

THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

GENESIS 2-3

Once, the world's scientists gathered for a convention. They decided that since they were able to clone people, manipulate genetics, and perform technological marvels – the human race no longer had a need for God. Thus, the scientists nominated a representative, and sent him to God to break the news...

God waited patiently as the scientist spoke on behalf of his colleagues.

Finally, God proposed a test. "Let's have a man-making contest. Let's both make a man just the way I made Adam. We'll see who does the better job?"

The scientist accepted, "No problem!" But as he squatted to grab a handful of dirt, God stopped him, "Woe, what do you think you're doing? Get your own dirt!"

On the third day God rolled back the waters into seas, and dry land appeared.

God prepared some dirt for His crowning creation... And then on the sixth day, from that dirt - from the dust of the ground - God created His masterpiece, man.

The human was special. God created the man in His own image and according to His own likeness – then gave him responsibility to rule over all His creation.

Genesis 1 provides a sweeping overview of creation's six days - whereas, chapter 2 shines a spotlight on the creation of the man and the woman.

Verse 1 of chapter 2, summarizes chapter 1, “Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.” God rested not to replenish His energy. He has all-power.

But what’s the point of continually creating if you never take time to appreciate the results of your work. God rested on the seventh day to enjoy His creation.

We also need to take one day in seven to kick back, and relax, and enjoy.

God created the universe in six days - then on the seventh day He created an example. That’s why we’re told, “Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.”

Notice, man was made on the sixth day - which means his first full day was the seventh, or the day of rest. Adam *rested with God* before he ever *labored for God*.

And here’s a vital lesson... So often we want to jump out and serve the Lord, without first learning to rest and rely on His strength rather than our own.

Resting with God always precedes *laboring for God*.

Verse 4, “This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,”

Verse 4 begins what some people mistakenly take as a second, contradictory account of creation. In reality, it’s the same account, but from a different angle.

My camera has a zoom function. I can zoom out and get the wide angle effect, or I can zoom in and tighten up on one aspect of the scene. Genesis 1 zooms out, and we witness creation through a wide angle lens... Genesis 2 zooms in, and focuses on the crowning achievement of creation – the man and the woman.

A common characteristic of Semitic literature is to tell a story – and then tell it again with a different emphasis... That's what's going on in Genesis 1 and 2.

Again verse 4, "This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown."

In other words, there was no agriculture until man had sinned and was forced to work by the sweat of his brow. There were wild oats, but no fields of grain.

"For the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground; but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground."

Here's a description of pre-flood ecology...

Some Bible scholars believe that before Noah's flood a canopy of water vapor shrouded the earth providing a continual mist and consistent temperatures. Since there was no air movement there was no rain. The earth was irrigated by heavy dews and subterranean streams. The whole earth was a tropical paradise.

Verse 7 recaps a birthday, "And the LORD God formed man

of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.” Last week we learned two Hebrew words that described God’s creation... “*Asah*” or assemble, and “*bara*” which means, “*to create out of nothing*”.

But here the Hebrew word translated “formed” is “*yatsar*”, which means “*to squeeze into shape, to mold*”. It depicts a potter’s skillful mastery over the clay.

Here God plays in the dirt. He squeezes and shapes, and creates a human.

In 2002, the total value of the raw materials that make up a human body equaled \$4.50. Three dollars of that amount was derived from your skin. Based on the price of cowhide your skin is worth \$3 - the rest of you, about a buck.

Dr. Mayo of the Mayo clinic, once itemized a list of what it would take to make a human body, “Enough potassium for one shot of a toy pistol, enough fat for seven bars of soap, enough iron for one large nail, enough sulfur to delouse a dog, enough lime to whitewash a chicken coup, enough magnesia for one dose of medicine, and enough phosphorous for a few boxes of matches. The total purchase would not fill more than a couple of grocery bags.”

It reminds me of Psalm 103:14, “For (God) knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.” In fact, the root word of the name “Adam” is “*earth or dirt*”.

Literally, God named the first man, *Dusty*. That’s what man is... *a dust ball*. We should all realize our inherent frailty and insignificance - and learn to lean on God.

Human beings are dust, but we're more than dust...

Human life is sacred, and valued for two reasons... *First, we bear the finger prints of the Master Artist. We're God's handiwork – made in God's image.*

Second, God not only formed man, but “breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.” God is the author of all life, but to man, the gift got personal. God breathed His own life into the man. Of all creatures, man alone was given a spirit that would last forever. All of life is a gift, but human life is sacred. That's why *in utero and in old age* it should be respected and protected.

