

# Job 30:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

By the great force of my disease is my garment changed: it  
bindeth me about as the collar of my coat.

## Analysis

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**By the great force of my disease is my garment changed** (בְּכֹחַ כְּבֹדִי יִתְחַפֵּשׁ לְבוּשִׁי)—The phrase rav-koach (כְּבֹדִי) means great force or violence; chaphash (חִפֵּשׁ) means to disguise, change, or search for; levush (לְבוּשׁ) means garment or clothing. Job's disease has so disfigured him that his very clothing no longer fits—swelling, lesions, or wasting have altered his body's shape. Alternatively, discharge or sores have so stained his garments they're unrecognizable.

**It bindeth me about as the collar of my coat** (כִּפִּי כְתֻנָּתִי יִאָזְרֵנִי)—Pi (פֶּה) means mouth or opening; kuttoneth (כְּתֻנָּת) means tunic or coat; azar (אָזַר) means to gird or bind. The disease clings to Job's neck like a tight collar, constricting and choking him. Or his garment's neck-hole has become too tight for his swollen condition. Either way, what should clothe him comfortably now strangles him. Clothing in Scripture signifies identity, status, dignity—Job's disease has stripped even this.

## Historical Context

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In ancient Near Eastern culture, clothing signified social status and identity. Fine garments distinguished the wealthy from poor, leaders from servants. That Job's disease has 'changed' his garments indicates complete loss of identity—he's unrecognizable, his clothes no longer mark him as the great man of the East. Ancient medical conditions producing skin lesions, edema, or wasting would

literally change how garments fit. The imagery anticipates Christ being stripped and clothed in mockery (Matthew 27:28), His identity obscured by suffering.

## Related Passages

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

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does disease or suffering change our identity and how others perceive us? What remains constant when external markers are stripped away?
2. What does it mean that even Job's clothing—his external covering—has become an instrument of suffering?
3. How does Christ's being stripped and re-clothed in mockery redeem our experiences of losing dignity and identity through suffering?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּכֹב	כֹּחַ	שִׁנִּיתָה	לְבוּשִׁי	כַּף
By the great	force	changed	of my disease is my garment	as the collar
H7230	H3581	H2664	H3830	H6310
כִּתְּנִתִּי	יִאֲזָרְנִי			
of my coat	it bindeth me about			
H3801	H247			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Job 2:7** (Parallel theme): So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.