

The Daughters of Zion

Isaiah 3:16–24

Isaiah used jewelry, clothing, and other symbols to describe behaviors and attitudes of the daughters of Zion and to reprove and warn them about the judgments that would come as a result of their sins.

Verse 16:

“Stretched forth necks.” An idiom describing haughtiness—pride in self and scorn toward others; looking about to see if others notice one’s beauty.

“Wanton eyes.” Seductive or sensual glances.

“Mincing.” Walking with short, rapid steps in an affected manner or childish way. Women wore costly ornamental chains connecting rings about their ankles, which required them to take unnaturally short steps.

“Making a tinkling with their feet.” Women’s feet were often adorned with bells and made a tinkling sound when they walked.

Verse 17:

“Discover their secret parts.” An idiom meaning that their wickedness would be exposed; the Lord would put them to shame or humiliate them by exposing their nakedness.

Verse 18:

“Tinkling ornaments about their feet.” Anklets.

“Cauls.” Possibly hairnets.

“Round tires like the moon.” Ornaments, such as a pendant, shaped like a crescent moon, according to the fashions of the day.

Verse 19:

“Chains.” Earrings.

“Mufflers.” Veils.

Verse 20:

“Bonnets.” Headdresses.

“Ornaments of the legs.” Chains connecting the anklets.

“Headbands.” Girdles or sashes.

“Tablets.” Perfume boxes or bottles.

“Earrings.” Charms or amulets.



Verse 21:

“Rings.” Signet rings or rings with a seal.

“Nose jewels.” Nose rings.

Verse 22:

“Changeable suits of apparel.” Resplendent garments, such as fine robes used for special occasions.

“Mantles.” Overcloaks.

“Wimples.” Possibly either cloaks or wide pieces of cloth wrapped around the body.

“Crisping pins.” Purses or bags.

Verse 23:

“Glasses.” Transparent garments, or possibly a metal mirror.

“Fine linen.” Linen clothing.

“Hoods.” Turbans.

“Veils.” Shawls.

Verse 24:

“A rent.” Rags, or a rope or tether.

“A stomacher.” A robe.

“Burning.” Branding, which was a mark of slavery.

