

Biblical Women's Apparel

Deuteronomy 22:5 The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God.

The New Testament is more specific to a flowing gown (covering)

1 Timothy 2:

9 ¶ In like manner also, **that women adorn themselves in modest apparel**, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;

10 But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

1 Timothy 2:9 In like manner <5615> also <2532>, that women <1135> adorn <2885> (5721) themselves <1438> in <1722> modest <2887> **apparel <2689>**, with <3326> shamefacedness <127> and <2532> sobriety <4997>; not <3361> with <1722> broided hair <4117>, or <2228> gold <5557>, or <2228> pearls <3135>, or <2228> costly <4185> array <2441>;

Greek References by Strong concordance numbers from the [Online Bible Greek Lexicon](#)

2689 katastolh katastole *kat-as-tol-ay'*

from **2687**; TDNT-7:595,1074; n f

AV-apparel 1; 1

1) **a lowering, letting down**

2) **a garment let down, dress, attire**

Adam Clarke writes on 1 Timothy 2:9

That women adorn themselves in modest apparel] kai tav gonaikav ev katastolh koamiw. The apostle seems to refer here to different parts of the Grecian and Roman dress. The stolh, stola, seems to have been originally very simple. It was a long piece of cloth, doubled in the middle, and sewed up on both sides, leaving room only for the arms; at the top, a piece was cut out, or a slit made, through which the head passed. **It hung down to the feet, both before and behind**, and was girded with the zona round the body, just under the breasts. It was sometimes made with, sometimes without, sleeves; and, that it might sit the better, it was gathered on each shoulder with a band or buckle. Some of the Greek women wore them open on each side, from the bottom up above the knee, so as to discover a part of the thigh. These were termed fainomhridev, showers (discoverers) of the thigh; but it was, in general, only young girls or immodest women who wore them thus.

The katastolh seems to have been the same as the pallium or mantle, which, being made nearly in the form of the stola, hung down to the waist, both in back and front, was gathered on the shoulder with a band or buckle, had a hole or slit at top for the head to pass through, and hung loosely over the stola, without being confined by the zona or girdle. Representations of these dresses may be seen in LENS' Costume des Peuples de l'Antiquit., fig. 11, 12, 13, and 16. **A more modest and becoming dress than the Grecian was never invented**; it was, in a great measure, revived in England about the year 1805, and in it, simplicity, decency, and elegance were united; but it soon gave place to another mode, in which frippery and nonsense once more prevailed. It was too rational to last long; and too much like religious simplicity to be suffered in a land of shadows, and a world of painted outsides.