women.
 - 1.) The soldier's girdle was normally made of leather. It held the sword and other items needed for warfare.
 - 2.) The priest girdle was the most beautiful. It was made of gold, blue, purple and scarlet and fine twined linen. ([Exodus 39:5](#)). This girdle told an amazing story.
 - 3.) The fine twined linen spoke of the righteousness of the priest and the people, but mainly of the Savior and more.
 - 4.) The gold spoke of the Lord's testing and purity.
 - 5.) The purple spoke of the Lord's royalty and Kingship.
 - 6.) The scarlet represented the redemption of the Lord. Thus, the priest's girdle told a great story.
 - 7.) The kings would wear a different girdle. It may have been of purple, scarlet or linen interwoven with gems and precious stones.
 - 8.) The common man and woman would have an inexpensive girdle, but nevertheless, a girdle.

Jeremiah's Girdle (Continued)

- This brings us to Jeremiah, the prophet's girdle. It was made of fine linen. This girdle told an amazing story that unfolds before us. It represented Israel and Judah. They were to cleave to God as a girdle cleaves to the prophet. As the girdle bound closely to the prophet, Judah was to cleave to the Lord. It was made of the fiber of flax. This linen which came from the flax preserved the warmth of the body. Thus, God's desire was for his people to hold a deep affection for Him, all day long. The girdle was to reveal Judah's royalty, beauty and glory.

The teaching for the Church is this:

1. We should not just have the knowledge of God's word and will and ways, but have great love in our heart for Him, yea in our innermost being.
2. As God made an earthly covenant with Israel, God made an eternal covenant with His Church.
3. The earthly covenant was the law to be obeyed. The eternal covenant was the love of Christ to be received.

As the people caught sight of Jeremiah parading down the streets in a girdle, they knew it represented a sign! Jeremiah was well known among the people as God's prophet. And they knew that everything he did, including what he wore, had an important prophetic message! When Jeremiah first appeared on the streets of Jerusalem wearing the linen girdle, the guessing game began: "What is the meaning of the girdle? What is the prophet trying to say to us? The educated priests and rulers prided themselves on interpreting for the people the prophet's message. They probably told them: "It's very obvious. God is saying to us what we all know."

- A. We are His chosen people! We are His girdle worn proudly by Him.
- B. We are His glory and strength, the excellency of the ages.
- C. We are united to Him by a covenant. He will never leave us or forsake us.
- D. We are bound to Him as surely as that girdle is bound to Jeremiah!"

Jeremiah's Girdle (Continued)

As the prophet walked by, you could almost hear the people saying: "Amen, Jeremiah! We get the message. Right on! Praise God!" But in a short time those same priests and people were frowning! They watched Jeremiah with a deep puzzlement – because day by day the girdle got dirtier.

It was becoming soiled and unclean. Spots were beginning to appear. But the prophet kept wearing it for God told him not to wash it. "Why is he not daily washing it?" the people wondered. They all knew the girdle represented them. So, why did he allow it to cling to him with filth and stench on it? Soon they were angry and hissing. To the Jewish mind of that day, cleanliness was a form of godliness. And this soiled, smelly girdle was an offense! They could no longer believe the girdle represented them! They must have run to the priests and said: *"That girdle can't mean us! God doesn't allow dirt to cling to Him. We sacrifice, pay tithes and keep the law. We pray every day and fast." "The girdle must represent the wicked heathen around and among us. If we were that kind of people, God would have cast us aside. He'd never wear a stinking, dirty girdle upon His waist!"* They were so right. The dirty girdle was Israel. These who claimed to be the children of God were filthy in their hearts. They were practicing sin. They were away from God. God was very unhappy with them, but they did not even know it. Why? They had justified sin to the point that they saw nothing wrong with it.

Study here: ([Sin and Evil](#)) ([The Tragedy of Seeing Nothing Wrong with Sin](#))

II. JEREMIAH'S COMMAND:

NEXT, JEREMIAH WAS COMMANDED TO WEAR THE DIRTY GIRDLE ON A LONG JOURNEY TO THE EUPHRATES RIVER! THERE, HE WAS TO BURY THE GIRDLE.

[Vs. 3](#) – *And the word of the LORD came unto me the second time, saying,*

[Vs. 4](#) – *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.*

[Vs. 5](#) – *So I went, and hid it by Euphrates, as the LORD commanded me.*

This journey would cover 250 miles. Jeremiah walked from town to town, wearing a dirty girdle. Why? It was sadly a witness against Judah. Before the prophet arrived in each town, word had already arrived that he was coming. People feared the prophets of God for they had been known to call down fire from heaven

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and pronounce death and diseases upon certain cities and people. Jeremiah was well known and respected throughout Israel and Judah. He was admired even among the surrounding nations. Foreign kings acknowledged God was with him. And now, by his walking the distance to the Euphrates, every village along the way would see the famous girdle. The trip would take weeks – and it would set every town abuzz as Jeremiah passed through. Everyone would want a glimpse of the dirty, spotted and stained girdle, to speculate about its message!