

Genesis 3

The first two chapters of Genesis tell us about the creation of the universe. When God originally created the world it was perfect in every way. There was no sin, or sorrow, or death. Everything in the world was good! In fact, God Himself pronounced it as being “very good” (Genesis 1:31).

Sadly, the paradise that God created didn't remain unspoiled for very long. Sin soon entered into the world and brought with it an enormous amount of misery and pain. All of the problems that we face today – including sickness, disease, death, and war – can be traced back to that first sin in the Garden of Eden. Why is the world such a bad place? It's because mankind sinned and turned the world into a bad place. Why do so many terrible things happen? It's because mankind chose to reject God and embrace a life of sin. God created a perfect world and mankind broke it. Some people blame God for the evil that takes place in this world, but the truth is *we* are the ones who are responsible. Mankind chose sin over God, and we have been living with the consequences of that terrible choice ever since.

The good news is that one day God will create a new and better world where there will never again be any sickness or pain or death (Revelation 21:1-4). However, the cost of our salvation was very high. It took the shed blood of God's perfect Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to pay the ransom for our sins.

Let's take a look at the Fall of Man and see what happened.

Before the Fall

Genesis 3 begins with the serpent tempting Eve to eat the forbidden fruit, but that's not really the beginning of the story. The story actually starts before this, with a different fall into sin.

In the beginning God created a cherub named Lucifer.

This angel was perfect in beauty and was the highest ranking angel:

Ezekiel 28:12-14: “Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.”

Even though this passage seems to be talking about the King of Tyrus it's actually referring to the devil. No human king in Ezekiel's day had ever set foot in Eden! This passage is talking about what Satan was like *before* he fell and became the devil. God created him as a perfect being. Satan was full of wisdom and perfect in beauty, and he was arrayed in precious stones.

Verse 14 tells us that he was “the anointed cherub that covereth”. Cherubs are one of the different types of angels. All of the cherubs were stationed below the throne of God, except for the covering cherub. That angel was stationed *above* God's throne and acted as a covering. This means the covering cherub was the highest rank of cherub – which means Satan was created to be the highest ranking angel.

At first Satan was perfect, but then he became proud. That led to his downfall:

Ezekiel 28:15-17: “Thou wast perfect in thy

ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.”

Satan's beauty led to pride, and he decided to exalt himself still further:

Isaiah 14:12-14: “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.”

The devil (who was originally called Lucifer, which according to Strong's Concordance means “light-bearer”) decided that he wanted to be God. The gifts, beauty, position, and wisdom that God had given him weren't enough for him; he desired more. His pride led to rebellion and one third of the angels joined him.

No one knows when this happened, but it must have been soon after the angels were created. There wasn't much time between the creation of the universe (and the angels) on the first day of creation and Satan's temptation of Eve in the Garden of Eden. By the time Eve was tempted, Satan had already fallen and

become the deceiver.

The devil wasn't content to corrupt a third of God's angels. He was determined to corrupt mankind as well – which brings us back to the Garden of Eden.

That Old Serpent

Genesis 3 begins with a villain entering the picture:

Genesis 3:1a: “Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. . .”

Eve was tempted by a serpent. The Bible tells us that the serpent was the most “subtil” beast that God had created. The word “subtil” is Strongs #6175. It means “cunning (usually in a bad way)” and “crafty”. Since the serpent tempted Eve and persuaded her to eat the Forbidden Fruit, we can see that this truly was a very crafty and cunning creature.

We also know that this was more than just an animal. The book of Revelation tells us who the serpent really was:

Revelation 12:9: “And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”

Who was the serpent that deceived Eve? It was the devil – and his goal is to deceive the whole world.

Genesis 3 tells us that the serpent talked to Eve, which is a bit strange. Snakes don't usually do a lot of talking! However, if the serpent was actually the devil (as the book of Revelation says) then that would explain why it could talk.

