

File under: χλαμύς or chlamus
English: "mantle" (chlamus)

Dictionary of the Bible,
by Hastings.

As regards the particular articles of dress, the identification of these is in many cases rendered almost impossible for the English reader by the curious lack of consistency in the renderings of the translators, illustrations of which will be met with again and again in this article. For this and other reasons it will be necessary to have recourse to transliteration as the only certain means of distinguishing the various garments to be discussed.

Many spiritual truths are totally lost due to this lack of consistency. In the trial of Jesus the various "robes" are very significant. In the NT this word "chlamύς" only occurs 2x, both in Matt.

χλαμύς KJ

Mt 27:28. and put on him a scarlet robe
Mt 27:31. they took the robe off from him

For a study on the details of these "robes" see The Arrest and Trial of Jesus the Messiah, R. Mount

Compare the words of the KJ with TCT, Mount.

LUKE 23 KJ

11 ^aAnd Herod with his ¹men of war ²set him at nought, and mocked ³him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate.

"esthēs" (robe)

LUKE 23 CT

11 But the Herod together-with his armies having-treated him with-contempt, and having-mocked him, having-cast-around him a brilliant white esthes robe he-sent him back to-the Pilate.

John 19 KJ

THEN ^aPilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him.
2 And the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe.

1
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"himation" (garment)

JOHN 19 CT

1 Then therefore the Pilate took the Jesus and he whipped him.
2 And the soldiers having-plaited a crown out-of thorn-plants they-put it upon his head, and they-cast-around him a purple garment,

Mark 15 KJ

17 And they clothed him with purple, and plaited a crown of thorns, and put it about his head,

2
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MARK 15 CT

17 And they-are-clothing him in a purple-garment, and they-are-placing-around him, having-plaited it, a thorny crown,

Matthew 27 KJ

28 And they ^astripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe.

3
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"chlamus" (mantle)

MATTHEW 27 CT

28 And having-stripped him they-placed-around to-him a scarlet chlamus;

31 And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, ^aand led him away to crucify him.

4
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MATTHEW 27 CT

31 And then they-mocked him they-stripped off him the chlamus, and they-clothed him in his garments; and they-led him away into to-be-crucified.



The "esthēs" was the "robe" worn by Herod. (see also Acts 12:21) The purple was the color of the Caesars. (see history) The purple "himation" (garment) was worn by his deputy Pilate. The "chlamus" (mantle) was worn by the soldiers over their armor. (see figure) By the KJ using "robe" for them all, the whole point in the mockery is lost. (Compare the colors to the temple veil.)