Verse 8, *“The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.”* The word *“Eden”* means *“delights”* – and here the Lord personally plants a garden of delights just to satisfy the man He had created.

“And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”... Two trees of special significance.

“Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads. The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one which skirts the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. And the gold of that land is good. Bdellium and the onyx stone are there. The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one which goes around the whole land of Cush. The name of the third river is Hiddekel (which is another name for the Tigris River); it is the one

which goes toward the east of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates.”

The mention of the Tigris and Euphrates causes some scholars to believe the Garden of Eden was in southern Iraq. That’s possible... It’s also possible the flood so altered the earth’s topography that the pre-flood rivers no longer existed, and by the time of Moses, the exact identity of these rivers was impossible to attain.

Verse 15, “Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.” Notice Adam is in the perfect environment, yet he still has a job to do. God puts him in charge of tending and keeping the garden.

Granted it was an easy job. There were no weeds at the time, and a mist watered the earth. All Adam had to do was pick fruit - *but it was still a job*.

We often think of paradise as a place void of work. We think when we get to heaven *we’ll swing in a hammock all day* – but not so. It’s not work itself that’s a curse. God made each of us for meaningful activity and service.

Verse 16, “And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Remember there were plenty of fruit trees to choose from in the Garden of Eden, but one tree was forbidden - the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

God placed the forbidden fruit within Adam’s reach as a way for him to demonstrate his love... Hey, for love to be

meaningful it has to be volitional.

If you love me, but have no other choice, it's a hollow love. If my wife had said "*I do*" with a shotgun in her back I'd always wonder... Thus, God gave Adam an opportunity to demonstrate his love and loyalty by not eating from this one tree.

Verse 18, "And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." Six times in chapter 1 God said of His creation that "it was good". In verse 31, He said that "it was very good".

But here we're startled. Suddenly, God says "it is not good". *What was not good about God's creation?* It was "not good that man should be alone." Man needed a companion – a human helper – with whom he could share life.

But just because God saw Adam's need, doesn't mean Adam saw it? This is our problem... *We have needs we don't realize until God awakens that need within us...* God was Adam's companion. His emotional and spiritual needs were met by God. He didn't know he needed a spouse, until God revealed that need to him.

If you're a single Christian here's some wisdom for you... Rather than dwell on your lack of a spouse take your emotional needs to God. Trust in His sufficiency. Lean on God, and when the time is right to marry, He will awaken the need.

And God did it for Adam in a unique way, "Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird

of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.” God gave Adam the job of naming the animals.

Imagine, one man finding names for thousands of species. Evidently, Adam was incredibly bright. His un-fallen intellect had enormous aptitude.

In ancient times, the privilege of naming was a function of dominion.

In the book of Daniel, when the Babylonians take Daniel and his Hebrew friends, captive they rename them. It was a show of authority over them. And here, in naming the animals Adam likewise is demonstrating his authority over nature.

As Adam surveyed the animals it was apparent they all had companions – they came in couples - male and female... Mr. and Mrs. Giraffe - Mr. and Mrs. Zebra...

And the conclusion must’ve hit him. Where’s Mrs. Adam?

Verse 20, “So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept...”

Again, if you’re single, notice Adam receives his bride not when he goes off to canvass the singles’ spots, but when he surrenders to God and goes to sleep.

“And (God) took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place.” We’re not sure it was actually a rib. The Hebrew word suggests something that was curved.

There's a legend that God originally approached Adam and asked him, "How would you like a helper that would cook your meals, and wash your clothes, and care for you constantly, and wait on you hand and foot?" Adam said, "God, that sounds great, but what is it going to cost me?" God told him, "An arm and a leg."

Adam replied, "That seems a little steep. What can I get for a rib?"

It's been said that the creation of Eve was *the first splitting of an Adam*, and it unleashed a force into the world, that men have never gotten under control.

God performed the first surgery, and took Eve from Adam's side.

It reminds me of little Billy who sat in Sunday School and listened attentively to the story of Adam and Eve. Later, that morning his stomach started to ache. He complained to the teacher about a pain in his side. She asked, "I'm sorry you're sick. What do you think is wrong?" He said, "I think I'm gonna have a wife."

Remember on the cross a spear was thrust through Jesus' side, and out flowed blood and water - the same blood that washes away our sin. Isn't it interesting that God did with "*the last Adam*" what He did with the first, Adam. He took from the side of Jesus that which He would use to fashion for Him a bride, the Church.

Verse 22, "Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones and

flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." When God presented to Adam his bride he was blown away! She was perfect! He took one look, and said, "*Woe man!*" *Wo man* and it stuck.

