

Genesis 3:20-24 – Blessings in Blood

TSK, HebrewLexicon, Trapp, Henry, Delitzsch, Calvin, JFB, Pulpit, Whyttock, Maclaren, Clarke, Gill, Armstrong, Sailhamer, Gaebelein, Geneva, Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: I have cut-off the heads of many chickens and ducks. I've watched sheep, goats, and even a cow being killed. It is not pleasant.

Those animals died (though unwillingly) so I might live!

That picture is true in a spiritual sense as well. **God, reflecting his justice and holiness, requires that for new spiritual life to come, there must be the shedding of blood...**

Someone had to (**willingly**) give his life for you to live. You will hear about this today.

Our headings are:

Adam received faith

Adam received encouragement

Adam received protection

Our goals are: That you will **confirm the only way you are redeemed from the curse of the Fall is to rest in the bloody sacrifice that Christ was for your sins.**

Adam Received Faith

20 And **Adam called his wife's name Eve**, because she was the mother of all living.

1. Immediately after the curses came on man, one would have expected sadness to overwhelm Adam, but instead of sadness, he evidenced faith.

2. His faith was in the one promised by God who would crush the head of the serpent and set him free from Satan's deadly clutch.

3. What was that evidence of Adam's faith?

Adam named his wife "Life" or "Living." So she was the mother of the "living."

"Woman" meant "from man." So it emphasized her origin. But the name Eve shows her destiny...mother of all living.

Adam knew Eve would be the physical mother of all as she was the only woman around. (Scientists have proved all people are from the same physical source.)

But Adam believed Eve would become the spiritual mother of all.

So Eve's name ultimately pointed to her giving birth to Christ – her destiny. One of Christ's names was life. His blood would be shed so man could have life.

Luther: “*Adam turned from sin to the promise of the Lord.*”

4. Lessons-2:

a. Faith always results in godly actions. Adam did not hide anymore as he did when confronted by the Lord and introduced to the Messiah, the one who would crush Satan's head and give him new life!

Rather, he showed his faith and named his wife to evidence that faith.

So show your faith! You can't be a secret Christian.

b. Never let sin overwhelm you and stop you from doing the work of the Lord!
Hope in the Lord.

Shame can make you stop teaching your wife, or disciplining your children, or serving in the church, or sharing the Gospel.

Don't let it. Your sins have been covered by the Lord!

He took your shame. Don't bear what was borne.

Adam Received Encouragement

21 Also for Adam and his wife the LORD **God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.**

1. Now it was clear Adam's attempts to cover himself with leaves did not fool God; Adam's covering was inadequate.

Leaves could partially cover nakedness for a time, so he needed a better physical covering.

Leaves could not cover the shame and guilt of his soul so he needed a true covering. His sins were before God as a billboard.

2. That covering for his body and his soul God provided was important.

a. That covering was to keep man comfortable as the temperatures would no longer be perfect.

b. That covering God provided would combat the lusts of man's hearts and curtail his depravity.

c. That covering (and most important of all) prefigured the work of Christ who would protect man from the curse of God.

Man's sins would be spiritually covered just as his body was.

(Remember, the priest had to wear a tunic before serving the Lord, or he would be killed. (Exodus 28:42-43)

3. How did God get this spiritual covering for Adam?

God killed an animal, shedding its blood for Adam's sins, and used its skin to make clothes for Adam.

This blood for the animal was an atonement for man's sins. "Atonement" means covering.

Hebrews 9:22 And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.
(Atonement)

We use the expressions "I'll cover you" to mean we will pay the cost of someone's meal, etc.

The term atonement is used to refer to the exchanging of money for products of equal value.

But could an animal's blood remove sins? No! never.

So why did God use that?

That dead animal was a symbolic covering for Adam's sins.

The real covering was **Christ's expiatory death**, which was a fair exchange for the value of their souls, was coming. **Jesus was the true Lamb of God!**

God offered that covering, which referred to Jesus, and Adam received it by faith. And what a blessing this was!

Psalm 32:1 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered.

4. Lessons-3:

a. This substitutionary death of the first sacrifice was a visible sign of God's invisible but real love for his elect.

The rest of the Bible continued to show this.

Be encouraged by this; speak of this same love today! Man is saved by Christ's death.

b. Consider the covering you have now. The prefiguring animal is now gone.

You are no longer covered with animal blood (so you don't have to make those bloody sacrifices), but you have the once for all times shed blood of Christ that is a permanent, precious covering.

Consider the beauty of your covering today. You have royal clothing!

Psalm 45: 13 The royal daughter is all glorious within the palace; Her clothing is woven with gold. 14 She shall be brought to the King in robes of many colors; The virgins, her companions who follow her, shall be brought to You.

c. Rejoice in heavenly clothes – way more than many ladies enjoy dressing up with new clothes.