Another question is why Eve didn't run off screaming when a serpent tried to talk to her. It's worth noting that at this

point the whole world was new. *We* know that snakes don't talk, but Eve may have been just a couple days old when this happened. She might not have had enough experience with animals to know what they didn't ordinarily do. On top of that, she lived in a world where there was no danger. No one ever got hurt or died. Why should she have been afraid of anything? Fear wasn't a part of life.

Hath God Said?

The serpent began by asking Eve a question:

Genesis 3:1b: “. . . And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”

The devil wanted mankind to fall into sin. In order to do that, mankind needed to do the one thing that had God forbidden: eat of the forbidden fruit of the Tree of Knowledge. So the devil begins by seeing if Eve had been paying attention. “Did God *really* say that you can't eat of every tree?”

Satan may have been hoping that Eve had forgotten about the commandment. Then his job would be easy: Eve would just say no and eat it, and it would be over. You see, God holds people responsible for sins committed in ignorance. Even if you don't realize that what you're doing is a sin, *it's still a sin!* In the Mosaic Law there was a special sacrifice required for sins which were committed in ignorance:

Leviticus 4:27-29: “And if any one of the common people sin through ignorance, while he doeth somewhat against any of the commandments of the Lord concerning things which ought not to be done, and be guilty; Or if his sin, which he hath sinned, come to his knowledge: then he shall bring his offering, a kid

of the goats, a female without blemish, for his sin which he hath sinned. And he shall lay his hand upon the head of the sin offering, and slay the sin offering in the place of the burnt offering.”

If you sinned in ignorance you were required to make a sin offering to cover your guilt. Even though you had no intention of sinning and didn't realize that activity was a sin, you were still guilty in the sight of God! The Lord doesn't say “Well, since you didn't know any better we'll pretend it never happened.” Nope. Instead He requires a sacrifice to purchase forgiveness for what you did.

If you think about it, this makes a great deal of sense. If ignorance was an excuse then we could all escape blame by destroying all the Bibles in the world and making sure no one knows what God's commandments are. After all, if we're all ignorant then we can't be held responsible for anything we do, right? But *that's not how it works!* Sins which are committed in ignorance are still sins.

If Eve had forgotten God's commandment and eaten the fruit it would have been a sin. However, Eve knew what God had commanded.

This is a principle we need to take to heart. The devil hasn't changed his approach to temptation. He will still come to us and say “Hath God said...?” That's why it's so important to know what the Word of God says. When the devil tempts us to sin, we must be able to say “Absolutely not! The Bible forbids that”. We can defeat the lies of the devil with the Word of God – but that's only possible if we know what the Word of God teaches.

Neither Shall Ye Touch It

Eve knew that God had commanded them to not eat that particular fruit:

Genesis 3:2-3: “And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.”

We can already see that there's a problem. Not only did Eve say they weren't allowed to eat from the tree, but she added that they couldn't touch it either. This is bad news because that's *not* what God said. Let's go back and take a look at His exact words:

Genesis 2:16-17: “And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”

Did God say they couldn't touch it? No, He didn't. That was *not* part of the commandment! Touching the tree would *not* bring death. Touching its fruit wouldn't bring death either. Death would only come if you *ate* of the tree. The Lord was very specific about this.

This matters more than it seems. Later in this conversation the serpent will say that God lied to her and Eve won't die after all. Eve will then touch the tree and its fruit, and she will see that the serpent was right: touching it didn't make her die. She then went ahead and ate of the fruit, and that's when everything went bad.

It seems that someone changed God's commandment and added restrictions to it. This was the wrong thing to do. If you go back and read Genesis 2 you'll see that God gave this commandment after placing Adam in the Garden of Eden, but before He created Eve. This means Eve wasn't there when God

told Adam not to eat of the tree. It's possible that Adam was the one who changed God's commandment, or it may be that Eve did that. Since the Bible doesn't tell us how that conversation went there's no way to tell. But we do know that someone changed it.

