

THE SALVATION OF ADAM AND EVE

Genesis 3:20-24

INTRODUCTION

Adam and Eve found nothing and lost everything ...

First seven verses of **Genesis 3** - temptation of Adam and Eve

- first act of human religion

vv.8-13 - interlude between entrance of sin and God's judgment

- we see the demonstration of the depravity of Adam and Eve
- God seeks after them
- we see the heart of a compassion Shepherd

vv.14-19 - God unfolds His judgment in His perfection and righteousness

v.15 - first gospel

Salvation is an act of God from beginning to end.

There is no chapter in the bible that more effectively reveals the source of all evil that is in the world.

READ Gen 3:20-24

Proposition: 3 Pillars of Salvation:

I. Faith

II. Substitution

III. Protection

These pillars are at the heart of the gospel message.

These three pillars separate biblical Christianity from every false belief system, religion, in the world.

First Pillar of Salvation ...

I. Faith 3:20

Point – Adam’s faith □ living faith, living Truth

Faith works. Lesson here is ‘Sola Fide – God Saves’.
Powerful picture of the truth that man can’t save him self
– **Gal 2:16; Eph 2:8-9**

But even in this context, the faith that saves works.
Luther – saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves is not alone.

Tozer – *“The Bible recognizes no faith that does not lead to obedience, nor does it recognize any obedience that does not spring from faith. The two are opposite sides of the same coin.”*

Proof – **Gen 3:20** – **“Now the man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all *the* living.”**

Adam named his wife the Hebrew name (*Chawwah*).
“**Eve**” comes from the Latin Vulgate combined with Germanic pronunciation.

God had actually already named the woman, together with the man
- “Adam” - **Gen 5:1-2**
“**Eve**” – “living” or “life”

“because she was the mother of all *the* living”

“the man called” - Moses, as he writes this, uses the present tense, to make it vivid

“she was” - at the end of the verse, Moses uses the past tense to capture the heart of Adam, because she was the mother of all the living.

Adam was a believer.

Life comes from God. God just pronounced His judgment which is death. Adam turns around and says life comes from God.

Point - Adam believes the word of God – in contrast to **vv. 1-7** where Eve believed the lie of Satan.

Adam's focus is **3:15**. Not **3:16-19**!

- contrast bitter heart of Cain after God's judgment in **Chapter 4**

Adam names his wife. Another aspect that shows his headship.

Illustration – Gal 3:24 “the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith.”

- the Law is our tutor, schoolmaster
- the judgment of God is our tutor to lead us to Christ so that we may be justified by faith
- the judgment of God in **vv.16-19** was a tutor that was used by God to bring Adam to Christ

Application – A.W. Tozer, The Old Cross and the New – *“The old cross is a symbol of DEATH. It stands for the abrupt, violent end of a human being. The man in Roman times who took the cross and started down the road has already said goodbye to his friends. He was not coming back. He was not going out to have his life re-directed; he was going out to have it ended. The cross made no compromise; modified nothing; spared nothing. It slew all of the man completely, and for good. It did not try to keep on good terms with the victim. It struck cruel and hard, and when it had finished its work, the man was no more.*

The race of Adam is under the death sentence. There is no commutation and no escape. God cannot approve any fruits of sin, however innocent they may appear, or beautiful to the eyes of men. God salvages the individual by liquidating him, and then raising him again to newness of life ...”

And here is his application:

“We, who preach the gospel, must not think of ourselves as public relations agents sent to establish good will between Christ and the world. We must not imagine ourselves commissioned to make Christ acceptable to big business, the press, or the world of sports, or modern entertainment. We are not diplomats, but prophets; and our message is not a compromise, but an ultimatum.”

Illustration – A decade or so ago, it was fashionable in some Christian circles to wear jewelry with “WWJD” inscribed.

Application – Remember, if you ask the question WWJD, remember that overturning the moneychangers tables and driving them out of the temple with whips is a possible answer.

Adam demonstrates his faith, by naming his wife “Eve”. He believes God’s promise.

Eve demonstrates her faith in Chapter 4 in how she names her children.

Faith, ...

Second Pillar of Salvation ...

II. Substitution 3:21

Point – If **3:15** is the point. **3:21** is the illustration.

All the elements of the Gospel are here, in embryonic form
... continuation of v. 15 ☺

Adam and Eve are in need of salvation that comes from without. God will do for them what they are unable to do for themselves.

Atonement →OT, NT

2 Components of Atonement: Propitiation, Expiation

A. Propitiation 3:21a

Point – the quenching of the wrath of God

- the very high cost of sin
- wages of sin is death (**Rom 6:23**)

The death of an innocent Substitute ☐ **John 1:29** – “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

Proof – Gen 3:21a – “And the LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife,”

Remember 3:7– First act of man trying to save himself; “I will do it myself”

- first act of manmade religion
- they try in utter folly to replace their previous radiant garments of innocence with fig leaves.

The clothing God provides is different from man’s attempt. Adam took leaves from an inanimate, unfeeling tree; God took an animal’s life. Adam learns sin can’t be covered by a bunch of leaves that will grow back again. Sin can only be covered by pain, blood and death.

“From the first sin to the last, the track of the sinner is marked with blood. The same lesson has been written on millions of consciences since. Men have found that their sin reaches beyond their own life and person, that it inflicts injury and involves disturbance and distress, that it changes utterly our relation to life and to God, and that we cannot rise above its consequences save by the intervention of God Himself.”