I guess you could say when God gave Adam his wife *he was beside himself*.

She had come from *his side* – and was the perfect *sidekick*. Adam put his arm around Eve, and whispered, "*Baby, you're the only one in the world for me.*"

Let me make an observation... Whatever it was God took from Adam to make Eve, from then on there was something missing in the man that only the woman could fill. Ladies, I know it comes as no surprise, but your hubby *is not all there*.

There's a part of him that's missing that only you can fill. In the country song, "*Little Rock*" there's a line, "*Without you, baby, I'm not me.*" That's what Adam said to Eve. Husbands and wives need each other to be all that God wants them to be.

As Rocky said to Adrian, "*I got gaps. You got gaps. Together we got no gaps.*" God has given you your spouse to *round you off*, and *balance you out*.

Actually, the naming of the woman is one of the most beautiful and romantic passages in all Scripture... Remember, the privilege to name was a function of dominion and authority. That Adam was allowed to name the woman tells us God placed him in authority over her, *but notice how Adam uses his authority...*

The Hebrew word translated "*man*" is "*Ish*" - and the word

translated “**woman**” is the same word in the feminine form, “*Ishah*”. Adam had authority over Eve, but instead of asserting it he treats her as an equal. He gives her his own name.

Matthew Henry commented, “**The woman was taken from Adam's side - not from his head to rule over him - not from his feet to be trampled on - but from his side to be equal with him, from under his arm to be protected, and from close to his heart to be loved.**” This is how every husband should view his wife.

Verse 24 gives us God’s formula for marriage, “**Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.**”

Notice the pattern – you **leave** your parents – no more running back to momma when you have a problem... But you also leave old allegiances. No more flirting or sharing your heart with the opposite sex. Learn to work it out with your spouse.

Then you **cleave**. You make a lifetime commitment - *until death do us part*.

Third, you **weave** a new life together. The expression, “**they shall become one flesh**” is a euphemism for sexual oneness - but that’s just one way for a marriage to experience unity... Harmony, consideration, cooperation also create oneness.

And notice the result of *leaving, cleaving, weaving* – it’s **conceiving**. Verse 25, “**they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.**” They had a transparent and accepting relationship. Nothing was hidden or held back. There was no baggage or hang-ups. They gave to each other freely and uninhibitedly.

At the end of chapter 2, Adam and Eve have got it made - a ranch house in Paradise, all the fruit they can munch, and they're madly in love with each other.

Adam could even tell a joke, and no one said, "I've heard that one before."

But in chapter 3 the wheels come off. They make the mistake a lot of couples make – *they stop putting God first in their hearts and in their marriage...*

And look at who they meet in verse 1, "Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made." Understand, this was not simply a serpent. This was a snake embodied by Satan Himself...

In Revelation 20:2 when Satan is finally bound for a thousand years he's called, "The dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan." In the beginning Satan had tried to stop God's creation, now he tries to spoil it.

"And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" Notice Satan's strategy... Rather than remind Eve that God gave them thousands of trees to eat from – Satan highlights the negative. *What's God holding back from you?* Satan tries the same strategy on us... He focuses on God's few prohibitions, rather than the million ways God wants to better our lives.

Verse 2, "And the woman said to the serpent," Here's Eve's first mistake. She converses with the devil... Satan is a skilled tempter. That's why the moment you agree to talk and

negotiate he's got you. When Satan wants to talk, just say "no".

Also notice, here's a talking snake... and *Eve doesn't even act surprised...*

Some commentators suggest that before the fall of man all animals could talk. Imagine, carrying on a conversation with your dog. If your wife could talk all day to the dog there wouldn't be so much pressure on the guys when they get home...

Eve tells the serpent in verse 2, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" What Eve says is not true...

Later Satan will take away from God's Word, but here Eve adds to God's Word. Look back in 2:17, God said nothing about *touching the fruit*, just *eating the fruit*.

Here's the first example of legalism... Eve makes God's will harder and more complicated than He intended... Guys, Satan loves to promote legalism. If he can get you to overcomplicate, or exaggerate God's demands he can tempt you to give up and throw in the towel. *Why even try!* Always remember what Jesus told us in Matthew 11:30, "My yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Verse 4 tells us, "Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." Note the New Age views Satan promotes...

First, **you'll never die**. This life is one of many. It's reincarnation, not death.

Second, **don't be afraid of forbidden fruit**. Courageous experimentation - free thinking - breaking down traditional taboos is the path to enlightenment.

And third, **discover the god within**. You are your own god. Believe in yourself.

