

Sunday September 15, 2013
Aired 6/7/2015

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"The First Sacrifice"

Part 1

Genesis 3:20-21

Introduction: In our study of *Genesis 3* I have been telling you the importance of this chapter in the Bible. Without this chapter we cannot understand the reason why things are the way they are today in this world in which we live in.

Let me remind you that *Genesis* is the Book of origins. We have seen the beginning of:

1. The earth
2. Life
3. Man
4. The family
5. Sin
6. Suffering
7. Pain
8. Spiritual Warfare

This list just goes on and on but we can understand just from that list the importance of the first 3 chapters of *Genesis*.

Now I told you before that there are many who deny the historical accuracy of the *Genesis* account of 6 literal days of creation. This is probably the most attacked doctrine of God's Word and there is a reason for that. Satan has targeted the account of creation because if people doubt what is recorded about creation in *Genesis 1* and *2* then it makes them question the remaining books of the Bible.

You may not realize this but many people also doubt the historical accuracy of *Genesis 3* and really that does not surprise me. You see Satan has attacked this chapter as well as the first 2 because in this chapter we are told that there is a Man who will one day end the campaign of Satan. We saw that in *Genesis 3:15*. But there is another reason why this chapter is attacked. This chapter gives to us a very clear picture of the Gospel and in that picture shows us how people are set free from the grip of Satan. So understanding this we can see why this chapter is also attacked and it should not surprise us of the attacks and the fact that the unbelieving world does not want to hear the Truth contained in this

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chapter. Let me show you why the unbelieving world does not grasp this chapter or any chapter of God's Word.

1 Corinthians 2:14

14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

The unsaved person is not able to understand the Truth of God's Word because it is supernatural Truth and can only be understood by those who have within them the Resident Interpreter who is the Holy Spirit.

But what does surprise me is that there are many people who profess to be Christian who also desire to write this chapter out of God's Word.

Listen to the words of Ken Hamm a well know Bible teacher:

"I can recall a number of instances over the past year where Christian leaders, pastors and theologians, have insisted that Genesis 1 through 11 was written as a metaphor..... r that is figuratively. I even specifically asked some of these leaders if the account of Adam, the Garden, and the Fall were metaphorical. And the reply was a resounding yes. In a recent phone call a man who writes for a well-known ministry made the statement to me that, quote: 'It's not a matter of whether there was a literal Fall or not, but whether the Fall was literal.' Confusing? Well, what he is saying is that the written account of Adam, the Garden and the serpent is not literal history, but a literary device to teach us that we are fallen, that we are sinners."

Let me tell you what these "Christian leaders" are saying in words that you can really wrap your mind around: *"They claim Genesis 3 never really happened. What we find here is a story that has been made up by Moses to show us we are sinners. Adam was not a real man and Eve was not a real woman. This is just some made up story to show us that we are sinners but because it is not a real historical account we are free to interpret it however we desire."*

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That is nothing but an all out attack against God's Word and it is so dangerous for someone to teach this because in this chapter we get the first look at the Gospel and if this chapter is not an accurate account of history and is but a metaphor then people would be free to interpret salvation anyway they wanted and for that reason could come up with multiple ways of salvation.

Romans 1:18

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

Let us now get to the verses for today.

As we look at Genesis 3:20-21 we will see how God provided salvation for Adam.

Notice Genesis 3:20-24

When we first read these verses it looks as though they are just an assortment of verses that were gathered up and placed at the end of the chapter but that is far from the situation.

You will see what I mean as we go through these verses.

I. Adam's Responsibility

Notice Genesis 3:20

Here we see that Adam named his wife. Before this she was just referred to as "woman". Here we see she is given the name "**Eve**" which means "**life**". Now at first glance this does not appear to be very significant but as we dig deeper you will see the richness of this verse.

Let me start by taking you back to a statement which God had made after Adam and Eve were created.

