

Genesis 3:21, The Divine Solution

And YHWH Elohim made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.

The fig-leaved outfits were the product of typical humanistic buffoonery. Under the sway of the newly created sinful nature, the First Couple concluded that rapport with each other was more important than rapport with God. Whenever this occurs then the virtue and values built up in the stream of consciousness from the source of truth are destroyed.

Virtue is the soul integrity which is founded upon an inventory of biblical truth. Values are principles of right action which are developed from that inventory. Whenever rapport with God is superseded by rapport with mankind, then one's virtue and values are destroyed. This allows the sinful nature to dictate the solution to man's problems.

The sinful nature's solution to the Fall was to cover Adam and Ishah's nudity with fig leaves. Recovery from sin however, must find its source in sacrifice. No plant has that ability but an animal is able to convey the idea by sacrificing its life as a substitute.

In the Garden, Jesus Christ selected an animal as a sacrificial substitute to cover the sins of Adam and Eve until they could be judged on the cross. It is my contention that the animal He selected was a lamb without spot and without blemish.

The Lord then began to instruct the First Couple in the doctrines of soteriology and Christology. He would not have sacrificed the animal, made them garments from its skin, or resumed theology class unless they had responded positively to His presentation of the Gospel.

My assertion that the sacrificial animal was a lamb is found in the word "skins," which translates the Hebrew noun *ore*. This word always designates the hide of animals after skinning. Obviously then, an animal has been selected from among the various species in the Garden as a sacrifice to cover the sins of Adam and Eve. In fact, the word *ore* is very close to the word for nudity we noted in Genesis 3:7, Genesis 3:10, and Genesis 3:11.

In order to cover the spiritual nakedness of Adam and Eve, the animal gave his life by bleeding to death. In order to cover the physical nudity of the First Couple, the animal gave up his hide.

At the cross, Jesus Christ died spiritually to cover the sins of the entire human race beginning with those of Adam and Eve. Further, He died physical death so that our bodies of corruption might be replaced with bodies of resurrection.

In the dispensation of Israel, God established a number of animal sacrifices which were to serve as teaching aids for the Jews in the areas of soteriology, Christology, and hamartiology. Under this ritual plan, the Jews were to be taught salvation through the sacrifice of Messiah by using certain animals to communicate the pertinent doctrines.

Other sacrifices were to be performed to cover their sins following salvation until the Messiah could officially cancel them at the cross. These animal sacrifices were all a part of the ritual plan of God for the Jews and are introduced in Leviticus.

The ritual offering which taught the substitutionary sacrifice of the Messiah is found in Leviticus 1:10, Leviticus 1:11, Leviticus 1:12, and Leviticus 1:13. An excellent analysis of this ritual can be found in:

Thieme, R. B., Jr. Levitical Offerings. Houston: Berachah Tapes & Publications, 1973, pp. 23-28:

The flocks offering taught that there is only one way for sinful man to enter into a personal and eternal relationship with God and that God's satisfaction demands a perfect sacrifice.

Leviticus 1:10 - If his [the sinner's] offering is from the flock, of the sheep or of the goats, for a burnt offering, he shall offer it a male without defect.

The Jewish believer who knew the doctrine of soteriology understood the significance of the sheep offering. For example, John the Baptist was a Jew who lived ... when Jesus Christ was presented daily in shadow form. The moment he saw the Lord, he recognized Him as “*the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world*” (John 1:29).

This offering also had to be a “*male without defect.*” The sheep, then, represented His perfect sinless humanity.

Leviticus 1:11 - And he [the Jew offering the sacrifice] shall lay it on the side of the altar northward before the LORD, and Aaron's sons, the priests, shall sprinkle its blood around on the altar.

Leviticus 1:12 - He [the offeror] shall then cut it into its pieces with its head and its kidney fat, and the priest shall arrange them on the wood which is on the fire that is on the altar.

The offeror put his hand on the head of the animal and figuratively transferred his own sins to the sheep. The death of the animal was essential to depict the necessity for the death of Messiah. You see, before divine love can provide eternal life for mankind, divine holiness must be satisfied.

Before one can pass the point of propitiation, he must receive God's anointed as Savior. This requires a personal decision. Therefore, the priest handed the sacrificial knife to the offeror, who was required to personally cut the animal's throat. While this must have been a repugnant thing to do, do it he must! This helped him to realize the extent of the saving work of the Coming One—the Messiah of Israel! He did what he was expected to do; he watched the animal die a horrible death. The message of salvation was pointedly driven home.

The crucifixion was also a shocking sacrifice. It wasn't designed to be pleasant! During those last three hours on the cross, Jesus Christ went through the most awesome, intense agony and suffering. The wrath of God the Father, which you and I otherwise would have experienced, was unleashed on Him. God could have spared His own Son, but He did not; He gave Him up for each of us. This is grace!

After some of the animal's blood was sprinkled “around on the altar ... the offering was to be skinned and cut up onto pieces. ...” the blood is mentioned throughout the Scriptures.

1 Peter 1:18 - ... you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,

1 Peter 1:19 - but with precious blood, as a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

Hebrews 9:22 - ... without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

“Blood,” however, always speaks of Christ's spiritual death, for it is His spiritual death which actually provided salvation!

Leviticus 1:13 - The entrails, however, and the legs he [the offeror] shall wash with water. And the priest shall offer all of it, and offer it up in smoke on the altar; it is a burnt offering, an offering by fire of a fragrant aroma to the LORD.

As the entire sheep offering (his skin excepted) was consumed in the flames, its gaseous smoke ascended heavenward—a perfect picture of Christ, who (according to Ephesians 5:2) “*gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.*” In Him, and through Him, we have become acceptable to God!

Such was the case for Adam and Eve in the Garden. Jesus Christ took a lamb from the flocks, instructed Adam to cut its throat and watch it die. The Lord then burned its remains excepting its skin which He tailored into a covering for them.

Their faith alone in the coming Messiah for salvation was expressed in their reliance upon the sacrificial lamb as a substitute. The ritual portrayed the sacrificial death of Messiah. The garments of lamb's skin was a testimony to their faith in its substitutionary sacrifice as a type of the Messiah's.

No longer naked of either body or soul, the First Couple was now prepared to leave the perfection of Eden and move into the chaos of a fallen world. The argument for the Prosecution is now completed in the formal phase of Satan's appeal trial.

Satan now begins the argument for the defense, a period of time which will encompass the corruption of mankind from the Fall to the First Advent of Christ. From this account of the Fall, we have been able to discern several principles which enable parents to analyze the behavior of their children beginning at the moment of their selection into this life.