

Jeremiah 13:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So I got a girdle according to the word of the LORD, and put it on my loins.

Analysis

This verse reports obedience: 'So I got a girdle according to the word of the LORD, and put it on my loins.' The Hebrew phrase kidbar YHWH קידבר יהוה, according to the word of the LORD) indicates exact obedience. Jeremiah acquired and wore the garment as commanded. The unwashed girdle against skin for extended time would become dirty, sweaty, clinging—representing intimate relationship now corrupted. The prophet's body becomes message medium; his daily wearing demonstrates the teaching.

Historical Context

Prophetic obedience to strange commands demonstrated trust and submission. These actions often cost prophets dignity and comfort (Isaiah's nakedness, Ezekiel's cooking over dung). Jeremiah wearing an unwashed undergarment for extended period would attract notice and questions, creating teaching opportunities. The discomfort of the act paralleled the discomfort of the message.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What does Jeremiah's immediate obedience to a strange command teach about prophetic trust?
2. How might wearing the unwashed garment have provided teaching opportunities?

Interlinear Text

עַל יָאָשֶׁר יָתַתִּי הַנְּאָזֶן וְרַקְבָּרְכָּתְּ בְּאַזְרָבְּנָה
So I got a girdle according to the word of the LORD and put

מִתְנִי:
it on my loins

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 2:8 (Parallel theme): But thou, son of man, hear what I say unto thee; Be not thou rebellious like that rebellious house: open thy mouth, and eat that I give thee.

Isaiah 20:2 (References Lord): At the same time spake the LORD by Isaiah the son of Amoz, saying, Go and loose the sackcloth from off thy loins, and put off thy shoe from thy foot. And he did so, walking naked and barefoot.

Proverbs 3:5 (References Lord): Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

John 15:14 (Parallel theme): Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.