

Psalms 109:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let it be unto him as the garment which covereth him, and for a girdle wherewith he is girded continually.

Analysis

Let it be unto him as the garment which covereth him (תְּהִי־לוֹ כְּבִגְדַיִם, tehi-lo kheveged ya'teh)—the verb כָּסָה (atah, "wrap, cover") with בִּגְדַיִם (beged, "garment") completes the clothing metaphor. **And for a girdle wherewith he is girded continually** (וּלְמִזְחָה תָּמִיד יִחְגְּרֶהָ, ulmeizach tamid yachgerehah)—מִזְחָה (meizach, "belt, girdle") worn תָּמִיד (tamid, "continually, perpetually"). The verb חָגַר (chagar, "gird") speaks of binding tight.

The curse becomes permanent fixture—not something he can remove. Job 8:13-14 uses similar imagery: the hypocrite's trust is "as a spider's web," fragile and temporary; here cursing binds like leather worn daily. Isaiah 59:17 shows God putting on "garments of vengeance" and "zeal as a cloak"; David prays the enemy wears his own wickedness as inescapable raiment. The girdle/belt held garments together and secured weapons—symbolizing readiness and identity. The enemy's identity is now cursing; he cannot ungird himself from judgment.

Historical Context

Girdles were essential in ancient dress—securing robes for work, holding weapons for battle, containing purses for trade. A girdle worn "continually" became part of one's very person, like a wedding ring or phylactery—a visible sign of commitment and character.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What are you "girded with continually"—what defines your readiness, identity, and daily walk?
2. How does the permanence of this curse (garment and girdle) warn against the lasting consequences of character?
3. What does Ephesians 6:14 mean when it commands us to be "girded about with truth" as opposed to cursing?

Interlinear Text

לֹא תְהִי	כִּבְגֶּד	יַעֲטֶה	וּלְמִי צִנֹּר
H1961 H0	H899	H5844	H4206
Let it be unto him as the garment which covereth him and for a girdle			
תָּמִיד	יִחְגְּרֶה:		
H8548	H2296		
continually wherewith he is girded			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 109:29 (Parallel theme): Let mine adversaries be clothed with shame, and let them cover themselves with their own confusion, as with a mantle.