

Beards and Long Hair on Men



On a level of importance this would rank very low. Why talk about it then? Because it comes and up and that it should be clarified for those that might need a clear Biblical answer.

And I am not being legalistic here so don't start with the comments or hate mail just listen to the teaching first.

Men did have beards there is no doubt about that—there is the presence of beards in the Bible. The length of them is, however; unknown it is indicated that it was long enough to be able to be "pulled/plucked out." So have you ever tired to pluck out stubble? No. How about ~ inch of growth? No. How about 1"? maybe 1 ~"? possibly 2"? at 2 inches you could most likely pluck some out with relative ease.

The Old Testament speaks about shaving off the hair on the head and beard because of three things 1. Because of the presence of leprosy. 2. Because of punishment. 3. because of a Nazarite vow (hair on the head).

Let's ask, when dealing with the Old Testament, who is God speaking to? Do those laws pertain to us today when we are told of our liberation by being set free from the law (Romans 8:2)

Old Testament

Beards

Le 13:29 If a man or woman have a plague upon the head or the beard;

Le 13:30 Then the priest shall see the plague: and, behold, if it be in sight deeper than the skin; and there be in it a yellow thin hair; then the priest shall pronounce him unclean: it is a dry scall, even a leprosy upon the head or beard.

Le 14:9 But it shall be on the seventh day, that he shall shave all his hair off his head and his beard and his eyebrows, even all his hair he shall shave off: and he shall wash his clothes, also he shall wash his flesh in water, and he shall be clean.

1Sa 17:35 And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.

1Sa 21:13 And he changed his behaviour before them, and feigned himself mad in their hands, and scrabbled on the doors of the gate, and let his spittle fall down upon his beard.

2Sa 19:24 And Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to meet the king, and had neither dressed his feet, nor trimmed his beard, nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he came again in peace.

2Sa 20:9 And Joab said to Amasa, Art thou in health, my brother? And Joab took Amasa by the beard with the right hand to kiss him.

Ezr 9:3 And when I heard this thing, I rent my garment and my mantle, and plucked off the hair of my head and of my beard, and sat down astonished.

Ps 133:2 It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;

Isa 7:20 In the same day shall the Lord shave with a razor that is hired, namely, by them beyond the river, by the king of Assyria, the head, and the hair of the feet: and it shall also consume the beard.

Eze 5:1 And thou, son of man, take thee a sharp knife, take thee a barber's razor, and cause it to pass upon thine head and upon thy beard: then take thee balances to weigh, and divide the hair.

2Sa 10:4 Wherefore Hanun took David's servants, and shaved off the one half of their beards, and cut off their garments in the middle, even to their buttocks, and sent them away.

2Sa 10:5 When they told it unto David, he sent to meet them, because the men were greatly ashamed: and the king said, Tarry at Jericho until your beards be grown, and then return.

1Ch 19:5 Then there went certain, and told David how the men were served. And he sent to meet them: for the men were greatly ashamed. And the king said, Tarry at Jericho until your beards be grown, and then return.

Jer 41:5 That there came certain from Shechem, from Shiloh, and from Samaria, even fourscore men, having their beards shaven, and their clothes rent, and having cut themselves, with offerings and incense in their hand, to bring them to the house of the LORD.

Ezra 9:3 And when I heard this thing, I rent my garment and my mantle, and plucked off the hair of my head and of my beard, and sat down astonished.

Isaiah 7:20 In the same day shall the Lord shave with a razor that is hired, namely, by them beyond the river, by the king of Assyria, the head, and the hair of the feet: and it shall also consume the beard.

Isaiah 50:6 I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.

Shaved Hair

Le 19:27 Ye shall not round the corners of your heads, neither shalt thou mar the corners of thy beard.

Le 21:5 They shall not make baldness upon their head, neither shall they shave off the corner of their beard, nor make any cuttings in their flesh.

Here in Leviticus 19:27 and 21:5 God prohibits the shaving of the head (to be completely bald) and beard. Why? Because God said so He didn't want them doing it. I would assume it would be also to disassociate from the style of the pagan priests.

Isa 15:2 He is gone up to Bajith, and to Dibon, the high places, to weep: Moab shall howl over Nebo, and over Medeba: on all their heads shall be baldness, and every beard cut off.

Jer 48:37 For every head shall be bald, and every beard clipped: upon all the hands shall be cuttings, and upon the loins

Le 14:8 And he that is to be cleansed shall wash his clothes, and shave off all his hair, and wash himself in water, that he may be clean: and after that he shall come into the camp, and shall tarry abroad out of his tent seven days.

Le 14:9 But it shall be on the seventh day, that he shall shave all his hair off his head and his beard and his eyebrows, even all his hair he shall shave off: and he shall wash his clothes, also he shall wash his flesh in water, and he shall be clean.