Satan's words sound eerily cotemporary. **"The New Age is really just an old lie."**

The serpent says to Eve in verse 4, **"You will not surely die."** Satan tempts Eve to *doubt God's Word*. Next, he says, **"For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God..."** Now he wants her to doubt *God's love*. Satan will always try to make God out to be the bay guy – the kill joy.

He says, *"All God wants to do is hem you in – take away your freedom – stunt your growth... Be yourself! Do your own thing!"* Satan promises Eve freedom from God's authority – but all she ends up is Satan's puppet, and a slave to her own sin.

Guys, when Satan throws up doubts about God's Word and God's love - don't bite. What God says is true... and why He says it is because He loves you.

Look at what happens next, **"So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise..."**

Here's another three-fold temptation... It reoccurs throughout the Scriptures... It was **"good for food"** – *eat it,*

you'll feel great. It was “pleasant to the eyes” – *hold it, you'll look great.* It was “desirable to make one wise” – *try it, you'll be great...*

The same 3 temptations show up in 1 John 2:16, “the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - is not of the Father but is of the world.” Satan tempts us with the same 3 desires - *feel great, look great, be great... Beware!*

Verse 6 tells us Eve “took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.” And the universe has never been the same since.

In 2:17 God told Adam that if he ate the fruit he would “surely die”, and die they did. Spiritually, they died instantly. Sin separated the man and woman from God.

Physically, they died more slowly. Their bodies began to deteriorate.

“Entropy” or the process of decay, affected not only Adam, but the whole physical universe. Paul says in Romans 8:20, “the creation was subjected to futility”. Randomness invaded God’s order. Sin marred God’s perfect world. Malfunctions became common. Bad stuff began to happen in God’s world.

One detail to note. For some reason everyone assumes Adam and Eve bit into an apple, but that’s not in the Bible. The Bible just says “fruit”. Besides, as the old saying goes “the problem wasn’t the apple on the tree, but the pair on the ground.”

Verse 7, “Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked;” Eve became the only

woman in history to make the statement, “I haven’t got a thing to wear”, and it really be true. As soon as Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit they both became aware of their nakedness.

Up until this point they were oblivious to themselves. They were *God-centered* and *others-centered* people. They weren’t even conscious of their own nakedness. But now they become *self-centered*. And this is the heart of sin. It’s no accident that the middle letter of the word “S-I-N” is an “I”. All sin is ultimately selfishness.

Eve gained the enlightenment she sought, but when her eyes were opened she didn’t like she saw. She saw God’s wisdom, but from a different angle – from the angle of disobedience - and her heart was full of guilt, and shame, and regret.

“And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.”

Adam and Eve’s immediate response to sin was to *hide*. They planned a cover up. They sewed together fig leaves and made green Speedos – *the original fruit of the looms*. They hoped to get rid of their selfishness, but their plan backfired...

I was told by a good friend of mine that fig leaves make you itch - which means fig leaf Speedos made them even more self-obsessed and self-preoccupied.

Verse 8, “And they heard the sound 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 among the trees of the garden.” What a sad picture. Here’s

the president and first lady of creation, hiding in the bushes - scratching like crazy.

“Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?”

Please note, this is not the voice of an angry mobster banging on your door, seeking revenge, “*Where are ya! I’m going getcha’.*” This isn’t the *Godfather*.

This is *God the Father*. To read verse 9 accurately you need to read it like a heartbroken dad passionately seeking to find his wayward child, and restore him to the family... “*Son, daughter I love you! Where are you? Please come home!*”

Verse 10, “So (Adam) said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.” And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?” Their first response to sin was to *hide*, but now they start to *hurl*...

Everyone decides to pass the buck – play the blame game. The man goes first, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.”

Adam is so arrogant he blames, not only Eve, but God. He says to God, “the woman whom You gave me...” It was your fault God for giving me this woman.

“And the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” She blames the snake. Eve uses the old Flip Wilson line that got so many laughs, “The devil made me do

it.”

But God wasn't laughing... If you've sinned, stop blaming it on your spouse, or kids, or boss, or salary, or friends, or the devil... God will forgive us if we first come out of the bushes and stop hiding, and accept ownership for what we've done.

Notice carefully what's happened here... “The man blames the woman, the woman blames the snake, and the snake doesn't have a leg to stand on...”

Verse 14 tells us, “So the LORD God said to the serpent: “Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life.”

The snake is destined to do belly-flops. Here's the origin of the expression, “*bite the dust*”. The snake will crawl on his belly - but notice the implication, if crawling is his punishment, then did the snake originally sport legs?

