

Genesis 3:20ff; April 21, 2025 -Men's Monday Morning Bible Study

Review and Intro: Last time we looked at the fall and beginnings of the curse.

Today, we will see how God's word is a complete narrative of His plan for mankind. The beginning and end of the Bible, Genesis and Revelation, have much in common.

Text:

Modern commentators are quick to point out the parallels between the situation in the garden and the tabernacle and temple that would come later. The idea is that man is a priest, tending to the abode of God (the garden).

V20 -21 outline two events of grace whereby the two would not immediately die:

V20 First, Eve was named as the mother of all the living. Before, she is just called "woman." Mankind will be preserved and multiplied by the work of the woman. She is God's evangelistic tool to save humanity. This endures to our day and we as the church would do well to remember and encourage this. Historically, the primary, not exclusive, form of evangelism, was having babies. For most Christians, the only people they will ever lead to Christ will be their children. If everyone does this and has lots of children, we are not just good but we will do great. Again, as has been said many times, we need to recover this truth and breed out the nonsense in our society and rebuild thusly. This means encouraging our men and women to marry and have (lots of) children. Raise them in the fear and admonition of the Lord (Eph 6:4). Teach your children to do the same. We must recover the Christian view of the world, and the family.

Eve is called the mother of all the living as a means of grace in light of their sin, they would not all die. That is the first act of grace here in this passage.

V21 Second, Yahweh God made skinned garments for them to wear. Something had to die for their nakedness to be covered. This is the first sacrifice. The skins provided not only cover but protection from the new harsh world. See also Lev. 7:8.

Both ideas of a covering being necessary for priests (Ex 20:25, 28:42), and animal sacrifice parallel the Mosaic commands for ministry in the tabernacle. Man is indeed intended to represent God to his family and to the world. In this sense, we are priests. Israel was supposed to be that (Ex 19:6). Isaiah (61:6) prophesied a coming time that they would all be priests and ministers before the Lord and eat the fruit of the nations. Peter (1Pt 2:5 & 9) picks up on the theme and applies it to all believers in Jesus. John's apocalypse repeats the theme multiple times (Rev 1:6, 5:10, 20:6). He echoes Peter's idea that all believers are priests forever unto God. This all indicates that this was the original intent and design that was thwarted and corrupted in the fall. When things are restored and made new, man is a priest before God and collectively, all His people are a nation and kingdom of priests.

This further confirms the creation mandate (Gen 1:26-28) that mankind is to represent God to the world as His image and viceregent.

However, God having "made" the garments has a salvific overtone. God had previously ceased from His work but now He is working again to cover man's sin.

V22 "us" common reference point about the Trinity.

Recognition of man's knowledge of good and evil.

God's banishment from the garden, "lest he eat of the tree of life and live forever."

V23 God sends them out of the garden to cultivate the land.

V24 "He drove them out" indicating that Adam and Eve were forced out against their will.

Additionally, God puts "cherubim," multiple angelic beings, to guard the tree of life so that they could not eat of the tree of life. The cherubim's golden wings were on the cover of the ark of the covenant inside the tabernacle (Ex 25:18-22; 37:7-9) and also were on the curtains of the holy of holies (Ex 26:1, 31; 36:8,35). Solomon also had carved cherubim in the temple in the most holy place (1Kings 6:23-29; 7:29,36). These were ten cubits high each (about fifteen feet).

The physical appearance of cherubim is odd (Ez. 1; 10:14; 41), having four faces, including a man, a lion, an ox, and an eagle. They also have wheels and eyes on wings and are depicted differently in different places. Satan, may indeed be a cherub (Ez 28:14&17). The faces are probably symbolic. The wings number four. They are contrasted with the seraphim that have six wings (Is 6).

The purpose of the cherubim (plural) is to keep Adam out of the place he was originally intended to occupy and develop. This, along with the presence of the flaming sword, is a sign of judgment. Man has been excommunicated from the place he should have been tending and cultivating.

However, this tree is seen again in the end of the Bible Its access is granted to those who persevere (Rev 2:7). Additionally, all believers are said to be given perpetual sustenance (Rev 22:2, 14, & 19)

Conclusion:

We should remember and take seriously the priestly character of our design and destiny. We would do well to view ourselves as having such a solemn and important role. This gives us meaning and purpose before God and men. The threefold division of family, church, and civil life also applies. We are the priests to each of these spheres bringing the presence of God to bear on each area accordingly.

You are God's man in these areas that he has placed you in. Don't shrink back. Take hold of the purpose for which you were created. Do it with boldness and humility. Do it as unto the LORD with excellence and gratitude.

To Him be the glory and honor and power, both now and forevermore. For the sake of Christ, His covenant and kingdom. Amen.

Closing Prayer:

Father, thank You for Your provision of Jesus who covers our sin. Thank you for giving us a holy calling and purpose. Help us to faithfully execute that position. In Jesus' name, Amen.