

**RICH MEN
WITH
MOTH EATEN
GARMENTS**

By William T. Barrett

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RICH MEN WITH MOTH EATEN GARMENTS

JAMES

5 Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl, for your miseries that shall come upon *you*. **2** Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. **3** Your gold and silver is cankered ; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.

QUESTIONS :

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QUESTIONS :

- 1 What makes these rich men rich ?
- 2 What is the matter with their riches ?
- 3 What is the matter with their garments ?
- 4 What are the Real Objects ?
- 5 What do the Real Objects represent Spiritually ?
- 6 When is the time period of this text ?
- 7 What is the treasure of the rich men ?
- 8 Who do the rich men represent ?
- 9 Why must this text be Spiritually understood ?
- 10 What "witnesses" against the rich men ?
- 11 What does the text mean when it says that their "flesh will be eaten as it were by fire ?


JAMES 5 Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl, for your miseries that shall come upon *you*. **2** Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. **3** Your gold and silver is cankered ; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.


QUESTIONS : (Think ! About the **Physical**)

- 1 What makes these rich men rich ?
(*Their gold and silver*)
- 2 What is the matter with their riches ?
(*Their gold and silver is “cankered” or rusted*)
- 3 What is the matter with their garments ?
(*Their garments are “motheaten” or have holes in them*)
- 4 What are the Real Objects ?
(*Gold, silver, motheaten garments*)
- 5 What do the Real Objects represent Spiritually ?
(*See Bible Word Pictures on following pages*)
- 6 When is the time period of this text ?
(*The Last Days or at the End of TIME*)
- 7 What is the treasure of the rich men ?
(*Their gold and silver*)
- 8 Who do the rich men represent ?
(*See texts on following pages*)
- 9 Why must this text be Spiritually understood ?
(*Real gold or silver does **not** rust*)
(*Rich men do **not** wear motheaten garments*)
- 10 What “witnesses” against the rich men ?
(*The “rust” on their gold and silver*)
- 11 What does the text mean when it says that their “flesh will be eaten as it were by fire” ?
(*It means that their bodies will be burned up by fire*)

(Think ! About the **Spiritual**)

5 What do the Real Objects represent Spiritually ?
What does **gold** represent ?

Key Word 




GOLD = ?


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GOLD = Law, Love, Faith
Rom. 13:10
..love is the fulling of the law.
Psa. 19:7 The law of the Lord...
more to be desired than gold..
love = law = GOLD
1Pet. 1:7
..your faith ..more precious than gold.

“**GOLD**” represents “**FAITH**” and “**LOVE**” and **GOD’S LAW**”

What does **silver** represent ?


Key Word 




SILVER = ?

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SILVER = Knowledge and Understanding
Prov. 2:3, 4 “..If thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver...”

Key Word 




SILVER = ?


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SILVER = Words of God
10 Commandments and Bible
Psm. 12:6 The words of the Lord are pure words; as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

“**SILVER**” represents “**KNOWLEDGE**” and “**UNDERSTANDING**”
of the **Bible** and **God’s Law**

What does a **garment** represent ?

Key Word 


GARMENT = ? 


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GARMENT = Character or life
Genesis 35:2 "... Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments.
Zechariah 3:4 "... Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment."

A "**GARMENT**" represents a person's "**CHARACTER**" or "**LIFE**"

What does a **New Garment** represent ?

Key Word 

NEW GARMENT = ? 


(Clean, White)


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NEW GARMENT = New righteous life
 (Clean, White)
Isaiah 61:10 "... My soul shall be joyful in my God for He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, He hath covered me with the robe of righteousness. ..."
Revelation 19:8 "And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints."

A "**NEW GARMENT**" represents a "**RIGHTEOUS LIFE**"

What does an **Old or Motheaten garment** represent ?

Key Word 

OLD GARMENT = ? 

(Filthy; holes in it)

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OLD GARMENT = Old sinful life
 (filthy, holes in it)
Zech 3:4 "... Take away the filthy garment from him. ... behold I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee. ..."
James 5:1,2 "Go to now, ye rich men. ... Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten."

"**AN OLD**" or "**MOTHEATEN GARMENT**" represents a "**SINFUL LIFE**"

- What makes these rich men rich ?
 - (Physical) Their Physical Gold.
 - (Spiritual) Their Spiritual "**Gold**".
(Their **Faith** and **Love** and Obedience to God's Law)
 - (Physical) Their Physical Silver.
 - (Spiritual) Their Spiritual "**Silver**".
(Their **Knowledge** and **understanding** of the **Bible** and **God's Law**)

- 2 What is the matter with their riches ?
- (Physical) Their Physical Gold and Physical Silver is ruined.
(Note : Real Gold and Silver do not rust)
- (Spiritual) Their Spiritual "**Gold**" and Spiritual "**Silver**" is spiritually "**ruined**".
- Ruined "Gold" (Their **Faith** and **Love** and Obedience to God's Law is **not** being practised !
- Ruined "Silver" (Their **Knowledge** and **Understanding** of the **Bible** and God's Law is **not** being used.)
- 3 What is the matter with their garments ?
- (Physical) Their Physical garments have Physical holes in them.
(Note : Real rich men do not wear garments with holes in them)
- (Spiritual) Their Spiritual "**Garments**" have Spiritual "**holes**" in them.
(Their Character is **defective** and they are living **Sinful lives**)
- 6 When is the time period ?
(At the END of Time or the **Last Days**).
- 7 What is the treasure of the rich men ?
- (Physical) Their Physical Gold and Physical Silver.
(Their **Money** and possessions).