Nu 6:9 And if any man die very suddenly by him, and he hath defiled the head of his consecration; then he shall shave his head in the day of his cleansing, on the seventh day shall he shave it.

Nu 6:18 And the Nazarite shall shave the head of his separation at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and shall take the hair of the head of his separation, and put it in the fire which is under the sacrifice of the peace offerings.

Nu 8:7 And thus shalt thou do unto them, to cleanse them: Sprinkle water of purifying upon them, and let them shave all their flesh, and let them wash their clothes, and so make themselves clean.^a

7. a. let them shave...: Heb. let them cause a razor to pass over, etc

De 21:12 Then thou shalt bring her home to thine house; and she shall shave her head, and pare her nails.

12. b. pare: or, suffer to grow: Heb. make, or, dress

Jg 16:19 And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him.

Isa 7:20 In the same day shall the Lord shave with a razor that is hired, namely, by them beyond the river, by the king of Assyria, the head, and the hair of the feet: and it shall also consume the beard.

Eze 44:20 Neither shall they shave their heads, nor suffer their locks to grow long; they shall only poll their heads.

Leviticus 13:40 And the man whose hair is fallen off his head, he is bald; yet is he clean.

Leviticus 13:41 And he that hath his hair fallen off from the part of his head toward his face, he is forehead bald: yet is he clean.

Numbers 6:5 All the days of the vow of his separation there shall no razor come upon his head: until the days be fulfilled, in the which he separateth himself unto the LORD, he shall be holy, and shall let the locks of the hair of his head grow.

Numbers 6:18 And the Nazarite shall shave the head of his separation at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and shall take the hair of the head of his separation, and put it in the fire which is under the sacrifice of the peace offerings.

Numbers 6:19 And the priest shall take the sodden shoulder of the ram, and one unleavened cake out of the basket, and one unleavened wafer, and shall put them upon the hands of the Nazarite, after the hair of his separation is shaven:

2 Samuel 14:26 And when he polled his head, (for it was at every year's end that he polled it: because the hair was heavy on him, therefore he polled it:) he weighed the hair of his head at two hundred shekels after the king's weight.

Isaiah 3:24 And it shall come to pass, that instead of sweet smell there shall be stink; and instead of a girdle a rent; and instead of well set hair baldness; and instead of a stomacher a girding of sackcloth; and burning instead of beauty.

Ezekiel 16:7 I have caused thee to multiply as the bud of the field, and thou hast increased and waxen great, and thou art come to excellent

ornaments: thy breasts are fashioned, and thine hair is grown, whereas thou wast naked and bare.

Jeremiah 7:29 Cut off thine hair, O Jerusalem, and cast it away, and take up a lamentation on high places; for the LORD hath rejected and forsaken the generation of his wrath.

Ezekiel 5:1 And thou, son of man, take thee a sharp knife, take thee a barber's razor, and cause it to pass upon thine head and upon thy beard: then take thee balances to weigh, and divide the hair.

New Testament

On Beards

0 - nothing.

On Hair

1Corinthians 11:14, 15 Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, ("ko-ma-o" to wear tresses of hair:--have long hair) it is a shame ("at-i-mia" disgrace, dishonour) unto him? 15 But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.

Women are distinct from men by their hair. Men and women are to look different from one another as God made us so. There is a distinction. Remember Deuteronomy 22:5

"The woman shall not wear that which pertains unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are an abomination unto the LORD your God."

Song of Solomon 4:1 Behold, thou art fair, my love; behold, thou art fair; thou hast doves' eyes within thy locks: thy hair is as a flock of goats, that appear from mount Gilead.

Song of Solomon 6:5 Turn away thine eyes from me, for they have overcome me: thy hair is as a flock of goats that appear from Gilead.

John 11:2 (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.)

John 12:3 Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.

Revelation 9:8 And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions.

1 Timothy 2:9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided (twine or braid) hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array.

Although 1 Timothy 2:9 could be a prohibition against looking like temple prostitutes, and in examining the broided hair of the first century it might have more to do with the heart and wasting time on appearance it would take a lot of time to braid the hair and that means you are priding yourself in your appearance; modesty is what God desires.

So for a man how long would be long? I would think with the Scriptures as a guide that which makes you look like a woman. Definitely past the shoulder and that might even be to long.

So what about men in Africa that have very short tight curly hair and beards? Or what about Asians that have little to no facial hair and could not grow a long beard if they tried?

Be convinced in your own selves, but what does the Bible say?

First the Bible **does not** say:

"All men must have crew cuts"

"All men must have a minimum of a 3" beard or longer"

"All men must not cut their hair"

It only says:

"..., that, if a man have long hair, is a shame unto him?"

So for a man how long would be long? I would think with the Scriptures as a guide that which makes you look like a woman. Definitely past the shoulder and that might even be to long.

Guys if your hair is like this:

John 12:3 Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.

Or this

Revelation 9:8 And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions.

Then it's too long; cut it.