The tendency to add to God's commandments in order to make them more strict is still with us today. For example, in the Ten Commandments the Lord told the Israelites this:

Exodus 20:7: “Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.”

That's pretty simple, right? No blasphemy. Don't use the name of the Lord as a swear word. Treat God's name with the reverence and respect that it deserves. For the Jews, though, that wasn't enough. They decided the only way to keep that commandment was to never say the name of the Lord under any circumstances. To this day when many Jews write God's name they write G-d. That way they're never actually saying God's name at all.

Now, did God say “Don't ever say My name?” Of course not! God commanded people to treat His name with respect, but instead the Jews have treated it as some kind of unspeakable word which must never be uttered under any circumstances. That's not respect! That's offensive. Refusing to call someone by their name, and corrupting their name whenever it's written down, isn't *remotely* respectful to that person. Would you want someone to treat *you* that way? God never required anything like that! In fact, He never even suggested it.

Time and space doesn't permit us to explore the many ways that the Pharisees of Christ's day took the Law and added endless absurd restrictions to it. It's very easy for us to do the same thing. There are times when people aren't content to simply keep God's commandments. Instead they expand them to forbid things that God never forbade at all. But that's a discussion for another time.

Ye Shall Not Surely Die

When Eve told the serpent that the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge was forbidden on pain of death, the serpent told her that she was wrong:

Genesis 3:4-5: “And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.”

The devil doesn't provide any evidence that what he's saying is true. He simply asserts it! He tells Eve to trust him instead of God. He's claiming that God lied to her and is denying her something that's good and beneficial. If she just disobeys God then her life will become much better. The devil claims that disobedience is the path to enlightenment.

However, God never lied to Adam or Eve. God *never* lies:

Numbers 23:19: “God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?”

People lie all the time but God doesn't. Adam and Eve had no reason to distrust or disobey Him, and yet they decided to heed the words of the serpent anyway. Even though God had never withheld any good thing from them, Eve still believed the lie that God was somehow cruel and desired to harm her.

The devil is still telling the same lies today. We are still being told that God is holding out on us and if we're willing to sin then our life will get better. It often seems that sin is the easier road to take, but the truth is sin is devastating. The wages of sin is

death! Eating the forbidden fruit didn't make things better; instead it destroyed the whole world. It brought sin, death, pain, and incredible misery to *billions* of people. It was a terrible decision! It literally brought misery upon all of creation:

Romans 8:22: “For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.”

If Adam and Eve had obeyed God then they really *would* have had peace and happiness. If they had trusted God then all would have been well – but they didn't. Instead they chose to go their own way and do what they thought was best.

We are faced with that same decision in our own lives. What are we going to do? Are we going to trust God and be obedient, or are we going to sin? Do we trust God's judgment and faithfulness? When hard times come and we're faced with difficult choices, are we willing to have faith in God and see things through to the end?

Part of what the devil said was true: if they ate the fruit then they would indeed have their eyes opened. However, that was a *bad* thing, not a good thing. The devil didn't tell them about all the pain they would experience as a result! Instead he lied about it all and said that they wouldn't die – but they *did* die, didn't they?

When temptation comes into our lives it's often quick to tell us about the supposed benefits that we're going to get out of sinning, without mentioning the terrible and life-altering consequences. The truth is that sin carries a very high cost. We would be far better off to obey God and do what's right.

She Took The Fruit

This is where Eve made her fatal mistake. Instead of telling the serpent that she was going to obey God, Eve disobeyed. She gave in to temptation:

Genesis 3:6: “And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”

Eve saw that the serpent was right: the food was edible and looked appealing, and eating it would make one wise. So she disobeyed God and did the one thing God told her not to do. Eve ate the fruit, and then she gave it to her husband who ate it as well. Both of them had now sinned – and the consequences were incredibly far-reaching. They had brought death into the world and turned God's paradise into the planet full of sorrow that it is today.

