

## 1.14.19 – Naked Verses part I

The following is a Word Study of Strong's Concordance reference # H5903

There are different words in Hebrew that are translated as naked in the English language. In this article we are going to follow what Strong's Concordance numbers "H5903". The transliteration is "eyrom." It is used 10 times in the OT. Translated "naked" 9X and "nakedness" once. Most of the verses seem to imply forced nakedness. I am going to let the first three verses go till last because I think the other verses help in understanding the verses in Genesis.

The first verse we will look at is **Deu 28:48 - Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, H5903 and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee.** God through Moses is telling the Hebrews what to expect if they do not follow his commandments. The Hebrews will serve their enemies. No choice involved. Then the list of conditions, in hunger, in thirst and in nakedness, and in want of all things. None of these sound like something to endure by choice. The nakedness is forced on them by their enemies just like hunger and thirst.

The next verse is **Eze 16:7 - I have caused thee to multiply as the bud of the field, and thou hast increased and waxen great, and thou art come to excellent ornaments: thy breasts are fashioned, and thine hair is grown, whereas thou wast naked H5903 and bare.** This verse is an illustration used by Ezekiel in a sermon to show how God had cared for the nation of Judah, in this sermon Judah is called Jerusalem. Ezekiel uses an unwanted child that was cast into a field and left to die to represent Jerusalem and God as a sympathetic traveler. The traveler nurtured the child till

her hair was long and her breasts were formed. A little thought suggests that the long hair was not on her head, head hair is long well before the breasts are formed, so we can safely assume that this is referring to pubic hair. It must have been common for girls to be naked till they became adults or God would have provided clothing for the child as well. We may also conclude that the nakedness was not the choice of the child if no clothing was provided, but we can also safely assume that it wasn't considered necessary either since God provides all our needs and he didn't feel the need to clothe her. If Ezekiel was using this illustration today most people would hear nothing he said after he gave the indicators that the girl had reached puberty. In conclusion, we must assume therefore that nakedness was commonplace or God would have had Ezekiel use a different illustration.

The next verse is **Eze 16:22 - And in all thine abominations and thy whoredoms thou hast not remembered the days of thy youth, when thou wast naked H5903 and bare, and wast polluted in thy blood.** This is part of the same sermon with the same condition that no clothing was supplied so the naked condition was not the choice of the girl. If you consider the cost of clothing in Bible times, naked children would be the only option for most families because of size changes as the child grew. Any garment that was used would have been passed around till it was worn out. "I can remember when Sarah wore that." would be a common statement with various names inserted. As it is common for children to become dirty while playing it also makes sense that they would not play in their clothing as it was expensive and rare. Please read the article posted on 1.7.19 related to clothing for more information about this.

Next is **Eze 16:39 - And I will also give thee into their hand, and they shall throw down thine eminent place, and shall break down thy high places: they shall strip thee also of thy clothes, and shall take thy fair jewels, and leave thee naked**

**H5903 and bare.** Here we have an enemy taking everything including their clothing, so the nakedness is forced upon them. Another proof that clothing was expensive if it was taken as a spoil of war.

Next is **Eze 18:7 - And hath not oppressed any, but hath restored to the debtor his pledge, hath spoiled none by violence, hath given his bread to the hungry, and hath covered the naked H5903 with a garment;** Here the naked person is in need of charity. Again, the person did not remove their clothing for sun bathing or swimming or to keep them clean. They were having hard times and lost their clothing.

Next is **Eze 18:16 - Neither hath oppressed any, hath not withholden the pledge, neither hath spoiled by violence, but hath given his bread to the hungry, and hath covered the naked H5903 with a garment,** This verse is the same as the one above for our purpose.

Next is **Eze 23:29 - And they shall deal with thee hatefully, and shall take away all thy labour, and shall leave thee naked H5903 and bare: and the nakedness of thy whoredoms shall be discovered, both thy lewdness and thy whoredoms.** This is the consequences or sinful behavior and God's judgement using Israel's enemies. Again, nakedness is not the choice of the naked person unless we start before the sinful behavior.

Now we will look at **Gen 3:7 - And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; H5903 and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.** The word *opened* is obviously used figuratively and could be *observed*. Usually to know something from observation you would need an example. I am guessing they saw Satan clothed after they disobeyed God. Or they needed something to amend for their disobedience. In light of the Hebrew word used and the uses of

that word in other verses, they felt a need for clothing and had none like the girl in Ezekiel's sermon.

The same Hebrew word is used in **Gen 3:10 - And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; H5903 and I hid myself.** Apparently, their aprons were not enough to overcome the naked feeling when they needed to face God. Without the forgiveness offered by Jesus we are all naked before God. I often wondered why they did not pretend that nothing had changed. Hiding in the bushes seems like a way to say to God. "We broke the only commandment You gave us." Did they have a meeting place and made it a point to be as far away as possible? When God found them anyway, the "I was naked and hid myself." was better than saying, "I was trying to avoid You."

The last verse is **Gen 3:11 - And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? H5903 Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?** God uses the same word Adam used about their nakedness. Since they had no clothing before this, they were not forced to give up their clothing because of an enemy. Their only enemy was Satan and even he could not take what they did not have. Where the sudden need for clothing came from is not clear, but after it arrived they felt a shortage of clothing similar to the captives or those too poor to buy clothing. The issue does not seem to be shame, but shortage or an attempt to cover-up their disobedience. After all, when a person goes into sin, they become in bondage to the sin much like a person who has been taken over by an aggressor army. They face the same bondage and in this case they experienced a feeling of need for the first time ever. God had always provided their need before this occasion, but due to the shame of their sin, rather than confront God and ask for His help, they decided to try to cover up their sin. Sound familiar?

What can we conclude from these verses, what are some observations we can make?

1. Not a single instance of any of their nakedness was considered sin.
2. Voluntary non-sexual nakedness wasn't even considered shame.
3. Forced nakedness from a captor was considered shame, but only due to the loss in battle and of valuable possessions.
4. Due to the high cost of clothing, society didn't deem it necessary for children to wear clothing due to constantly changing sizes and kids getting dirty during play. Based on other verses in both the Old and New Testaments adults in dirty jobs didn't wear clothing while performing those duties for the same reason...ie – Peter while fishing, the worker in the field, etc.