Herpetologists point to the nubs on a snake's skeleton as proof they once had appendages. This may explain the Orientals preoccupation with dragons. What is a dragon, but a snake with legs? Revelation 12:9 pictures Satan as a dragon.

Verse 15 is one of the most important verses in the Bible. It's called the protoevangelicum. It's the first mention of the Gospel in all the Scriptures.

God tells the serpent, “And I will put enmity between you and the woman,” This part of the verse is easy to interpret... *Most women are afraid of most snakes.* I'm sure there're exceptions, but how many of the ladies here tonight dislike snakes?

This also proves that partners in sin usually end up bitter enemies. At first the snake and Eve liked to talk, but God says there'll now be hostility between them.

And God will also put enmity, or hostility, **“between your seed and her Seed;”**

The *“seed (or sperm) of the woman”* is a bizarre term. Nowhere does a seed belong to a woman. Obviously, this is a unique birth – a supernatural birth.

I believe Genesis 3:15 refers to Jesus' virgin birth. This becomes clearer with the next line, **“He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”**

The seed of the woman is Jesus - and on the cross Satan bruised His heel – a non-fatal blow. But Jesus crushed the serpent's head. Jesus stripped Satan of his authority. On the cross Jesus struck the decisive blow – a knock-out punch. The devil has no more power over the heart that trusts in Jesus. *He's bitten the dust.*

In verse 16 God turns to the woman, and assigns her punishment, **“I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children...”**

Ladies, imagine giving birth the way God intended. Pain-free contractions! *No pain, all gain.* But that ended before the first delivery. Sin brought labor pains.

But the woman's sentence was two-fold, **“Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”** Eve was sentenced to *labor pains*, and *laboring with a pain*. She was saddled with the tough task of submitting to an imperfect

authority.

In 1 Timothy 2:14 Paul explains how Genesis 3 effects male and female roles today - in the church and in the home. He reminds us, Eve was deceived - Adam was not. Adam's sin was probably worse - but because Eve was deceived in a spiritual, doctrinal matter - God has ordained for the man to lead and teach.

When we abide by these biblical roles for husbands and wives we teach half the Gospel. We point folks back to the origin of sin and our need for the Savior.

Finally, Adam is sentenced last. Verse 17, **"Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field."**

Up until now Adam's work has been a breeze. When Adam gets hungry he picks some fruit off a tree. But now he has to grow his food in the fields.

Prior to the curse, food had nothing to do with Adam's work. God provided all the man and woman needed. But now if Adam wants to be independent of God, he can start by growing his own food – earning his own living – and while tilling the ground he's going to encounter constant obstacles... *thorns and thistles*.

Suddenly, work has gone from *a breeze to a burden*.

Verse 19, **"In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till**

you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return."

Before man sinned, work was *no sweat*, but *no more*.

Now because of his sin, the man would never again get out of his job a reward equal to what he had put into it. Whenever he went to work he'd always leave a little something of himself on the job until he'd literally worked himself to death.

Guys, if you've been bouncing around from job to job, looking for a perfect situation - forget it! It doesn't exist! Every *occupation* - every *corporation* - has its thorns and thistles. Every job has obstacles that irritate and aggravate us. We need to accept the curse, and allow God to use it to teach us to trust in Him.

Verse 20, "And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living." He gives his wife another name. "Eve" means "life-giver". Adam took to heart all this talk about childbirth, and believed his wife would bear him kids.

It's also possible Adam was looking forward to the child spoken of in verse 15, the "seed of the woman" – the Savior - Who would bruise the serpent's head.

Verse 21, "Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them." God didn't like Adam and Eve's fruit of the looms, so He dressed them in leather. Animal skins necessitated the death of an animal – a *sacrifice*.

Fig leaves were an attempt to make up for sin with human effort. People do this today. They sew together religious deeds, and good works to cover over their sin. Yet God insists

on a sacrifice. God told Adam, “you shall surely die”. The wages of sin has always been death, and for sin to be forgiven a sacrifice is required.

This is why you and I are said to be clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Chapter 3 ends on a sad, pathetic note. Truly, this is paradise lost.

Verse 22 declares, “Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" - therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.”

Here are the first cops - the angels who guard the way to the tree of life.

That God drives out Adam and Eve from the garden sounds like harsh treatment, but apparently God’s actions were laced with His mercy!

If Adam and Eve had eaten of the tree of life in their fallen, sinful state they would’ve lived forever apart from God... Only after the penalty of sin is paid in full on the cross of Jesus - does God open again the way to the tree of life.