

# The Robe

Symbols, Metaphors, Similes



*“Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man!”*

John 19:5

Is the robe really a symbol? Of what? There are several robes around the world that some authorities claim to be the one put on Christ while he was before Pilate. But that does not make any one of them a symbol that stands for something in our beliefs. The symbolism of the robe may only be important to note because Pilate was a very confused person at this time.

Pilate had been forced into being the one to make the decision. A careful reading of the Scripture tells us that his wife was really concerned and seemed to think that Christ really was the

Messiah they had all been waiting for. The royal robe allowed Pilate to show that he also thought Christ was the Messiah and may have given him some relief as to his guilt.

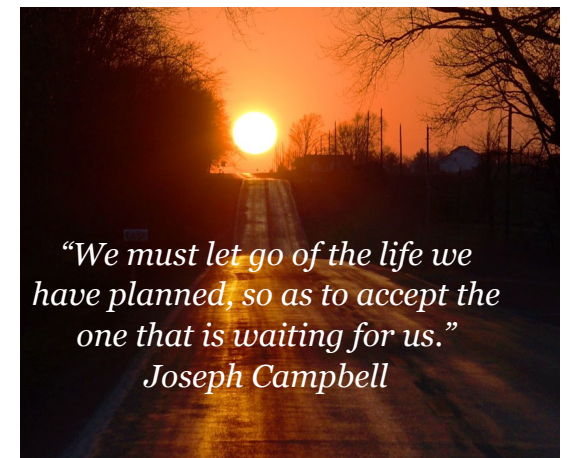
Often we are reminded of robes. Some may be worn by judges, some by kings or queens, and some by choir members or ministers. But there has always been much talk about one particular robe – the one worn by Christ. According to Scripture, John tells us that it was a purple robe. Purple was the color worn by royalty then. It is rather ironic that a purple robe which indicated royalty would have been put on Christ since many of the people were afraid that he would become an earthly king. Think about it, would you put a royal robe on someone you were going to kill. Was it part of the mockery at the time? We don't know, but we do know that particular robe clothed a King that many of the people did not recognize.

According to Luke's account it was Herod, the one who most feared Christ, that put the purple robe on Him. We read in Luke 23:11 *“And Herod with his men of war set him at nought, and mocked him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate.”* We don't know if that was the custom when someone was going before Pilate or if the robe was put on Christ for some other reason. I can't help wondering why the purple robe. It was used only for royalty then and was extremely expensive according to records. Wouldn't they be afraid to get it

stained with blood? Wouldn't they want to use the oldest thing they could find for this man they despised?

According to Matthew 27, after they put the robe on Him they put a crown of thorns on His head and mocked Him saying, *“Hail, King of the Jews!”* They spit on Him, and then they removed the robe put His own clothes back on him before they led him to Golgotha.

In John 19:23-24 we learn that after they had crucified Jesus, they took his garments, and made four parts, with each soldier taking a part, including his coat which was supposedly without seam and woven from the top throughout. We don't know if this was the robe or a coat. After they thought about tearing His clothing into pieces and keeping it for themselves, they decided not to tear it apart, but to cast lots for it so that scripture might be fulfilled that said *“They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots*



*“We must let go of the life we have planned, so as to accept the one that is waiting for us.”*

Joseph Campbell

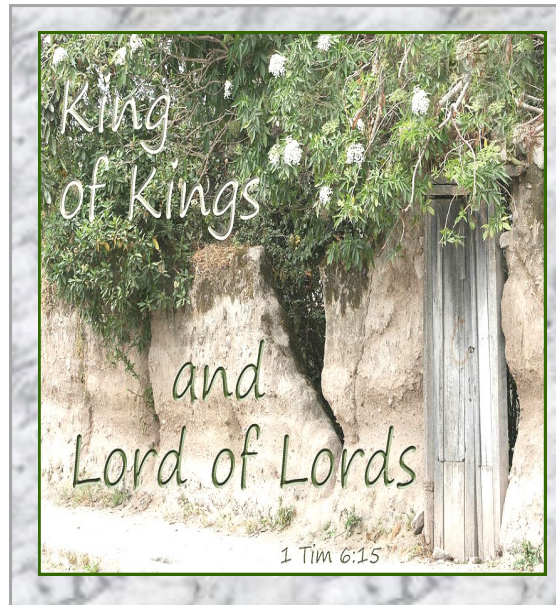
*for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, 'They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots.' These things therefore the soldiers did."* John 19:24. KJV

The Scripture to be fulfilled that they refer to is found in the Old Testament, Psalm 22:18. *"They part my garments among them, And upon my vesture do they cast lots."* Even though they were killing this man, they were concerned about what the Scriptures had said. Did they do this for everyone? Did they know, even though they could not admit it out of fear for their lives, that He was the Messiah they had waited for? Imagine the fear.

The robe to me symbolizes the man inside. The robe has no real significance, but He does, and His willingness to go through all the torture and even death just for me. We have heard about the Shroud of Turin and the significance that some people place on it. Some claim it is the cloth that Joseph of Arimathaea used to wrap the body of Christ when he placed him in his own

tomb. They claim that the imprint on the cloth is from the body of Jesus. This has been studied for years by many people, but no definite conclusions have been reached.

The robe did not make Christ an earthly king, but He is our Heavenly King and the clothes He wore or the clothes we wear will not change our inward person. That can only be done by our accepting Christ as our personal Savior and Heavenly king.



Prayer: Dear Lord, we have called You King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, yet we often forget that You are not a King of Kings; You are The King, and the only King we need to know. Thank You for giving Your life so that we will someday live with You as King in a Heavenly Kingdom You have prepared for us. Help us to tell the Good News to others, so they will also know of this love You gave us and commissioned us to go into all the world and preach Your Gospel. Amen.

1. What is the significance of Christ's being mocked and spit on by those who feared Him? Why do you think they put a purple robe on Him?
2. Can we sometimes worship an object? How do we ridicule Christ?
3. What steps do we need to take to live eternally with the King who lives eternally?
4. What kinds of fear do we carry?
5. We are told that many in authority thought Christ was the Messiah, but they lived in fear of their own lives. How can we rid ourselves of fear?

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But God demonstrates his  
own love for us in this:  
While we were still sinners,  
Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8