

**Genesis 3:8-21**  
Curse, Grace and Gospel

*Prototypes ...*

I. The Couple in Question

- A. Inquiry: *Painful and Penetrating*
- B. Answers: *Classic Blame-shift*

II. The Serpent Addressed

- A. Cursed: *Eat Dust*
- B. Crushed: *Meet Jesus*

III. The New Lot of Man

- A. Pain + Discontent
- B. DEATH

IV. The Love of God

- A. A Covering
- B. The Christ

*... and the Gospel.*

**Children, Listen ...**

1. Why were Adam and Eve hiding from God?
2. Were Adam, Eve and Satan all guilty?
3. What did the Lord say the offspring of Eve would do to the serpent?
4. Who was it that would finally come to do that to him?
5. What did God make for Adam and Eve?

**Proto-Evangelium**

It may just be a fancy, Latin way of saying the “first gospel,” but proto-evangelium describes precisely the two extraordinary positive elements of this otherwise disturbing text. The fact that Adam and Eve didn't drop dead on the spot is positive in itself and an act of God's gracious restraint. But we see that it is more than just that. He has a better plan to restore the fallen race – in fact it includes in it the promise of generations to come. One particular “offspring,” unique among all humanity, would come to do battle with sin, Satan and even death itself. Though he would come many generations later in “the fullness of time,” God would send forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law.” He would be the Son of God and the Son of Man – His name as you know is Jesus! He came to redeem his people from their enemies by thoroughly conquering them and sharing His victory with them. He overcame sin by perfect obedience. Though the serpent struck his heel – He crushed his head with a fatal blow. And he overcame death, not returning to dust, but seeing no decay, he rose again on the third day. This would require the shedding of His blood -and even this is indicated by the fact that sacrificial blood was shed to make a covering for our first parents – so we are covered by Christ giving Himself for us and becoming a covering for our sinful selves. How like our gracious and merciful God to respond to unworthy sinners the way he did in those dark moments of the Garden. How thankful we can be that the same God announces that salvation in the fullness of His Gospel these so many years later –truly the power of salvation to all who believe.