

FIG LEAVES DO NOT DEAL WITH SIN!
GENESIS CH3:21-24

RE-CAP!

Both the Old Testament and the New Testament ascribes Moses as the writer of the first five Books of the Bible (the Pentateuch – Exodus Ch17:14; Deuteronomy Ch31:24; Joshua Ch8:31; 2 Kings Ch14:6; John Ch1:17, Ch5:46, Ch7:19, 23; Romans Ch10:5; 2 Corinthians Ch3:15). The account opens with a clear statement about the Creator and Creation. The opening ten words in Genesis Ch1:1 are the **foundation** of all that is to follow in the Bible. The purpose of the statement is threefold:

1. to identify the creator
2. to explain the origin of the world
3. to tie the work of God in the past (creation) to the work of God in the future (salvation)

ILLUSTRATION

In response to a generic question about the five most important things in peoples lives, respondents stated the following 5 things:

1. relationships with family
2. health
3. the health of others
4. finances
5. standard of living (Cited in Social Science and Medicine – Volume 41, November 1995)

The purpose of the Garden was to provide a context for human beings to live with God, **but because of sin, the context has to change!!**

GOD'S EXCHANGE! V21

Can you remember what happened back in Ch2:7? **”And they sowed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.”** Both of them were aware of their nakedness and tried their best to cover it up. You see their nakedness was not just **physical**, but also **psychological!** Their nakedness reminded them both of their sin and of their broken relationship with God! By deliberately disobeying God, the humans tried doing “good works” (v7) taking the fig leaves to **“engineer”** suitable coverings, before being **“evasive”** (v8) and then making **“excuses”** (v12+13).

Fig leaves do not deal adequately with sin and any outward acts by human beings, without Christ at their centre, are just “good works” (aka fig leaves!).

Only God can adequately deal with human sin! Because God is righteous and just (Gen Ch18:25; Deut Ch32:4; Is Ch45:19), He must judge sin! Because God is love (John Ch14:31; John Ch17:24; 1 John Ch4:8), He must give grace to the sinner!

So how will God deal with their sin adequately?

The Book of Hebrews says “Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.” There has to be a blood sacrifice! The taking of an innocent for the trespasser! Adam and Eve witness the physical death of an innocent for their transgressions! **The garments of skin through the sacrifice of an innocent, provide “a righteous robe” for both Adam and Eve (Zec**

Ch3:4; Matt Ch22:11; Luke Ch15:22; Rom Ch3:21-26; Gal Ch3:27; Rev Ch19:8)!

There have now been 3 deaths! A spiritual death because of Adam and Eve's sin, the promise of physical death because of sin (Ch3:19) and the sacrifice of an animal to provide "righteous clothing" because of sin. ***The death of the animal to provide clothing, is a glimpse into the future, of the continuing need for innocent blood to be spilt to cover human sin!***

GOD'S EXILING! V22-23

Having sinned, Adam and Eve are now exiled from God's Garden into a world where they will have to earn their living through the sweat of their brow, significant pain in child birth, war with Satan, pain in marriage, all before returning to dust! What a picture!

Their exile from the presence of God in His Garden is permanent! Perfect paradise on earth is lost! Adam and Eve have now become like God in knowing good and evil, and as such the "Tree of Life" must be protected from the sinners! If they now take from this tree, they will have eternal life without their sinful nature being dealt with! ***So exile and the protection of the Tree of life starts!***

GOD'S EXPELLING! V24

With the word "east" look at what happens the more that sin increases, the greater the distance from the Garden of God becomes - Ch3:24, Ch4:16, Ch11:2 + Ch13:11. And why Cherubim?



Cherubim are stationed at the east-side of the garden, with a flaming sword representing the holiness and justice of God (Jeremiah Ch47:6; Ezekiel Ch21). ***They are mentioned 65 times in the Bible, with 1 of those times in the New Testament (Exodus Ch25:18-22 + Ch37:7-9; Psalm 99:1; Ezekiel Ch10:1-22; Rev Ch4:6-10).*** But why Cherubim? Ezekiel Ch10:1-22 sheds some light on this, placing the Cherubim in the Tabernacle and Temple, either side of the mercy seat, situated above the Ark of the Covenant, where God would meet with the High Priest on the Day of Atonement, once a year!

The Cherubim would be on guard at the Meeting Place of God, in the Holy of Holies. Unlike the angel Gabriel, sent on messages by God these heavenly creatures protected the Meeting Place of God! Where was God's initial place for meeting with man? In the Garden of God in Eden! This now needed to be protected by the Cherubim, until someone worthy of God could provide the ultimate sacrifice to God for the sins of Human Beings (John Ch1:29)!

APPLICATION

How do you understand the "garments of skins" that God provided?