

"The First Sacrifice"

Part 2

Genesis 3:22-24

Introduction: Last week in our Genesis study we began to look at the closing verses of Genesis 3 which at first glance appear to be a collection of verses which really do not connect with one another. But a closer look and a closer study reveals these verses are some of the most important verses found within this chapter.

Notice Genesis 3:20-24

Over and over again I have told you some of the spiritual Truths that are found in this chapter but there is one that far exceeds them all which I have not mentioned. This chapter gives to us the very look into the compassionate heart of God and in this chapter we see that God is a Savior of mankind.

In **Genesis 3:8-9** we see God as the first Missionary when He walked through the garden in search of Adam and Eve after they had disobeyed Him. He sought them not to destroy them but to extend grace and mercy to them. Then last week in our study we saw God as the Savior of Adam and Eve as He provided a substitute to die for them.

Let me review what we looked at last week. In the verses which I read for you we find the plan of salvation for the very first time in the Bible.

As we looked deep within the verses last week we really looked at 2 points:

I. Adams Responsibility.

Notice Genesis 3:20

Here in this verse we looked at Adam's faith. God had told Adam in Genesis 2 that if he ate of the forbidden fruit he would 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.

After Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit they could immediately feel the effects of sin in their lives. There was shame and guilt which came instantly. Therefore, in Adam's

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Recorded 5/27/2015

Aired 6/14/2015

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mind he knew he was under the sentence of death as God had said. He probably figured it was all over. Then we come to Genesis 3:20 and we see a hope in Adam.

This hope came because of the promise God had made in Genesis 3:15. God had promised that from Eve would be born a Man that would defeat Satan. Adam believed that promise. He did not completely understand but he believed what God had said. He placed his faith in the promise of a future Redeemer. He named his wife "Life" because from her would be born the "Giver of Life" who would be Jesus Christ.

There was also in Adam repentance as he felt the effects of sin and therefore there were 2 responsibilities on Adam's part for salvation:

- a. Repentance
- b. Faith

The very same is true for us. We come to the place of hating our sin and we then place our faith in the finished work of Jesus on the cross as the payment for our sins.

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸***For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:***

⁹*Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

II. God's Provision

A. The Substitute

Notice Genesis 3:21

Let us remember that Adam was sentenced to die in the day that he ate the forbidden fruit. But instead of Adam dying God killed an innocent animal.

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.*

This animal was the substitute for Adam and Eve and is a picture of Jesus Christ.

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Isaiah 53:4-6

⁴ Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Why the death of an innocent animal? Because the wages of sin is death and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin.

Hebrews 9:22

²² And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

The word "remission" means "a release from bondage".

God then took the skins and clothed Adam and Eve with the skins from the animals. They had clothed themselves with fig leaves which represented their own good works which was unacceptable to God.

So, let me bring this all together; Adam was truly sorry for his sin, he then believed in God's promise of the future Redeemer. That was all that was required by him. God then provided a sacrifice to take the judgment for them.

But God was not finished.

B. The Security

Adam and Eve had just been told that because of the curse they would experience physical death.

Genesis 3:19

¹⁹ 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.

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Now when they heard these words they knew that one of the consequences of their sin was physical death.

So in the Garden there was another tree which was not forbidden and that was the tree of life.

Genesis 2:9, 15-17

⁹ And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

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, Adam and Eve have just witnessed death for the very first time when the animal was killed for their sin. They now knew how ugly death was. It was bloody and frightening to them. Therefore in their minds they are thinking, "If we can just get to the tree of life we can escape the death sentence".

As they stood there that day they were thinking of getting to the tree of life as soon as they could.

Notice Genesis 3:22

This verse is not even finished in the Hebrew which shows the haste on God's part to stop them from getting to the Tree of life.

Notice Genesis 3:24

God would not permit them to get to the Tree of Life and so He placed angels there with flaming swords to be sure that Adam and Eve could get to the Tree.

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Now I really need you to stay with me here. If they would have ate of the Tree of Life that would have been terrible. Why? Because that would have meant they would have lived forever in sinful wretched bodies.

You know what that is? That is hell.

Revelation 20:11-14

¹¹ And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

¹⁴ And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

When this day takes place every person that was not saved will have their soul reunited with their body and will suffer in the Lake of Fire forever. They will have the same old sinful bodies forever. They will have sorrow, pain, sinful thoughts, suffering and the list goes on and on.

If Adam and Eve would have eaten of the Tree of Life they would have had the same thing.

But God had a better idea. He would allow them to live out their lives and die and he would resurrect them and give them glorified bodies.

Now listen! When God placed the angels at the Tree of Life He was protecting Adam and Eve from a life of hell. That is security. He saved them and He would keep them from a life of hell.

Application:

The same is true for our lives also. We are saved by the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross and we are kept saved by His power.

Hebrews 10:11-17

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¹¹ *And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:*

¹² *But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;*

¹³ *From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.*

¹⁴ *For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.*

¹⁵ *Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before,*

¹⁶ *This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;*

¹⁷ *And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.*

John 10:27-29

²⁷ *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:*

²⁸ *And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*

²⁹ *My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.*

1 Peter 1:3-5

³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

⁴ *To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,*

⁵ *Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

C. The Hope

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God sent them out of the garden that day and Adam would live to be 930. Think of all the suffering which he had seen. His own son was killed by his brother. Think about this: as time moved toward the flood the human race grew worse every day until God had to finally destroy all but 8 people with the flood.

The entire time Adam had tucked within him a hope of something far better.

Why did God not just take us to heaven when we get saved? The hope within us of being set free from this sin filled world is a testimony to others.

1 Peter 3:15

¹⁵ But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Conclusion:

This life is not the best. There was a preacher that wrote a book called "Your Best Life Now". I want to tell you that if you know Jesus Christ as your Savior that this life is not as good as it get. Death is the door that leads us into the best life.

Years ago I drank from the Fountain of Life in Saint Augustine Florida and boy am I glad that did not work. God has something far better for me. I will live and die and He will raise me from the dead with a new glorified body. Until that day I must live my life trusting God so that others can see the hope that is within me.