

What exactly was the appearance of the robe put on Jesus during his “trial” before king Herod, an administrator of the Roman Empire, as recorded at [Luke 23:11](#)?

“Then Herod and his soldiers began mocking and ridiculing Jesus. Finally, they put a royal robe on him and sent him back to Pilate”—[Luke 23:11](#) NLT

Pilate could not find anything wrong with Jesus, and hoped to evade responsibility for what would happen to Jesus by shifting him over to Herod, who happened to be in town for the major festival of Passover. But to Herod Jesus is only a curiosity ([Luke 23:8,9](#)), and a joke ([Luke 23:11](#)). His curiosity, however, goes unrewarded, because Jesus **“gave him no answer”** and refused to perform any sign ([Luke 23:11 NIV](#)). Since Jesus refused to answer Herod’s many questions, Herod gets tired of it after awhile, and sends Jesus back to Pilate. But before he does, they put a robe on Jesus to crown their mockery of him. The appearance of the robe is difficult to describe, at least in English. This is only a minor detail, of course, but notice how many different ways and colors this robe is described as being in various Bible translations at [Luke 23:11](#):

brilliant—HCSB

elegant—NIV; NRSV

rich—NJB

royal—NLT

splendid—ESV

gorgeous—KJV; NKJV

“brightly shining”- NASB

fine—GNB; Berean Study Bible

bright—CSB

colorful—GWT

white—Douay

luxurious—WEB; New Heart English Bible

resplendent garb—NAB

kingly—NCV

purple - Aramaic Bible in Plain english

colorful - GWT

magnificent - ISV

radient - LSV

splendid - Hart

This is a good example of one of the many advantages a person who uses multiple translations has, over a person using only one translation. While this is a very minor point, we can see that there are various ways to translate from the ancient Koine' Greek into modern English, and also various ways describe something, which can help us to get a better mental picture of what the Bible is describing. After all, vivid mental pictures help us to remember things better. Knowing and remembering what the Bible says is vital to knowing God and Jesus. Knowing them, the Bible says, results in eternal life (**John 17:3**). Also, very important

to Christians who want to fully 'imitate God, Jesus and Paul' (**Ephesians 5:1; 1 Corinthians 11:1**), vivid mental images of things in the Bible better equip us to effectively witness, and teach the Word of God, to others (**Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19,20; 2 Timothy 3:16,17**).

Gospel writer Luke tells his readers:

“Just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write down an orderly account”—Luke 1:2,3 NIV [Italics added]

Luke's ***'careful investigation'*** certainly must have included interviews with those ***“who from the first were eyewitnesses”***, quite possibly with one or more who were present and saw Herod's ***“soldiers . . . Dressing him in an elegant robe”*** (**Luke 23:11 NIV**).

Whatever the exact appearance of Jesus' robe was before Herod, various translations help us to get a better mental picture of how it was to those who were there!

Also, see the article, “Using 10 or More Bible Translations – Better Than Knowing Biblical Greek?,” on this website.