

# MODEST APPAREL:

*Did God Keep Man Guessing?*

Covering Up *Truth* or *Indecency*

Exodus 28:39-43

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## “Reflections on Modesty”

“Upon further investigation of the meaning of the language, it is the conviction of this author...that there is too much ambiguity attached to the word [“yarek” (**thigh**), SJW] to justify binding a specific anatomical line at the knee in discussions of modest apparel based on the text of Exodus 28:42.”

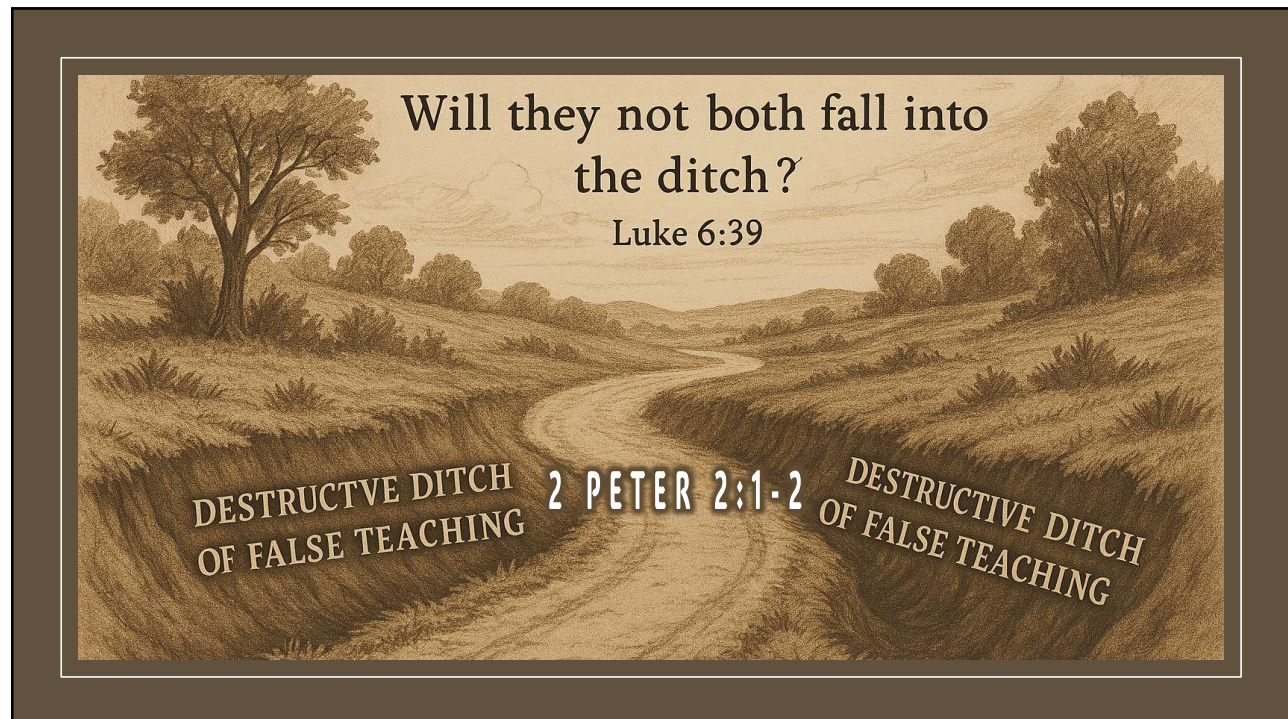
Jeremiah Cox, “Reflections on Modesty,” 84th Street church bulletin, May 23, 2025.  
<https://84thchurch.com/articles/bulletin>

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## “EXODUS 28:42 IS TOO AMBIGUOUS”?

1. Accuses God of being unclear about *sin* and *life-and-death* commands.
2. Undermines confidence in God’s word.
3. Opens the door to cultural definitions.
4. Encourages rebellion under the cloak of “uncertainty.”
5. Contradicts the pattern God repeatedly sets in Scripture.
6. Minimizes the moral teaching embedded in the *shadow*.
7. Weakens teaching on authority and creates division.

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Is the  
**THE PURPOSE**  
too unclear?

EXODUS 28:42, 43; 20:26

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Is the  
**THE SEPTUAGINT**  
too unclear?

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“Καὶ ποιήσεις αὐτοῖς περισκελῆ λινᾶ, καλύψαι ἀσχημοσύνην  
χρωτὸς αὐτῶν· ἀπὸ ὀσφύος ἕως μηρῶν ἔσται.”