Eve could have said no but she didn't. Adam could have said no but he didn't. Eve focused on the temptation instead of the commandment, and listened to the lies of the devil instead of the truth that came from God. That was her downfall. If she had obeyed God in spite of what the fruit looked like then she would have been fine. If she had trusted God's judgment instead of her own then none of this would have happened. But she didn't. Instead she followed her own desires and that destroyed everything.

Their Eyes Were Opened

Once Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit and fell into sin, the world changed. Instead of enjoying fellowship with God they tried to hide from Him:

Genesis 3:7-10: “And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the

voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.”

First they made clothing for themselves. That's often our first instinct: to seek to hid our sin and fix the problem ourselves. They didn't run to God when they had a problem; instead they trusted in themselves to find a solution. However, sin is a problem that is impossible for us to fix. Only God can forgive our sin! Our own efforts will always fail – just as Adam and Eve's efforts did.

Next, they tried to hide from the Lord. In the past they hadn't been ashamed to be in God's presence because they were innocent. Once they were stained with sin, they fled from the Judge of the universe. Previously there had been no fear, but now they were afraid. When God came into the Garden they didn't seek Him out. Instead they hid from His presence. Since they were in darkness they couldn't abide His light:

John 3:19-21: “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.”

When Adam and Eve were innocent they had no reason to hide. Now they tried to hide from the light so that it wouldn't expose what they had done.

But there was no hiding from God.

What Have You Done?

God immediately asked them what they had done:

Genesis 3:11: “And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?”

The Lord wasn't asking them this question because He was confused and wanted to know what was going on. God knows all things! He knew exactly what Adam and Eve had done. When God asks questions it's for *our* benefit, not for His. God already knows what happened, and He even knows what we're going to say before we say it.

Adam couldn't bring himself to admit what he had done. Instead he tried to place the blame on Eve:

Genesis 3:12: “And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.”

Not only did he blame his wife (instead of confessing that he had chosen to eat of the fruit), but he even tried to lay some of the blame on God – which was a terrible thing to do. Adam and Eve didn't get into this mess by obeying God and doing what He said; no, they fell into sin because they chose to sin. Adam didn't have to partake of the fruit! When Eve offered it to him he could have said no but he didn't. Adam wasn't an innocent party. He could have resisted the sin but he chose not to.

Next, God asked Eve what she had done. She also refused to take any personal responsibility and instead blamed someone else:

Genesis 3:13: “And the Lord God said unto the

woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.”

Eve didn't confess her sin or apologize for it. Instead she blamed the serpent. There's no trace of personal responsibility here – just more blame-shifting. If either of these people were sorry for what they had done, neither of them showed it by apologizing. Instead they blamed other people for their own actions.

If they were hoping that this would get them out of trouble they were about to be disappointed. You can't escape punishment for your sin by blaming someone else! God will always hold each of us responsible for the things we've done and will hold us accountable for it.

Judgment

Since a sin was committed, God passed judgment upon it and cursed each of the guilty parties. The Lord started with the serpent:

Genesis 3:14: “And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:”

Notice how the serpent was said to be in the same category as cattle! No one today would mistake a snake for a cow. After all, snakes have no legs and slither along on the ground. It seem that's *not* how they were originally created, though. There was apparently a time when snakes were quite different from the way they are today! Their modern appearance is a result of the curse that God placed upon them. Serpents would no longer be like other cattle. Instead they were forced to slither along the

ground.

The Lord cursed the devil as well:

Genesis 3:15: “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”

This is the first Messianic prophecy in the Bible. The phrase “her seed” is singular. It's talking about one specific individual, not a line of people. The individual who God was talking about is Jesus Christ. God was telling Adam and Eve that one day the Messiah would come into this world. He would indeed be “bruised”; in fact, He would actually die. However, He would then be raised back to life again – freeing people from their sin, defeating the devil, and conquering death itself. There would indeed be enmity between the devil and the people of God, but in the end Satan would be defeated. The devil might be able to injure God's people but he couldn't overcome them or defeat God's plan of redemption.

