

Genesis 3:20-24

Genesis 3:21 – And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

- Everything has been leading up to this verse
- Conviction of sin **V.6-7**
- Followed by a judgement of that sin by God **V.16-19**
- Faith is expressed **V.20**
- God's response to their faith is to provide a covering for them **V.21**
- The covering of animal skins pictures justification
- Justification is an act of God where He pronounces a sinner to be righteous because of that sinner's faith in Christ
- Justification does not make anyone holy, it simply declares him to be not guilty before God and therefore treated as holy

Romans 5:1 - Therefore, since we have been **justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 3:20-26 - **For by works of the law no human being will be justified** in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. 21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 **the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe**. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 **and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus**, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation **by his blood, to be received by faith**. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, **so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus**.

- We cannot earn justification through rule-keeping or our own good works
- Being declared righteous is a gracious gift of God bestowed on those who believe
- Justification is made possible in the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ
- It's based on the shed blood of Christ
- Justification comes through faith

Genesis 3:21 – And the Lord **God** made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and **clothed them**

- 4 observations about God covering Adam and Eve

1.) A covering of some sort was needed **(V.7)**

- The first effect of sin was that Adam and Eve knew they were naked
- Nakedness is a picture of sin and shame
- Their first response was a need to cover themselves

2.) The coverings that we are capable of making are inadequate

- Did the sacrifice of plants cover their sin?
- The most common covering we attempt is good works
- **Ephesians 2:8-9** - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
- Man's good works are like fig leaves trying to cover our sin

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3.) God will provide the covering

- Only God is worthy to deal with the sin problem

4.) In order for Adam and Eve to be covered, an animal had to die

- Where did the animal skins come from?
- What would it have been like to be there?
- How would you have felt?
- It was necessary for the innocent to die so the guilty might live
- **Hebrews 9:22** - ...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.
- They realize that the death of the animals should have been them
- Adam and Eve must have immediately understood what death was
- **Romans 6:23** - For the wages of sin is death...

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- After processing the horror of death, they probably marveled at God's mercy
- They now understood that death was demanded by God for sin, but the shedding of innocent blood could be a substitute for them
- In this case, 1 innocent animal died for 1 sinner
- Later at the Passover, 1 innocent animal died for 1 family
- In the tabernacle/temple, on the Day of Atonement, 1 innocent died for 1 nation
- **Hebrews 10:1-4; 5-6**

John 1:29 - On the next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God who **takes away the sin of the world!**

- **Hebrews 10:10-12**

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- **V.20-21** form a pattern for the rest of the Bible – **faith and sacrifice go together**
- Adam and Eve would have never forgotten this moment
- They would have passed this lesson on to their children
- **Genesis 4:1-15; 25; 5:3**
- We are not told if this is the first time Cain and Abel offered a sacrifice, but it's reasonable to assume that bringing sacrifices to God was already established
- Why?
- Cain and Abel knew it had to be the death of an animal offered in faith
- **Faith and sacrifice go together**
- Cain reminds us that the seed of the serpent can sacrifice things too, but they're offered in vain
- There has to be faith in order for there to be justification

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- **Genesis 8:15-20** – Faith and sacrifice
- **Genesis 22:1-14** – Faith and sacrifice

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- **Genesis 8:15-20** – Faith and sacrifice
- **Genesis 22:1-14** – Faith and sacrifice is a pattern that is well known
- Sacrifices and offerings continued for Israel as they wandered around the desert in the time the tabernacle

Exodus 26:14 - And you shall make for the tent a **covering of** tanned **rams' skins** and a **covering of goatskins** on top.

- These same sacrifices would continue in the temple that Solomon built
- The sacrifices could not take away sins, it could only **cover** them until they sinned again
- All of these sacrifices only pointed to a future hope (faith) that could **take away** sins

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- In **Genesis 22:2; 15** - ...Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you...So Abraham called the name of that place, The Lord will provide; as it is said to this day, On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.
- Abraham named that place on Mt. Moriah “The Lord will provide”
- 1,000 years later, **2 Chronicles 3:1** - Then Solomon began to build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord had appeared to David...
- Almost 1,000 years after that, Jesus dies in the same area
- The cross was where all previous altars and sacrifices were pointing
- As Jesus was hanging on the cross, we realize that The Lord had provided

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- The crucifixion was a scene of shame, the person was usually stripped of all clothing

Mark 15:24 - And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take.