### TRANSLATION:

“And you shall make for them linen **drawers** to  
cover the **shame** of flesh; from the waist to the  
**thighs** they shall reach.”

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“And you shall make for them linen **drawers** to  
cover the **shame** of flesh; from the waist to the  
**thighs** they shall reach.”

- ✓ **μηρός** (*mēros*) – *Thigh* (Rev. 19:16; LXX Exod. 28:42)
- ✓ **ἀσχημοσύνη** (*aschēmosynē*) – *Shameful exposure or indecency* (Rev. 16:15; LXX Exod. 28:42)
- ✓ **περισκελῆ** (*periskelē*) – *Drawers or leggings* (LXX Exod. 28:42 only)

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**TRANSLATION:**

"And you shall make for them linen **drawers** to cover the shame of flesh; from the waist to the thighs they shall reach."

**περισκελῆ (periskelē)**

*LSJ*: "round the leg:" hence περισκελῆ, τά, **drawers**, LXX Ex. 28.38(42), Ph. 2.157: sg., περισκελές λινού LXX Le. 16.4

Liddell-Scott-Jones (*LSJ*), s.v. περισκελής (B) – "round the leg; hence, drawers or leggings" (LXX Exod. 28:42; Lev. 16:4)

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Is the  
**THE CONTEXTUAL  
DEFINITION OF WORDS**  
too unclear?

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## LEXICAL DATA

*(When Multiple Definitions of Inspired Words Exist)*

### KNOW:

- “So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna ... that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.” (Deut. 8:3)
- “Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.” (Prov. 30:5)

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2000, “yôm” (day)  
“Cannot be literal.”

### UNDERSTANDING “DAY” IN SCRIPTURE

- Broadly – Genesis 2:4
- An idiom – Zechariah 14:7
- Comparatively – 2 Peter 3:8
- 24-hour – Leviticus 22:30; Exodus 22:30

### MEANING – A Regular Day PAIRED WITH:

- ✓ A numbered day
- ✓ Chronological sequence
- ✓ “*Evening and morning*” marker
- ✓ Corroborating: Exo. 20:8-11

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<p><b>2000, "yôm" (day)</b> "Cannot be literal."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broadly – Genesis 2:4</li> <li>• An idiom – Zechariah 14:7</li> <li>• Comparatively – 2 Peter 3:8</li> <li>• 24-hour – Leviticus 22:30</li> </ul> <p><b>MEANING – A Regular Day</b> <b>PAIRED WITH:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ A numbered day</li> <li>✓ Chronological sequence</li> <li>✓ "Evening and morning" marker</li> <li>✓ Corroborating: Exo. 20:8-11</li> </ul>	<p><b>2025 "yārēk" (thighs)</b> "Too ambiguous."</p> <p><b>MEANING – The Thigh</b> <b>PAIRED WITH:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Priestly garments</li> <li>✓ Purpose stated</li> <li>✓ Penalty severe</li> <li>✓ Propriety clarified– "waist to hips" doesn't fit contextually or physically</li> </ul>
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Is the

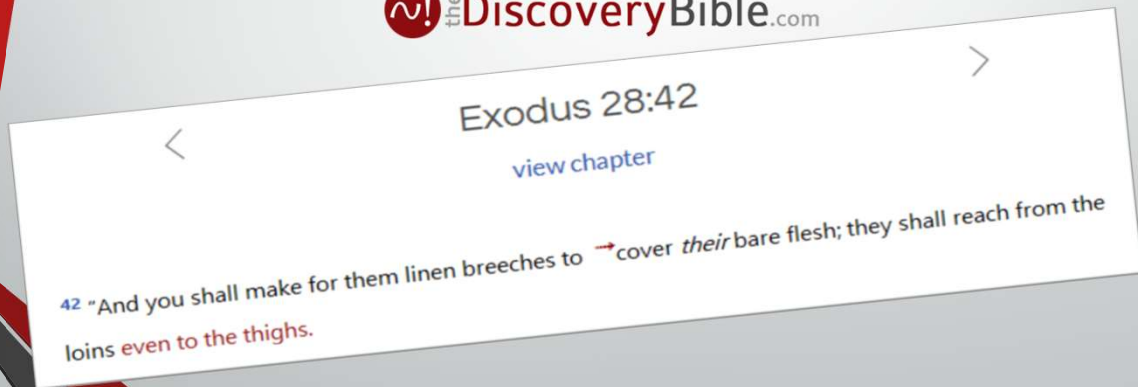
**THE SYNTAX**

too unclear?