Next, God cursed the woman:

Genesis 3:16: “Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.”

This was a very personal thing to curse and struck at the heart of who Eve was. Eve was going to be responsible for starting the human race (since all of mankind descended from her). Before this curse that process would have been a source of joy, but now giving birth would be intensely painful. Women would still continue to have children but birth would be very difficult. Childbirth would no longer be what God had originally designed it to be.

But that's not all. God cursed the institution of marriage as well. In the past there was perfect harmony but now that harmony was broken. Thanks to this curse, the wife would seek to rule over her husband and the husband would rule over his wife. Marriages were no longer a perfect union. Now they would be filled with strife and trouble, as the couple fought for dominance instead of working together in harmony.

Finally, God turned to Adam:

Genesis 3:17-19: “And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”

The Lord put Adam in the Garden of Eden to take care of it. Originally that wasn't intended to be a difficult job, but now Adam would have to work the ground to get food. In the future the ground would bring forth thorns and thistles. The ground would fight Adam and bring him pain, and he would be forced to sweat for his food. Life wouldn't be easy! Instead it would be difficult, with problems on every side. Adam's ability to support himself and feed his family was diminished.

There was one last curse, and we can find it in verse 19. God warned them that the wages of sin was death. Adam and Eve should have listened to God instead of the serpent because He was right: as a result of what they had done, they would now die. God created Adam from the dust, and he would die and return to the dust. Adam lived a long time, but in the end he died just as

God said:

Genesis 5:5: “And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died.”

In fact, *all* would die and return to the dust. Mankind was no longer immortal. Instead we are faced with sickness, pain, and death. This is how death entered the world, and it claimed the life of Adam and his descendants.

The Mother Of All Living

Adam and Eve did go on to have children. The entire human race can be traced back to them:

Genesis 3:20: “And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.”

This is a critical theological point. The reason we're born with a sin nature is because we're all the descendants of Adam. We inherit his sin nature, which means we also inherit the penalty of death that comes with it:

Romans 5:12: “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:”

Sin entered the world through one man (Adam) and through him all of us are born with a sin nature. Since we're all sinners we're all worthy of death. But since sin entered the world through one man, that made it possible for the sacrifice of one man to save the world:

Romans 5:18-19: “Therefore as by the offence

of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."

This is one of the key truths in the Bible. The reason all of us are sinners is because Adam was a sinner. Not only do we inherit Adam's sin nature, but we also inherit his guilt! From the moment we're conceived we are guilty in the sight of God. All it took was the sin of *one man* – our forefather Adam – to condemn the entire human race. It's true that we have sins of our own, but we're guilty from the moment of conception because of Adam's sin:

Psalm 51:5: "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."

As it says in Romans 5:19, Adam's disobedience turned *all* of us into sinners.

This dreadful fact is why it's possible for Christ to save us. Since we're made guilty by the sin of one man, we can be saved by the obedience of Christ. Since we inherit death from Adam, we can inherit eternal life through Christ. The fact that *one man's sin* makes us guilty is why it's possible for one man's obedience to make us righteous.

That's why Christ came: to become a human being and die in our place, taking upon Himself the penalty for sin that we deserved. Because God is just, He *must* punish sin. The only way we can be forgiven is if someone else suffers the penalty that we deserve for our sins. Since Jesus was both fully human and fully God, and since He had no sins of His own to suffer for, He could take upon Himself the punishment for our sins. His death on the cross purchased our forgiveness! Since Jesus was punished for

our sins, we can be forgiven. His death paid the price and set us free. When we repent of our sin and believe in Christ, God gives us Christ's perfect righteousness. When God looks at us He no longer sees our sins and wickedness. Instead He sees the perfect righteousness of His Son.

