

Genesis 3:8-24

"Sin's Penalty, God's Provision"

Satan's lie is that *sin* isn't *bad* & that *God* isn't *good*. He wants you to believe that you can sin against God & something good will actually come of it, that you will somehow & in some way achieve personal *gain* through going *against* the word of God.

God had told Adam that on the day he partook of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good & evil that dying, he would surely die. However Satan (in speaking to the woman) spun the word of God that sought to *protect* them so that it actually appeared to *penalize* them. "God told you that you would die if ate that fruit? You're not going to die, your eyes will be opened, & you'll be like God knowing good & evil." He was introducing doubt, enticing her desires, leading her to disobey. Hey; let's not forget that to *doubt* God's word is but a step away from *disobeying* God's word... Look at Vs 6

Vs 6-7

You see, sin promises *pleasure* initially but brings *pain* ultimately. Satan promised liberation, self-actualization, but what came of their decision was alienation, separation, mistrust & reservations. Far from being made *like* God, they found themselves separated & hiding from God. Good is *never gained* by disobeying God.

When they partook of that fruit they experienced a spiritual death (alienation & separation from God) *instantly* & simultaneously the *process* of death began in them *physically*. In Vs 7 we see the effect of the inversion that took place as man's spirit died & his flesh (or bodily appetites) began to dominate his life...

The bible teaches that God is what we might refer to as a "Superior Trinity" (Father, Son, Holy Spirit). Being created in His image/likeness man was created as what we might refer to as an "inferior trinity" (spirit, soul & body). The real you is spirit, you live in a body & you possess a consciousness (or a soul). So, God being Father, Son, Holy Spirit; man being spirit, soul & body, man met or communed w/God on the level (for lack of a better way to say it) of the spirit. Jesus said to the woman at the well, "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."¹ So w/man's spirit uppermost there was a beautiful communion & fellowship w/God.

However, when man obeyed the appetites of the flesh in eating of this tree in direct defiance to God's word; an inversion took place.

¹ The New King James Version. (1982). [In 4:24]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Now, rather than being spirit, soul & body (w/the spirit dominant, the appetites of the flesh dormant & the mind seeking to appease the desire of the spirit), man's sin caused an inversion. Now the appetites of the flesh (or bodily appetites) are dominant, the spirit is dormant (or dead in sin, out of touch w/God, not seeking after God) & the mind is seeking to appease the desires & drives of the flesh. It's the desires of the flesh that now rule over man...

Perhaps you recall that when Paul was writing to the Ephesians he said, *"And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others."*² We're *by nature* children of wrath being *born* in this inverted way of body soul & spirit. Of course that's why Jesus told Nic (in John Ch 3) we've got to be *born* again. We've been born once after the flesh, but we have to be born again after the Spirit; there needs to be another inversion...

How does it happen? Through faith in J.C... Through faith in Christ we're brought back to God's original intent of spirit, soul & body; we now have a relationship w/God, connecting w/Him, communing w/Him in *spirit* & truth. (That's not to say that we won't struggle w/sin. We won't be like Him until we see Him as He is, [we're certainly a work in progress] but in Christ we've regained a "God consciousness"). We want to lead lives that are pleasing to God, we want to walk in harmony & in fellowship w/God. God has made us alive again in spirit & it's a whole new life...

That's why once you come to Christ all your friends wonder what happened to you 😊. They say things like, "Man you've changed." You bet you've changed! You've been born again, you're a new creation in Christ Jesus (praise God?! You've been made alive to God in Christ & now you're walking in the Spirit & they're still walking in the flesh & things just don't connect between you like they used to; you're on 2 different levels, (one is setting their mind on the things of the flesh & the other the things of the Spirit).

But all of that (sin/death, conflict between the flesh & the Spirit) began back in Genesis when Adam partook of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good & evil & mankind was plunged into death; the spirit of man died & there was now separation between God & man...notice Vs 8

² The New King James Version. (1982). (Eph 2:1-3). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Vs 8

What a beautiful picture spoiled by sin. They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day. They knew that God would want to be w/them; they heard Him coming *toward* them; it's stated in such a casual manner that it leads us to assume that this wasn't a first time experience. They met in the cool of the day, they would walk together, spend time w/each other. *It was consistent, persistent, even as we should have a consistency & persistency to our time spent w/the Lord. It's a very close-knit, intimate kind of scene. But sadly we see that now that sin has entered the equation, rather than running toward Him, blessed & blown away to spend time w/Him, they actually seek to run from Him, to hide from Him.*

