

# Ezekiel 44:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall come to pass, that when they enter in at the gates of the inner court, they shall be clothed with linen garments; and no wool shall come upon them, whiles they minister in the gates of the inner court, and within.

## Analysis

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**And it shall come to pass, that when they enter in at the gates of the inner court, they shall be clothed with linen garments**—the Hebrew *pishta* (פִּשְׁתָּה, "linen") specifies fine white fabric, symbolizing purity and set-apartness (Exodus 28:39-42, Leviticus 16:4). Linen's coolness and breathability made it practical for priestly service, but the theological symbolism mattered most: approaching God requires cleanness.

**And no wool shall come upon them, whiles they minister in the gates of the inner court, and within**—the prohibition against wool (*tsemer*, תְּשֵׁמֶר) is unique to Ezekiel's vision. Some commentators suggest wool causes sweat (v. 18), symbolizing human effort versus divine grace. Others note that mixing linen and wool (*sha'atnez*) was generally forbidden (Leviticus 19:19, Deuteronomy 22:11), representing improper mixture. The New Testament imagery of believers clothed in Christ's righteousness (Revelation 19:8, where saints wear "fine linen, clean and white") echoes this requirement for pure garments.

## Historical Context

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Priestly garments were meticulously prescribed in Mosaic law (Exodus 28, 39). The high priest wore elaborate vestments including linen undergarments, while

ordinary priests wore simpler linen tunics, sashes, and caps (Exodus 28:40-43). During service, priests changed into sacred garments and removed them afterward (Ezekiel 42:14, 44:19). These regulations emphasized holiness—God's service required specific preparation, not casual approach. Post-exilic priests carefully observed these requirements (Nehemiah 7:70-72, where temple garments are listed among returned articles). The garments prefigure Christ's perfect righteousness that qualifies Him for eternal priesthood.

## **Related Passages**

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## **Study Questions**

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1. How does the requirement for specific priestly garments illustrate that we cannot approach God on our own terms?
2. What does being clothed in linen (purity) rather than wool (human effort) teach about salvation by grace versus works?

## Interlinear Text

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וְהָיָה הַ	בְּבוֹאָם	אֶל	בְּשַׁעַר יְ	הַחֲצֵר רַ
H1961	And it shall come to pass that when they enter	H413	in at the gates	court
	H935		H8179	H2691
הַפְּנִימִי יֵת	בְּגָדֵי יְ	כִפְשֵׁת יֵם	יִלְבֹּשׁוּ	וְלֹא יֵשְׁלַח הַ
of the inner	garments	with linen	they shall be clothed	H3808 shall come
H6442	H899	H6593	H3847	H5927
עֲלֵיהֶם	צֶמֶר	בְּשָׂרָתָם	בְּשַׁעַר יְ	הַחֲצֵר רַ
H5921	and no wool	upon them whiles they minister	in at the gates	court
	H6785	H8334	H8179	H2691
הַפְּנִימִי יֵת	וּבִיתָהּ:			
of the inner	and within			
H6442	H1004			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Revelation 19:8** (Parallel theme): And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

**Exodus 28:43** (Parallel theme): And they shall be upon Aaron, and upon his sons, when they come in unto the tabernacle of the congregation, or when they come near unto the altar to minister in the holy place; that they bear not iniquity, and die: it shall be a statute for ever unto him and his seed after him.