

Revelation - Commentaries by James M. Freeman

Manners and Customs of the Bible, 892. Temple Watchmen (16:15)

Revelation 16:15. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

Lightfoot supposes that there is a reference here to the duties of a certain officer of the temple, called "The Ruler of the Mountain of the House." He went about the temple at every watch with lighted torches, to see whether or not the guards were at their posts. If he found one of them sleeping "he struck him with a stick; and it was warrantable for him to burn the garments of such an one. And when it was said by others, What is that noise in the court? the answer was made, It is the noise of a Levite under correction, and whose garments are burning, for that he slept upon the watch. R. Eliezer Ben Jacob said, They once found my mother's son asleep, and they burnt his clothes" (Hebrew and Talmudical Exercitations on Luke 22:4).

Manners and Customs of the Bible, 890. The Choenix (6:6)

Revelation 6:6. A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny.

The chrenic, "measure," was an Attic dry measure, and was nearly equivalent to one quart English. Its measurement was the usual daily allowance for a soldier or a slave.