Adam & his wife; once close to God, now trying to distance themselves from God; sin *destroys* intimacy w/God. BTW, when it speaks of the Lord God coming to spend time w/them we understand this to be a *theophany* (at OT manifestation of Jesus prior to the incarnation in Bethlehem). *We know it wasn't the Father because the bible declares that no man has seen the Father at any time but the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him (Jn 1:18). However we see God come down & visit man more than once throughout the OT, be it here, or w/Abe or Joshua, or Jacob etc, so we realize that this would be God in the Person of J.C., manifesting Himself to Adam & Eve, fellowshiping w/them, communing w/them.*

But now something is different; they're not there, they've hidden themselves. This tells us that they knew that their own attempt to cover themselves failed. They didn't come running up & say, "Hey, look at these awesome fig-leaf outfits we put together!" *They knew their coverings were completely inadequate/insufficient before God, man can't deal w/sin through self-effort, & they were embarrassed & ashamed. Vs 6 shows us their sin, Vs 7 their shame, & Vs 8, their separation from God.*

But notice, did God pull a "no show", no, He was there, they were the one's who created the distance. Isaiah said, *"Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God;"*³ God didn't hide from them; they hid from Him. Or at least they sought to right? Question, can you ever truly hide from God? We read in the 94th Ps, *"He who planted the ear, shall He not hear? He who formed the eye, shall He not see?"*⁴

³ The New King James Version. (1982). (Is 59:1-2). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁴ The New King James Version. (1982). (Ps 94:9). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

The Proverbs tell us that the eyes of the Lord are in every place; keeping watch on the evil & the good (Prov 15:3). In the book of Jeremiah God said, *“Can anyone hide himself in secret places, So I shall not see him?” says the Lord; ‘Do I not fill heaven and earth?’ says the Lord.”*⁵ Where are you going to go so that God can’t see? That place doesn’t exist, the night shines as the day, they’re both alike to God (Ps 139).

But sin makes you want to cower away, try to hide, we want to cover it up. When David sinned w/Bathsheba he tried to hide it, sought to cover his sin...how did that work out for him? Not so great; it wasn’t until he was called into the light & confessed his sin that he found forgiveness & reconciliation w/God. What does the bible say? *“He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.”*⁶

Vs 9

Question, is Adam seeking after God? Or is God seeking after Adam? This is Divine initiative. God always initiates our relationship w/Him. The bible declares, *“There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.”*⁷ Man doesn’t seek after God, we try to run & hide from God; God seeks after us. Jesus said, *“You did not choose Me, but I chose you...”* (Jn 15:16)

So God cries out to Adam, “Where are you?” It’s not the interrogation of an angry officer; it’s the heartfelt cry of an anguished father. Now, God knew where Adam was; but He was giving Adam the opportunity to come forward & confess; sin separates us from God. But if we will repent/confess our sin, He’s faithful & just to forgive us of our sin & cleanse us of all unrighteousness. God knew where he was; he was lost. The Evangelist Billy Sunday used to say that sinners can’t find God for the same reason criminals can’t find policemen: they aren’t looking! There are none who seek after God, but praise God Jesus said that He came to *seek & to save* that which was *lost* (Luke 19:10).

Vs 10-13

Notice again back in Vs 10 that sin made Adam afraid of God’s presence, afraid of God’s voice, he didn’t want to hear God’s word, what God would say. Even so, since the time of Adam, men have sought to run from God’s presence & have sought to silence God’s word. Rather than running *to* God in repentance, we seek to run *from* God in fear.

Adam tells God that he was afraid, because he was naked (notice, no mention of his efforts to cover himself, he knew it was a futile effort in the presence of God) so he hid himself.

