

GOD'S COVERING FOR SINNERS

The Lord's Supper

May 6, 2018

Genesis 3:1-24

“And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. . . . Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.” Genesis 3:7, 21

Adam and Eve sinned against God. Eve was deceived and transgressed (I Timothy 2:14). Adam, undeceived, blatantly disobeyed God's command. Moments earlier, “they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed” (Genesis 2:25). Having sinned, Adam lamented “I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself” (Genesis 3:10). Their sin had changed everything.

Their nakedness and shame foreshadowed the state of their descendants, each of whom inherits from them a sinful nature and a powerful tendency toward sin. As sinners, we too stand wholly exposed and shamed before God. Their response to that sin and exposure is the pattern of our response. And God's response to their sin foreshadowed His response to the sins of mankind.

- 1. They sinned**, and so has each of their descendants. “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).
- 2. They were exposed** in their sin, and so are we. “Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do” (Hebrews 4:13).
- 3. They were shamed by their sin**, and so are their descendants. “We lie down in our shame, and our confusion covereth us: for we have sinned against the LORD our God, we and our fathers, from our youth even unto this day, and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God” (Jeremiah 3:25).
- 4. They strove futilely to cover their shame**, as does all humanity. “They sewed fig leaves together” (Genesis 3:7). “For the greatness of thine iniquity are thy skirts discovered, and thy heels made bare. Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil” (Jeremiah 13:22b, 23). “There is none that doeth good, no, not one” (Romans 3:12b).
- 5. Their relief could be found only in the One against whom they sinned.** He alone could devise a covering. “Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them” (Genesis 3:21). “Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:10, 12).

(over)

6. The covering He devised involved a 4-step process:

1) The shedding of blood

“And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission” (Hebrews 9:22). “For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins” (Hebrews 10:4). “For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself” (Hebrews 9:26).

2) The death of an innocent victim

“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit (I Peter 8:18). “For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures” (I Corinthians 15:3). “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:6).

3) The removal of the victim’s covering. When the animals’ skins were taken to clothe Adam and Eve, their nakedness was transferred brutally to those animals.

“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him (II Corinthians 5:21). “Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed” (Isaiah 53:4, 5).

4) The transfer of the victim’s covering to the exposed transgressor.

“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him (II Corinthians 5:21). “But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin” (Romans 4:5-8). “And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification” (Romans 4:21-25).