Genesis 2:25 - And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Genesis 3:7 - Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked.

- After the fall, nakedness was now seen as shameful

- **Genesis 9:18-25** – Noah seen by his sons (OT)

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Luke 8:26-27; 35; 38-39 – Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. 27 When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn **no clothes**, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs...35 Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, **clothed** and in his right mind...38 The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, 39 Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you. And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him...

- Being clothed was a visible sign that faith had occurred
- The new clothing showed there was a new man

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- The Christian life is portrayed as putting on new garments

Ephesians 4:22-24 - ...**put off your old self**, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires...24 and to **put on the new self**, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 6:13-17 – We are to **clothe** ourselves with the whole armor of God

Revelation 7:9 - After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, **clothed** in white robes...

- Our future life is never depicted without clothes

Genesis 3:22 – Then the Lord God said, Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—

- Remember, there were 2 trees God singled out

Genesis 2:9 - And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

- God had to ensure that Adam would not dwell in Eden as a fallen creature
- If Adam stayed, he could continue to eat of the tree of life and live forever
- Eating the fruit of the tree of life would sustain Adam in a perpetual state of being alive, but also in a sinful, fallen condition
- Separated from God forever

Genesis 3:23 – therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken.

- God had warned Adam in **Genesis 2:17** - but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.
- Being separated from the tree of life meant Adam would die
- That's good thing!
- This is both a punishment and mercy
- Punishment because the ground is cursed
- Mercy because God will allow Adam to die
 - 1.) Can you imagine living and working forever with this cursed body in this cursed world with no relief
 - 2.) Death is gain to the believer (faith) because death is the only way for us to be resurrected without sin and reunite with God. It's the only way for us to permanently be clothed in glory

Genesis 3:24 – He drove out the man, and at the **east of the garden of Eden** he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

- The exile and reentry to the garden would be from the East
- The Eastern entrance formed the template for the tabernacle/temple
- When the temple was built, the Israelites entered the courtyard from the East, the priests entered the temple from the East, and the high priest went into the Holy of Holies from the East
- Eastern entrances symbolized a return to Eden
- Joshua crossed the Jordan river from the East to conquer the promised land
- When the Israelites rebelled against God, they were exiled to the East in Babylon
- When the exile was over, they returned back to the East
- In **Ezekiel 10:18–19**, the prophet sees the glory of the Lord leave the temple through “the east gate of the house of the Lord,”
- In **Ezekiel 11:23** the glory then moves east of the city to the Mount of Olives

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- Later, in **Ezekiel 43** “the glory of the Lord entered the temple by the gate facing East”
- Jesus’s triumphal entry in **Matthew 21** is from the east (Mount of Olives)
- Jesus’s return is prophesized in **Zechariah 14:4**, “On that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two...”
- The Mount of Olives is a fitting place for Jesus to return because that’s where He preached the Olivet Discourse and it’s also the place where He ascended into heaven after His resurrection (**Acts 1:1–10**)
- The East provides us a thread throughout the Bible of exile and return
- All of these examples point us to understand that although sinners were exiled in **Genesis 3**, there’s hope that we will dwell with God again when He returns
- God’s redemptive plan is to seek us out and return us to himself

Genesis 3:24 – He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the **cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.**

- The word cherubim is plural, so we assume there were many
- Adam had been given the responsibility to guard or keep the garden, but he failed
- The cherubim would do what Adam did not
- We can assume that the garden and the cherubim were able to be seen until the flood destroyed the Earth

Genesis 3:24 – He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to **the tree of life**.

- In the last verse of **Genesis 3** we are exiled from the tree of life
- But in the end, the tree of life is ours forever

Revelation 22:1-5 - Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.