⁵ The New King James Version. (1982). (Je 23:24). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁶ The New King James Version. (1982). (Pr 28:13). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁷ The New King James Version. (1982). (Ro 3:10-11). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

God said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?” Notice, it wasn’t a wardrobe problem, it was a *sin problem*; the recognition of nakedness wasn’t the problem, it was the symptom. **The problem was Adam’s defiance & disobedience to God’s word. “I commanded you not to eat of that tree, is that what you’ve done?”** Again God knew, but **He’s extending to Adam the opportunity to confess.**

Adam could’ve repented right then & there, but he didn’t, what did he do instead? Check it out, “passing the buck” is as old as is sin itself. He seeks to deflect the attention off of himself & place the blame on Eve (ultimately upon *God* who gave her to him). He says, “The woman whom You gave to be w/me, she gave me of the tree, & I ate.” **He doesn’t accept the responsibility for his own actions; he blames her, he blames God... it’s anyone’s fault but his own... Things haven’t changed much have they? Not only should he have accepted accountability for his own actions, he should’ve received the responsibility for his part in her sin as well; he was the God given leader of their family...**

God turns to the woman, “What is this you’ve done?” She says, “the serpent deceived me, & I ate.” Well, at least she didn’t blame God but she still refused to acknowledge that what she did, she did of her own choosing. **She says, “The devil made me do it.” We talked about this last week, the devil doesn’t *make* anyone do anything. He can set you up, but he can’t make you fall, that’s a personal choice for which we are all accountable.** James said, **“Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am tempted by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.”**⁸ You see, we can’t blame anyone else for our choice to sin; we’re drawn away by *our own desires* & enticed. **But we’re masters at shifting the blame, deflecting the focus, “it’s not my fault, I’m a product of environment, it’s because of the way I was raised...my dad did this, so I do that...”** on & on it goes. God says, **“Your choice, is *your choice*.” We’re each responsible for our own sin.**

Don’t be deceived, God is not mocked, if we sow to the wind, we will reap the whirlwind.

Vs 14-15

Notice that when it came to the serpent God didn’t ask any questions. There was nothing to teach him, Satan had already rebelled against God & had been judged *by* God.

⁸ The New King James Version. (1982). [Jas 1:13-14]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

So He simply begins to divulge the ramifications due the situation. The 1st thing God does is to take action against the animal that Satan used to bring the temptation. Now rather than propelling itself as it previously had, it would be cursed to slither on the ground & eat dust all the days of it's life. **Eating dust carries the idea of total defeat (Is 65:25, Micah 7:17) God's judgment against Satan is for him to always know defeat; he's never going to win, oh there may be battles he will win, but the war he's already lost...**

I can't imagine the terror that must've been struck into Adam/Eve's heart seeing this once beautiful creature transformed into the slithering, hissing snake we know today... They must of thought, "What is God going to do to us!?" "We're next!"

Now there would be enmity/hostility between the woman & the serpent, between his seed & her Seed; He shall bruise (or crush) your head & you shall bruise His heel...

Of course here we have what's referred to as "Protevangelium", or "the 1st Gospel". From sin's penalty we're taken to God's provision; that a Redeemer would be provided; His "heel" would be struck by Satan, but Christ would deliver the "death blow" upon the cross. **The mention of "her Seed" is an allusion to the virgin birth, women don't carry the seed, they carry the egg that's fertilized by the seed. In order for a woman to carry a Seed, there has to be something *unnatural* something *supernatural* taking place.**

We spoke in our introductory remarks about the progressive revelation of the gospel throughout scripture. It unfolds in greater detail as time goes by, here is the initial mention: the virgin will conceive & bear a Son, & shall call His name "Immanuel" (or "God w/us").

But we're also seeing here the fact that there would be a long standing rivalry between good & evil, "her Seed" (God's offspring) & "his seed" (Satan's offspring). Read your NT family (John 8:42-47, Matt 13:24-30, 36-43, 1 John 3:10). The bible makes it very clear that Satan has children of his own, counterfeits that he plants to try & thwart the purposes of God. Good & evil will war, but ultimately good will crush evil; Satan will be overcome & God will reign victoriously, praise God?

Vs 16

Satan said that sin would bring pleasure; the reality was it brought sorrow & pain. Sometimes people are confronted w/the problem of pain, the struggle of suffering, wondering why it has to be this way... **Why is there death, disease, decay & disillusionment w/life? Will it be like this forever? Now you know; God didn't create us this way, our sin has brought these consequences, yet God won't allow it to go on forever. In Christ we have a living hope.**

The day is coming (Rev 21:4), *"God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."*⁹ God will make all things new, for now there is a struggle, good & evil, life & death...in this world we will experience tribulation, but be of good cheer, Christ has overcome the world...(Jn 16:33)

God says that the woman's sorrow would be greatly multiplied. W/out exception the sorrow of the woman throughout history exceeds that of man. Any culture that's not influenced by Christ you find women being oppressed, or treated as 2nd class if not property. Her sorrow exceeds the man's.