The First Sacrifice

Adam and Eve were no longer innocent. Their eyes were opened and they tried to cover themselves – but their efforts were badly flawed. They couldn't cover what they had done (just as we can't cover our sins). Since Adam and Eve were helpless, God made them clothing:

Genesis 3:21: “Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them.”

There's deep meaning here. Who covered them? God did. The Lord stepped in and took care of their problem. You see, in the Bible clothing is symbolic of righteousness:

Revelation 19:8: “And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.”

It's easy to see why. Just as clothing covers our body, so righteousness covers our sin. Where does righteousness come from? It can only come from God. When we repent of our sins and believe in Christ, the Lord gives us the perfect righteousness of Christ, which covers our sin. If we reject that righteousness and try to handle our sin some other way, we become like Adam and Eve who tried to make clothing out of leaves. It doesn't work because God doesn't accept our own works as payment for sin. God requires total perfection. The only way we can achieve that,

and become holy enough to enter into His presence, is by partaking of the flawless righteousness of Christ.

The garments that God made for Adam and Eve weren't made out of fig leaves. They were “coats of skins”, which means they were made out of animal skin. Where do you get animal skin? From animals. How do you get the skin off an animal? Well, you have to kill it first.

This means Adam and Eve's sin had already brought death into the world. In order to provide this couple with something to wear, God killed an animal and used its skin as a covering. That means an animal had to die – and nothing had ever died before! This pointed to the sacrificial system, where animals were sacrificed so that their blood might cover people's sins. The sacrificial system pointed to Christ, who shed His own blood to cover our sin.

We can clearly see that the wages of sin was death. It was going to take the death of an innocent party to cover sin. God was giving mankind a preview of what their future held.

The Tree of Life

The Tree of Knowledge wasn't the only tree in the Garden. There was another famous tree: the Tree of Life. If people ate of that tree then they would live forever. God hadn't prohibited Adam and Eve from eating that tree's fruit, but now that they had sinned the situation had changed:

Genesis 3:22-24: “And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword

which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.”

God didn't want mankind to eat of the Tree of Life and live forever in their sinful condition. Instead of destroying the Tree of Life, He evicted mankind from paradise. People could no longer live in God's perfect garden. Instead they were evicted from it. God stationed an angel (a cherubim) and a flaming sword to guard the Tree of Life to make sure no one ever ate its fruit.

Adam and Eve were now blocked from achieving immortality. The wages of sin was death, and there was nothing they could do to escape that fate. The situation was hopeless – and it would have remained hopeless if it hadn't been for the amazing love and grace of God.

The Lord made a way where there seemed to be no way. Thanks to the amazing sacrifice of Christ, we can now obtain forgiveness for our sins! All those who repent and place their faith in Christ will not only be forgiven, but will be resurrected as well. One day God will translate them and give them perfect bodies. We will finally regain the immortality that was lost to us in the Garden of Eden:

1 Corinthians 15:51-57: “Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the

strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Not only will we be given immortality, but God will also give us the right to eat of the Tree of Life – the very tree that was once in the Garden of Eden:

Revelation 2:7: “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.”

The Tree of Life isn't gone! It's still there, “in the midst of the paradise of God”. All those who overcome will be given the right to eat its fruit and live forever.

Who are the “overcomers”? This verse answers that question:

1 John 5:5: “Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?”

Christians are the overcomers! Those who repent of their sins and believe in Christ, trusting Him to be the Messiah, have overcome the world and will be given the right to eat of the Tree of Life. Isn't that amazing?

The grace of God is truly astounding. God didn't have to save us. After all, we were the ones who sinned against Him! Yet God chose to save us out of His great love. Even though our salvation cost the life and the blood of His precious Son, God still chose to save us. While we were yet sinners (and His enemies on top of that), Christ died to save us! He died so that we might be forgiven and live with Him forever. Truly the love of God is great beyond imagination! Who can measure such a great love as that?