(Expositor’s Bible Commentary)

Heb 9:22 - “without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness”

1 John 2:1-2 - “My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; 2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for *those* of the whole world.

- quenching the wrath of God (liberals have a problem with this)
- understand the significance of what Adam and Eve have done

Illustration – Sacrificial system – **Lev 1:11-17** and **Lev 4:4** and forward

- the sacrificial system God set up with Israel was messy, painful

and bloody

- this is a picture of the cost of sin, the extent of sin, the radical pollution of sin

B. Expiation 3:21b

Point – definition – covering of sin

Proof – **Gen 3:21b** – “and clothed them.”

kaphar – the Hebrew word for “atonement” in **Exod 29, 30** and all through **Leviticus**

- means “to cover”

Contrast v. 7 – act of religion to **Isa 59**

- **Isa 59:6 - man cannot cover his sin, only God can do it**

They have one thing right, man should fear God’s presence in a state of nakedness **Heb 10:31; Luke 12**

v. 21 – salvation is an act of God from beginning to end

God clothed Adam and Eve. God covered their sin.

This is the beginning of Christ saying “**I am the way and the truth and the light**”.

This is the heart of what Paul was communicating in his letters to the Romans and to the Galatians.

Are Adam and Eve in heaven? Yes

Illustration – Imagine if I went into a bank and requested to open an account with a deposit \$540,000, the bank would be quite pleased to accommodate my request. However, if I handed over \$540,000 in Monopoly money, how far do you think I would get? I would probably be quickly escorted out of the bank. This is a whimsical picture of man’s attempt to earn salvation being like filthy rags. If Christ is not truly Lord and Savior and we are not trusting in Him alone for our salvation, no matter what religious

works we carry out, we are just trying to cover ourselves with ‘fig leaves’.

Faith, Substitution, ...

3rd Pillar of Salvation ...

III. Protection

3:22-24

Point – protection – NT teaching of doctrine of deliverance; when Christ would demonstrate His authority over disease, demons and death, He would deliver people from these things.

Proof – **Gen 3:22-23** – “**Then the LORD God said, ‘Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever’ --- ²³therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken.**”

v.22 - Intra-Trinitarian dialogue - dialogue among the members of the Trinity

“**the LORD God**” – unity

“**the man has become like one of Us**” – plurality (**1:1, 25**)

“**knowing good and evil**” – the lie that Satan had given to Eve
Adam and Eve found nothing and lost everything.

Freedom is not something Adam gains.

Freedom is something Adam loses.

“**and now, lest he stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever’ ---**” □ **ellipsis** - incomplete sentence

- this is not Moses losing his train of thought
- God is communicating that the thought of Adam and Eve in their sin corrupted state, eating from the tree of life and

perpetually living in that state without redemption, is too horrifying to complete that thought

- the idea of Adam and Eve living in the presence of God in such an unworthy manner is too unspeakable to even finish
- that is what that ‘dash’ means

God protects Adam and Eve from these two dangers:

- 1) living forever in a perpetual state of sinful corruption
- 2) living forever in the presence of God in unworthy fashion

“therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden,” → text identifies the primary reason for Adam and Eve’s banishment from the Garden is protection; not penalization

Illustration – Luke 22:31-32 – “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; ³²but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers”

- same dynamic here
- Peter did deny Christ but Christ held him so that he didn't fall too far
- nothing can separate a true believer from the love of God

Original call/mandate is still in effect →

“to cultivate the ground from which he was taken” – (2:5, 15)

Weight of this passage is protection, but there are still consequences for sin.

Point – Separation from Blessing

- Curse – banished from the place of Blessing

Proof – Gen 3:24 – **“So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim, and the flaming sword which turned every direction, to guard the way to the tree of life.”**

“**He drove the man out**” –

- not just geographical, spiritual as well
- access to God is prohibited for sinners in a sinful state –
Tabernacle in **Numbers 1:51, 53** – Levite guards of the
Tabernacle instructed to kill anyone who would approach in an
unworthy fashion

“**cherubim**” – a specific rank of angels – they are mentioned 65
times in the Bible

- guarding Ark of Covenant (**Exod 25:18-22**), Holy of Holies
(**Exod 26:1, 31**)

“**and the flaming sword which turned every direction**”

- whirling or revolving □ Point □ NO Access!

First example of consequences for sin even after confession of sin

Illustration – Psa 51 – a magnificent psalm of true repentance
written by David but there were still consequences

- would not build temple, sword will never depart from his house

Application – When you approach God, you will still find the
flaming sword. He is a righteous God and never anything else. If
we go to him by Jesus Christ alone there is immunity from the
guillotine.

There is no chapter in the bible that more effectively reveals the
source of all evil that is in the world.

CONCLUSION

Adam and Eve are **saved** at this point, their **nakedness** is **covered**,
but there is a very important **element missing** before that tree can
be eaten of

The “One” who will crush head of the evil one has not yet come (at
this point in the text).

Where as the thought of someone eating from the tree of life in a state of sinful corruption is unthinkable at the end of our text in Genesis.

In the new heavens and earth, to those who by faith, have had a substitution made on their behalf, Christ will say, come little one, come and eat freely from the tree of life.

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