Genesis 1:27-28

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²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

²⁸ And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply,

The 2 were commanded to be fruitful and multiply but that command was given to them before the entrance of sin.

Now let me show you the warning God had given Adam about eating of the forbidden fruit.

Genesis 2:15-17

¹⁵ And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

¹⁷ 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.**

Now look at the Fall.

Notice Genesis 3:6-8

They hid from God because they were ashamed and because they were afraid. They both knew they were now under a death sentence because of their disobedience. They could immediately feel the deterioration of sin's effects.

Therefore, based upon what God had told Adam about dying if he disobeyed we can assume they both believe it is all over. I am sure Adam expects to die and that will be the end.

But then we come to Genesis 3:20 and Adam names his wife "Life", and so I ask, "Where did that hope come from?" It came from the promise which God had made in Genesis 3:15.

Notice Genesis 3:15

God had told them that from the woman would be born a Man who would defeat Satan and that Eve would have many children. Adam believed that promise with all of his being. From his wife there was coming One that would provide life and in anticipation of that Life Giver he named his wife "Life".

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Notice Genesis 3:20 again.

Adam says she was the mother of all living. At the time this statement was made she was the mother of nobody.

I want you to know that is faith. Adam was saved that very day because he placed his faith in what God had said about the future Man who would be the Life Giver.

He did not understand everything about how the promise would unfold but he believed what God had said.

Let me explain something to you. Adam's responsibility was to place his faith in the promise which God had made. He was looking toward the future when the promise would be fulfilled. Notice what the writer of Hebrews tells us about the Old Testament Saints.

Hebrews 11:13

¹³ These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

Please understand that Adam did not always believe God. Right before the Fall Adam believed Satan and not God, that is why he ate the fruit. Now there is something here besides faith.

Notice Genesis 3:20

When I read this verse I see something else here. I see repentance. Adam had felt the effects of sin.

Notice Genesis 3:7

Shame and embarrassment went with Adam's sin and now here in verse 20 I can see that he longed for the day when he would be delivered from the shame and the guilt. The bottom line was that he hated his sinful condition and he desired for his life to be as it was before.

Application:

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I need to stop here and make an application. Adam had 2 responsibilities when it came to salvation; faith in God's promise and repentance. The same is true for every person in this world. There needs to be repentance and faith. A man or a woman cannot have saving faith in Christ until they first come to hate their sin. Faith must be in the finished work of Jesus Christ.

Acts 16:30-31

³⁰ *And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?*

³¹ *And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*

Romans 5:1

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

The saving faith which is spoken of in the Bible comes as a result of a person coming to the point where they hate their sin and they repent of the sin and turn to Jesus Christ.

For a person to claim they have faith in Christ but continue in their sin is not saving faith.

Mark 1:15

¹⁵ *And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.*

II. God's Provision

Notice Genesis 3:21

This is a very interesting verse.

Here in this verse we see that God killed an innocent animal. God made coats of skins which mean at least one animal had to die. The animal that had to die had nothing to do with the sin which Adam committed. Why did the animal have to die?

Genesis 2:17

¹⁷ *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.*

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God had told Adam he would die in the day that he ate of the fruit. He was under a death sentence. The animal that God killed that day was the substitute for Adam. You see, God's justice had to be satisfied so when Adam placed his faith in God's promise God provided a substitute for him.

God then took the skin from the animal and made covering for Adam and Eve.

Genesis 3:7

⁷ 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.

The fig leaves were completely unacceptable to God for they represented their attempt to cover their own sin.

Application:

This is a beautiful picture of salvation. We are all under the sentence of death.

Romans 6:23a

²³ For the wages of sin is death;

But God has provided a Substitute to die in our place.

Romans 5:8

⁸ But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Now when we repent and we place our faith in Jesus as our Substitute God does something for us just as He did for Adam.

Romans 3:22

²² Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

Just as God covered Adam and Eve so He does the same to us when we place our faith in Jesus Christ as our Substitute. He covers us with the righteousness of Christ.