We also see that for the woman, her desire would be for her husband, & he shall rule over you. Couple thoughts here, ladies you ever wonder why you just want to spend time w/him but he always has something else to do? He was cursed to toil (as we'll see), your desire is for him. But this also speaks of the conflict of roles w/in the marriage union. It can be difficult for the woman to embrace the man's role as the leader of the home/family.

The word "desire" here is the same word used in Gen 4:7 of the desire of sin to master Cain. Because of the curse Eve would have to resist the desire to master her husband, how many homes do you see where the man isn't really given his rightful place but the lady rules that roost? That goes against God's ordained order; God states it again right here, "You're gonna want to rule the roost, but I've given that role/responsibility to your husband." Now it was already this way before the fall (Gen 2:18, 22) but the curse would make it much harder for her to submit & flow w/God's ordained order.

Vs 17-19

Words associated w/ sin? "Sorrow, pain, desire, rule, cursed, toil, sweat; death". She wants to know why he won't take time to talk, & he doesn't understand why she doesn't appreciate the 3 jobs he's seeking to hold down to provide for his family...

They sinned by eating, now he would have to toil to eat. She manipulated Adam, she would be mastered by Adam, the serpent was instrumental in the fall, he would be brought down to the ground & destroyed. Work wasn't part of the curse, but the toil, the sweat, the labor involved, thorns & thistles; they're the result of the curse. Ultimately death itself, as Adam tilled the soil he'd be reminded, "For dust you are, & to dust you shall return."

⁹ The New King James Version. (1982). (Re 21:4). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Vs 20

Up to this point the woman had never been called Eve, now she has a name. The name? “Life”, Eve, the mother of all living... Now check this out, she wasn’t a mother at all at this point, she wasn’t even pregnant... What’s my point? Adam heard God’s word (Vs 15) & believed by faith that God would provide a Savior, a Deliverer would be brought forth from the woman. He heard the gospel, believed God & responded in faith. God said that Satan would be defeated through the Seed of the woman. This is called “Saving faith”, you’re gonna meet Adam & Eve in heaven. They were saved just like you are & just like I am, by grace through faith.

Vs 21

God didn’t want them naked, didn’t want them constantly condemned in shame over their sin of which they’d repented. So what did He do, He “covered them” not w/leaves, w/skins, which points to what? Sacrifice, (another 1st) there was the shedding of blood, the innocent that died for the guilty, substitutionary/vicarious death was demanded. **Apart from the shedding of blood there is no remission (Heb 9:22) What animals were sacrificed? We don’t know. My suspicion? Lambs. A foreshadowing of what was to be fulfilled in the Person of J.C. , the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.**

Once they repented God clothed them w/His provision. Even so once we repent we’re robed (not in our own efforts [figleaves]) in the righteousness of Christ (His provision).

Vs 22-24

Another picture of God’s grace, He didn’t pour out His wrath upon them (He saved that for His own Son upon the cross on our behalf), but rather He covered them (a free gift) & kept them from the tree of life. God loved us enough to not let us live forever in this sinful, miserable, decrepit fallen state.

Instead He promised a Savior, a Redeemer who offers to us the bread of life. Everlasting life is God’s free gift through faith in J.C. If we will see our sin for what it is, confess it, turn from it & trust in Jesus (not justifying ourselves or blaming anyone else) God will robe us in the righteousness of Christ.

Jesus bore the curse, toil & sweat (He sweat great drops of the blood in another garden [gethsemane]) thorns (He was crowned w/thorns) death entered at a tree, & life entered at the tree of Calvary; as He suffered the penalty of death upon the cross. Sin’s penalty, God’s provision in J.C.

Prayer Points:

God You're so good; no sooner than we sinned You were there w/the promise of a Savior, & surely Jesus bore our sins, the full weight of the curse that we might be redeemed. Now we belong to You, we want to walk w/You, worship You in spirit & truth; strengthen us to be obedient to Your word, to walk in the Spirit being light in this dark world.

If you've not come to Christ, if you've been running from Christ, than I want to encourage you today, there's no where you can go but that He doesn't see you. He knows you & He loves you. He's seeking after you & desires to reconcile you to Himself through the work of the cross. Jesus said that He was the resurrection & the life; whoever believes in Him though he may die, yet shall he live. Life in Christ Jesus can be yours today, turn from your sin, trust in Jesus.