Matthew 6 : 19-21 "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal : But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither **moth** nor **rust** doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal : For where your **treasure** is, there will your **heart** be also".

Comment : To "give up your treasure" upon earth and to "lay up your treasure" in heaven, means to "turn your **heart**" from the things of the world and to "give your **heart**" to Jesus and the things of heaven.

Proverbs 2 : 3-5 Yea, if thou criest after **knowledge**, and liftest up thy voice for **understanding** ; if thou seekest her as **silver**, and searchest for her as for **hid treasure** ; then shalt thou **understand** the fear of the LORD, and **find** the **knowledge of God**.

Comment : The only place that we can "search" for the "**hid treasure**" of the **knowledge of God** is in **God's Word**.

(Spiritual) Their Spiritual "**Gold**" and Spiritual "**Silver**" should be the "**treasure**" of Spiritually "**rich**" men.
(Their "**Knowledge** and **Understanding** of the **Bible**" and their **Faith** and **Love** should be the "**treasure**" of Spiritually "**rich**" men.

8 Who do the rich men represent ?

The "**rich men**" who have rusty "gold" and "silver", represent **Christians** who consider the "things of the world" to be of **more value** than the "things of God".

9 Why must this text be Spiritually understood ?

(Real gold and silver does **not rust** and real rich men do **not** wear moth-eaten garments).

10 What is the "witness" against the rich men ?

(The "**rust**" on their silver and gold).

(The **lack of use** of the **Knowledge** and **Understanding** they have of the Bible and their lack of faith and love).

11 What does the text mean when it says that their "flesh will be eaten" as it were by fire ?

(It means that they will be burned up by fire and their bodies reduced to ashes).

Malachi 4 :1,3

"...All that do wickedly shall be **stubble** and the day the cometh shall burn them up... shall leave them **neither root nor branch**... they shall be **ashes**."

REAL OBJECTS

gold

silver

garment

moth-eaten garment

or

garment with holes

rich men

rust

treasure

SPIRITUAL MEANINGS

Faith, Love, and God's Law

Knowledge and Understanding of the

Bible and God's Law

Character or Life

Defective Character

or

Sinful life

"Christians" (in this case in name only)

lack of use

where your heart is (either on things of the world or the things of God)

JAMES 5 Go to now, ye **rich men**, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon *you*. **2** Your **riches** are corrupted, and your **garments** are motheaten. **3** Your **gold** and **silver** is cankered ; and the **rust** of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped **treasure together** for the last days.

(so called “Christians”)

Go to now, ye **rich men**, weep
and howl for your miseries that shall come upon *you*.

(Faith and Love) *is defective*

2 Your **riches** are corrupted,

(*Characters*) *are sinful*

and your **garments** are motheaten.

(Faith and Love and Bible Knowledge) *is not being used*

3 Your **gold** and **silver** is cankered ;

(*lack of use*)

and the **rust** of them shall be a witness against you,
and shall eat your flesh as it were fire.

(*put your heart into the wrong things*)

Ye have heaped **treasure** together for the last days.

Paraphrase :

Go on now, you “**Christians**” (rich men) who have a knowledge of the Bible (silver) and have been given an opportunity to have your **faith** and **love** (gold) increase.

Howl and cry because of the miseries that will come upon you. You neglected to use (rust) your knowledge of God’s Word (silver) or to exercise Faith and Love (gold) to help others and as a result your **character** (garment) is defective and sinful (motheaten)

In the Last Days you “**treasured**” your money and possessions (gold and silver) more than you “**treasured**” the things of God and because of this, you will be burned up by fire along with other wicked people.

Other Bible Study Helps:

You will want to order “*How to Study and Understand Your Bible*” (104) for yourself or for friends or relatives. This book will simplify your study of the Bible using word pictures of real objects to explain the Spiritual meaning of Bible texts. (See *Bible Word Pictures* reference booklet described below.) “*How to Study...*” is also available in Spanish: *Cómo Estudiar y Entender Su Biblia* (204).

Along with the “*How to Study and Understand Your Bible*” book, you will need to also order the *Bible Word Pictures* reference booklet (106). This booklet contains 240 Bible Word Pictures which can be used to study the **Spiritual** meaning of any Bible text. The **Pictures** and corresponding **Bible texts** identify the **Spiritual** meaning of objects and make it easy to visualize and remember them. The *Bible Word Pictures* will allow you to discover the “**hidden treasure**” of the Bible. Also available in Spanish: *Ilustraciones de la Biblia* (206).

You can start a Bible Study Group using the “*How to Study...*” book (104) or the pamphlet lessons (105), along with the *Bible Word Pictures* ref. booklet (106).

The books “*Bible Parables Made Simple*” (101) and (102) cover the Parables, which contain the Truths that Jesus felt were the most important for us to understand. You will be **fascinated** as you see how the Bible explains itself, as the *Bible Word Pictures* reveal the hidden meanings of the parables. **Volume 1** explains 13 parables from the book of Matthew and **Volume 2** explains parables from Matthew and other books of the Bible.

The booklet *Last Day Events* (103) will amaze you as you see all the major events foretold to happen to the church outlined in the first book of the Bible, Genesis.

The book “*Bible Concepts compared to Popular Beliefs*” (107) will surprise you, as you compare the Scriptures and discover the Bible Concept of various subjects as compared to Popular Beliefs.