And are His people to be adorned today?

Well, were they adorned in the past? We've been taught that wearing adornment is evil, vanity and a sin. We've also been taught that everything that happened to Israel in the past was for our example. Were the patriarchs adorned by YHWH? [This is the heavenly Father's Name and is pronounced Yahuwah. In Scripture, every time you see LORD or GOD in all caps, the translators have stolen His Name.] Did these men then in like manner adorn their wives and children?

This tri-fold is going to examine this issue from a different perspective, that of a child's. We are going to read what happened to YHWH's ancient people, and compare the New Testament to the Old. Remember, **Isaiah 8:20**, *To the law* [Torah] *and the testimony* [of the prophets], *if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them*. This is a one way street. The New Testament must meet the standard of the Old Testament, not the other way around.

I asked my children to take the Scriptural reference material I have and look up the words Adornment, Ornaments, Gold, Silver, Pearls, Jewels, Jewelry, etc. and to tell me what they find. Interestingly, they did not find what I had always been taught about jewelry.

Oh yes, they found all the texts that I had ever seen showing that we should not adorn ourselves, that made jewels and costly array a thing of vanity, something to be put away, or to take off. They also found that our heavenly Father adorned the children of Israel and that righteous men (the patriarchs) adorned their wives and children. Why this discrepancy? What was different then than today?

Is it possible that we have misapplied or misunderstood the passages that show Israel taking off their adornments? If YHWH Himself adorns His children, and also takes those jewels away, it is possible that it is not the jewels that are "evil" rather it is the evil behavior of His children that caused Him to remove their adornment?

Let's start at a time long before earth's history.

In **Ezekiel 28:11-15**, in great detail, Lucifer is described as the king of Tyre…

Moreover the Word of YHWH came to me, [Ezekiel] *saying,*
Son of man, lift up a lament over the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Sovereign YHWH: You seal the measure, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.
You have been in Eden, the garden of the Almighty. Every precious stone was your covering; the ruby, the topaz, and the onyx, the chrysolite, the beryl, and the jasper, the sapphire, the garnet, and the emerald, and gold; the workmanship of your tambourines and of your flutes in you. In the day you were created, they were prepared.
You were the anointed cherub that covers, and I had put you in the holy heights of the Almighty, where you were. You walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.
You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, until iniquity was found in you.

Where did Lucifer get all those gems and gold?

Somewhere along the way, we got the idea that adornment was bad. In the context of the Scripture above, YHWH adorns His children, adornment is not intrinsically evil or sinful—the children are. It was not the adornment that was Lucifer's downfall, YHWH gave him that covering of every precious stone, but he lost that covering after iniquity was found in him. It is a misrepresentation of these facts that have led sincere believers to think that adornment of any sort is evil. Please understand, there is a difference between being adorned by a husband or father and adorning one's self.

For instance, my children found the woman in **Revelation 12:1** as a pure, unadorned woman. This woman is portrayed as True Body of believers, the bride of YHWH. In contrast, there is a colorfully dressed, gaudily adorned harlot in **Revelation 17:3-4**, the apostate woman, representing the apostate church.

And in **I Timothy 2:9-10**, Paul says that women should not adorn themselves *with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array.*

And concluded that they would be better off adorning themselves *with good works.*

Are the texts above a New Covenant indictment against adornment? Let us continue our study in the Old Testament, for it is there we find all the instructions needed for salvation and where we will learn what the New Covenant really is.

Did you know that the New Covenant is not a New Testament concept? It is first introduced in **Jeremiah 31:31-33**.

Behold, the days come, saith YHWH, that I will make a <u>new</u> <u>covenant</u> with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:
Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which My covenant they broke, although I was a husband to them, saith YHWH:
But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith YHWH, I will put My law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and I will be their Mighty One, and they shall be My people.

The New Covenant IS the Old Covenant, only it is written on the hearts of YHWH's true believers rather than on stone and parchment as it was in the Old Covenant. Please compare the above passage with **Ezekiel 11:19-20** and **Ezekiel 36:26-28**. New Covenant, new heart, but the same Law, statutes and judgments.

In the Old Covenant, indeed, the children of Israel were told many times to take off their gold and jewels. It is these passages that we will now focus on.

My children found the passage in **Genesis 35:2-4** where Jacob buried all his family's rings and earrings after he was commanded to remove all the strange gods from them. Is this an indictment against jewelry or against having graven images? These ornaments were clearly images of pagan deities and the Father does not tolerate idolatry, **Exodus 20:4-6**.

In **Isaiah 3:16-26**, the women of Israel were stripped of all their jewelry and many other functionless accessories. Why? Because they had a haughty attitude and were in apostasy.

Hosea 2:13 portrays another woman of ill repute—an unfaithful woman who leaves her husband—and she too is adorned, but where did she get her jewels? In context, she has adorned herself, a form of self-righteousness.

In the Old Testament my children found the above three passages that seem to put the use of jewelry in a bad light. Then they found **Genesis 24:47** and verse **53**. Why was it OK for Abraham to give his trusted servant, Eliezer, gold, silver and precious jewels with which to adorn Rebekah if adornment is evil?

Why does Judah, in the Tamar incident (**Genesis 38:18**), have on his person a signet ring and bracelet if adornment is vanity?

Please pay attention, because what my children found next is even more compelling. YHWH Himself tells Israel to plunder the wealth of Egypt (**Exodus 3:22**, **Exodus 12:35-36**). They were then told to take those *jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: and ye shall put them upon your sons, and upon your daughters.* Why does YHWH tell Israel to adorn their children if it is a sin?

Some might say that YHWH would later need these precious metals and jewels to adorn the desert tabernacle. This event is recounted in **Exodus 35:22**. Everyone brought a free-will offering, too much actually—of gold, silver, brass, precious stones, etc. Will the Father judge His people as unrighteous for adorning their sons and daughters when He told them to take these things from the Egyptians? Of course, YHWH knew these valuables would be needed later, but if it is sinful to adorn your loved ones, why did He permit Israel to keep the remaining jewels and gold after enough was brought to build His house? **Exodus 36:3-7**.

Of course, we expect Kings to be decorated (**II Samuel 12:30**) and accept that great riches were accumulated by the Israelites through the conquest of Canaan (**Numbers 31:50-52**). These gems and jewels were OK, right?

Now before the *coup d'etat*, again we shall ask; is jewelry or adornment a sin that will be reckoned on judgment day? Remember that pure, unadorned woman in **Revelation 12** that symbolized the pure assembly of believers, the Bride of YHWH? How can we compare the pure woman in **Revelation 12** with the apostate woman in **Revelation 17** and say that jewelry is evil, when **Ezekiel 16:8-13** tells us in detail how YHWH will adorn His future bride? That woman (portrayed in **Revelation 12**) will be dressed in fine linen and silk, decked with silver, gold, ornaments, bracelets and chains, with a jewel on her forehead, with earrings in her ears and with a crown upon her head.

The moment a haughty, rebellious spirit was found, all jewelry was removed. The woman who adorned herself was considered a harlot. But a wife, son or daughter can be adorned by a loving husband or father. In the **past** we find Lucifer, Rebekah, Judah, and Israel in general decorated by a Father figure and in the **future**, the Bride of YHWH will be adorned by the Husband/Father figure. What my children learned is that in the **present**, the act of adornment is NOT a sin. Jewelry is a gift that is to be taken away only when there is rebellion.

Respectfully submitted,

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