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# Exodus 28:42

Hebrew Syntax: **Verb-Stems** and **Emphasis**  
(Through Word Arrangement)



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# Exodus 28:42

Hebrew Syntax: **Verb-Stems** and **Emphasis**  
(Through Word Arrangement)



NASB

42 "And you shall make for them linen breeches to cover their bare flesh; they shall reach from the loins even to the thighs.

**{ Piel Verb Stem }**

"The *piel* verb-stem points to where *energetic* (multi-level) activity results...*The fuller Hebrew meaning of Piel is brought out in translation with auxiliary terms like fully, thoroughly...*"

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## Exodus 28:42

Hebrew Syntax: **Verb-Stems** and **Emphasis**  
(Through Word Arrangement)



NASB

42 "And you shall make for them linen breeches to → cover *their* bare flesh; they shall reach from the loins even to the thighs. { **FOCUS EMPHASIS** }

"Focus-emphasis is a common literary technique of the original (Hebrew and Greek) text..."

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## Exodus 28:42

Hebrew Syntax: **Verb-Stems** and **Emphasis**  
(Through Word Arrangement)



- **Rearranging** of words (*fronting of key terms*)
- **Repetition** to stress important concepts or themes
- **Lexical choice** (*using rare, unusual, or intense words*)
- **Structural placement** – placing a word or phrase in a prominent position within the sentence (*such as before the verb*) to make it stand out

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# Exodus 28:42

Hebrew Syntax: **Verb-Stems** and **Emphasis**  
(Through Word Arrangement)



NASB

42 "And you shall make for them linen breeches to → cover *their* bare flesh; they shall reach from the loins even to the thighs. { **FOCUS EMPHASIS** }

"Focus-emphasis tells readers: 'Give full attention to this word (phrase). Unpack its fuller meaning which is key to understanding the passage **through the eyes of the original writer.**'"

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## Exodus 28:42 – Hebrew Syntax Breakdown

Hebrew	Transliteration	Literal English Gloss
וַעֲשִׂיתָ לָהֶם	ve'asita lahem	"And you shall make for them"
מִכְנֵסֵי־בָד	mikhnesei-vad	"linen trousers"
לְכַסּוֹת	lekhassot	"to cover" (Piel infinitive)
אֶת־בָּשָׂרָם הָרְעִיחַ	et-besar 'ervah	"the flesh of nakedness"
מִמַּטְנֵי וְעַד יָרְכֵי	mimmatnayim ve'ad yerekayim	"from the loins <u>even to</u> the thighs"
יִהְיוּ	yihyu	" <u>they shall be</u> "

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## Exodus 28:42 – Hebrew Syntax Breakdown

Hebrew Word	Transliteration	Literal English Gloss	Function in Verse
מִמַּתְנַיִם	<i>mimmatnayim</i>	from the loins	Start of the coverage
וְעַד	<i>ve'ad</i>	even to	Shows range or limit
יָרְכָיִם	<i>yerekhayim</i>	the thighs	End of the coverage
יִהְיוּ	<i>yihyu</i>	they shall be	Confirms the garment extends this far

**START COVERAGE**, *from the loins*

→ **END COVERAGE**, *even to the thighs*

→ **CONTINUE COVERAGE**, *they shall be*

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*"From the loins and to the thighs they shall be."*

### Yoda

"Powerful  
you have become."

Word order:  
Powerful ★  
you have become

### Hebrew (Ex. 28:42)

חֲתָנַיִם וְעַד יָרְכָיִם  
יִהְיוּ

Word order:  
From the loins ★  
to the thighs  
they shall be

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# Isaiah 47:2-3

## Hebrew Syntax: **Verb-Stems**



NASB

<sup>2</sup> "Take the millstones and grind meal. → Remove your veil, strip off the skirt, → Uncover the leg, cross the rivers. <sup>3</sup> "Your nakedness will be uncovered, ↔ Your shame also will be exposed; ↔ I will take ↔ vengeance and will not spare ↔ a man." <sup>1</sup>

*"...The fuller Hebrew meaning of Piel is brought out in translation with auxiliary terms like fully, thoroughly..."*

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**Exodus 28:42**



**Cover**  
the shameful  
flesh

**Isaiah 47:2**



**Uncover**  
the leg

*The Piel stem conveys intense action, whether to conceal or to reveal!*

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## Have you been clothed with Christ?

NASB

### Galatians 3:26-27

[view chapter](#)

<sup>26</sup> For you are all **sons of God** through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>27</sup> For all of you who were baptized **into Christ** have clothed yourselves **with Christ**.

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