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Isaiah 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

God will cover you with a robe of righteousness, even as the Prodigal Son was covered by his father with a beautiful robe when he returned home.

Adam Received Protection

22 Then the LORD God said, "**Behold, the man has become like one of Us,** to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" —23 therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. 24 So He drove out the man; and **He placed**

cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

1. God (Trinitarian God – “us”) spoke sarcastically and shamed Adam, even as he offered Adam protection.

This shaming was really a rebuke. Adam believed he would become like God when he ate of the fruit, so God brought his folly to his attention. God was saying: **“What a great god man has become! See what he got from eating of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.”**

God wanted to humiliate man so he could come to his senses.

Isn't humiliation a great arrow in God's arsenal?

It was for Adam's protection!

Psalm 83:16 **Fill their faces with shame**, That they may seek Your name, O LORD.

2. God again protected Adam by putting him out of the Garden so he wouldn't eat from the Tree of Life.

The Tree of Life was food for Adam, that if he ate, would have kept him alive forever.

But if God left him there in the Garden and he ate of the Tree of Life **it would be comparable to abusing the Lord's Supper and it would mean he'd be living forever in sin!**

3. In living outside the garden, Adam would have a full sense of sin, of his loss. God wanted Adam's “eye to affect his heart.”

What Adam would see outside of the Garden would cause his heart to repent. He could then wait for Christ's blood to shed for him. Thorns tell a tremendous truth.

4. And to make sure Adam did not try to come and eat of the Tree of Life, God put (cherubim) angels to guard the entrance with swords.

Man had to wait until the true fruit of the Tree of Life, Jesus Christ, come to receive eternal life – true healing for his soul.

You see this picture in the worship of God at the Tabernacle.

Angels were on the veil to the holiest place.

The worshipper needed a mediator before he could worship.

But how sad this was: Adam and Eve were separated from the fullness of God's blessing.

5. Adam then had to work hard for food instead of just picking the fruit from the trees God had provided.

Yet **you see God's grace again: Man was sent to a place of toil, but not a place of torment.**

He could have justly sent Adam and Eve into hell forever, but unlike what he did to the rebellious angels, God only put Adam and Eve out of the Garden with a clear promise of redemption. They just had to wait.

6. Lessons 5:

a. Shaming someone is not to be disregarded. Sometimes it is an effective teaching tool.

Look how Paul challenged the church in Rome to examine if they really gained anything by their sinful lives. The Romans thought they were wise by their knowledge.

Hurt feeling may be necessary to save a hurting soul.

Romans 6:21 What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things *is* death.

Remember how he said to the Galatians: "O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you...?"

Sometimes using "positive reinforcements can sometimes be positively useless."

Learn when to use it.

b. God disciplines but does not disinherit or destroy his children. He disciplines the son he loves. Hebrews 12:6. Don't despise troubles.

He makes his elect suffer for their own good.

c. God protects you from all things that could destroy you.

Don't be mad if you don't get the "girl of your dreams," or you lose your "dream job."

There may be even better things waiting for you.

d. Elders work to protect you from misusing the signs of the covenant – baptism or the Lord's Supper, just as the Lord prevented Adam from eating of the Tree of Life. Trust them. They don't want you to treat Christ's blood with contempt.

e. You have the Tree of Life today. Eat! Believe in the one who opened up the way back to Eden when he died!

When he died the veil of the temple with two angels on them guarding it, was torn so you have access to fellowship with God again! God did this when Jesus died. It was torn from the top!

When Christ returns again, angels will sound the trumpet saying: "Come into heaven, that perfect Garden, for eternity."

Conclusion:

Adam received faith from the Lord and he showed it in the naming of his wife, showing she would be the mother of Jesus.

Adam received encouragement when God used the benefit of the animal sacrifices and its benefits.

Adam then received protection from eating unworthily from the Tree of Life.

Beloved in the Lord:

1. Remember, only those who are washed in the blood of the Lamb and covered with the resulting righteousness can eat of the Tree of Life.

That Tree of Life is restored.

Revelation 2:7 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

2. Rejoice you are washed in the Blood of the Lamb and you are covered forever.

Eat daily of Christ and live.

Work for his dominion in the earth.

Live like the redeemed.

3. Reproduce. Or at least they try.

Bring others in to eat and live...and work for the spread of the Gospel around the world.

Finally, Isaiah 28:20 says, *For the bed is too short to stretch out on, And the covering so narrow that one cannot wrap himself in it.*

Having no covering meant death from the cold.

But thank God Christ provided enough...and a beautiful covering. When that covering comes, you have new life.

Remember well Ephesians 2:1 *And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins.*

And God gives you the faith by which you receive new life and new covering.

Let your hands of faith receive his blessings today.