

Was That “Wear” or “Ware”?

The adage “Words are vehicles in which thought travels,” is an interesting concept especially when two (or more) terms have the same enunciation but a different meaning.

The society has developed a “your truth” mentality: definitions are arbitrary, i.e., What is the definition of a term (in its context), or is the term defined by the hearer? Two terms which have a different definition, but with like pronunciation: Wear and Ware. Down the rabbit hole we go and consider both terms under the imagery of “adornment.”

Adorn, i.e., to put in proper order, that is, decorate (literally or figuratively) Strong’s Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries. On two occasions the Apostle Paul uses the term to describe the adornment of the godly: 1) 1 Timothy 2:9-10 – “In like manner, that **women adorn themselves in modest apparel**, (emph. mine, ret) with shamefastness and sobriety; not with braided hair, and gold or pearls or costly raiment; but (which becometh women professing godliness) through good works.” 2) Titus 2:9-10 - Exhort servants to be in subjection to their own masters, and to be well-pleasing to them in all things; not gainsaying; not purloining, but showing all good fidelity; that they may **adorn the doctrine of God** (emph. mine, ret) our Saviour in all things.” The Apostle Peter said, “For after this manner aforetime the **holy women also, who hoped in God, adorned themselves**, being in subjection to their own husbands” (1 Pet. 3:5). In these cases adornment in mind and conduct are elements that the godly “wear,” and is visible, if you will, to others, i.e., “Put on therefore, as God's elect, holy and beloved, a heart of compassion...” (Col. 3:12).

So, how do the terms “wear” and “ware” come together regarding adornment? Wear: “But what went ye out to see? a man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, **they that wear soft raiment** are in king's houses (Matthew 11:8); Ware: “**When thy wares went forth** ((emph. mine, ret) out of the seas, thou filledst many peoples; thou didst enrich the kings of the earth with the multitude of thy riches and of thy merchandise,” i.e., articles offered for sale.

Concerning Tamar, the daughter-in-law of Judah, “Put off from her the garments of her widowhood, and covered herself with her veil, and wrapped herself, and sat in the gate of Enaim, which is by the way to Timnah; for she saw that Shelah was grown up, and she was not given unto him to wife. When Judah saw her, he thought her to be a harlot; for she had covered her face. And he turned unto her by the way, and said, Come, I pray thee, let me come in unto thee: for he knew not that she was his daughter-in-law. And she said, What wilt thou give me, that thou mayest come in unto me?” (Genesis 38:14-16). Tamar’s adornment, i.e., what she chose to “wear” expressed to Judah that she had “wares” to sell.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, “Ye are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a lamp, and put it under the bushel, but on the stand; and it shineth unto all that are in the house. Even so let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14-16).

Everyday individuals chose to “wear” some apparel that expresses their “wares,” (figurately, or literally). What do you have to sell? ret