

## Doctrine of the Cloke

1. A cloke (cloak) refers to a loose garment worn over indoor clothing and serves the same purpose as an overcoat. The cloke protects the wearer from the cold, rain or wind, or it may form part of a fashionable outfit or uniform.

- *2 Timothy 4:13 The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments.*

“This item of clothing was the distinctive Hebrew outer garment, made of two pieces of thick woolen material sewn together, with slits rather than sleeves for the arms. In Old Testament times the mantle was usually brightly colored. Joseph's "tunic of many colors" (Genesis 37:3) was probably a mantle of woven, bright strips.

The Lord commanded the people of Israel to add blue tassels to the corners of their outer garments, as reminders to obey His commandments (Numbers 15:38). This custom degenerated into a mere outward show of piety, and it was condemned by Jesus (Matthew 23:5).

The typical Hebrew slept on the floor with his mantle used as a covering to keep him warm. This was especially true for travelers, shepherds, or poor people, so a person's mantle was not to be kept as collateral for a loan (Exodus 22:27). In times of anguish, the Hebrews often tore their mantles to show their distress (Job 2:12; Ezra 9:3).

A handy, one-piece garment, the mantle protected a person from the weather. Because it fitted loosely, it could also be used to conceal or carry items. The typical Jewish mantle hung below the knees and was decorated with fringe.

Other words for mantle used by various English translations are cloak, coat, robe, and wimple (Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Copyright © 1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers).

2. When used in a figurative sense, the cloke appears for that which conceals, or for a pretext or excuse.

- *Isaiah 59:17 For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloke.*
- *John 15:22 If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin.*
- *1 Thessalonians 2:5 For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness:*

- *1 Peter 2:16 As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.*

3. Jesus used the cloke as an illustration of how to be gracious to one's enemies.

- *Matthew 5:40 And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also.*
- *Luke 6:29 And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloke forbid not to take thy coat also.*

“It is common for legal processes to be made use of for the doing of greatest injuries. Though judges be just and circumspect, yet it is possible for bad men who make no conscience of oaths and forgeries, by course of law to force off the coat from a man's back. Marvel not at the matter (Ecclesiastes 5:8), but, in such a case, rather than go to the law by way of revenge, rather than exhibit a cross bill, or stand out to the utmost, in defence of that which is thy undoubted right, let him even take thy cloak also. If the matter be small, which we may lose without an considerable damage to our families, it is good to submit to it for peace' sake. "It will not cost thee so much to buy another cloak, as it will cost thee by course of law to recover that; and therefore unless thou canst get it again by fair means, it is better to let him take it" (Matthew Henry).