

Timeline of Truth #9 – God Extends Grace to Sinners – Genesis 3:8-24

⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

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.

⁹ Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where *are* you?" ¹⁰ So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." ¹¹ 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?" ¹² Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."

¹³ And the LORD God said to the woman, "What *is* this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

¹⁶ To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire *shall be* for your husband, And he shall rule over you."

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. ¹⁸ Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. 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."

²⁰ And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

²¹ Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

²² 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 "-- ²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ 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.

When was the fall?

1. *Text flow seems to indicate immediate (Day 7 or Day 8). There's no hint of any passing of time. It appears that Adam ate the fruit after God finished on Day 6 and before God returned on Day 8.*
2. *Animals normally did not talk. The serpent talking may have been novel in the beginning, but not later on.*
3. *Adam does not name Eve until after the fall. It seems odd not to give her a name until after an extended period of time.*
4. *Adam and Eve had not yet eaten of the Tree of Life. (22)*
5. *Adam & Eve bore conceived in Genesis 4. It seems to have happened right away after the fall. If the same possibility for conception was possible before the fall, not much time passed.*
6. *It seems plausible that the choice of either tree would not have remained forever. There could have been a period of testing which would have ended.*

1. God Approached Them (8-13)

It is profound that the all-knowing, holy God still approached His sinful creatures after the fall. God initiated the interaction! (In response, Adam and his wife HIDE!)

2. God Cursed Them But Did Not Destroy Them (14-19)

It may not be as easy to embrace, but the fact that God deals with sin is, in a sense, a measure of God's grace too.

- a. God could have destroyed Adam and his wife without any further interaction.
- b. God's consistent dealing with sin in a holy manor helps us now to understand that sin will be judged. That encourages us not to sin, and comforts us that evil will be judged.

3. God Revealed the Coming Savior (15) (proto-evangel)

This is the first hint or mention of God providing the Savior through the woman. Though not full of all the details that will later be revealed, it does indicate (or hint) that:

- a. There will be an ongoing struggle between Satan and the woman.
- b. There will be an ongoing struggle between Satan's seed (likely those that follow him throughout the ages) and the woman's seed.
- c. The Seed of the woman (Jesus), though receiving a wound from Satan, will ultimately give Satan a permanent blow.

[Adam names his wife "Eve."] (20) – Why now?

- Eve – the mother of all living (lit. "life" or "living") "Wife Life"
- As opposed to Adam, the father of death?
- As a look forward to HER Seed who would crush the serpent's head, and Who would bring eternal life.
- As a means of owning up to his choice, and absolving Eve of blame (which he earlier had assigned to her)
- As her key characteristic to be remembered by: motherhood. All of humanity would descend from her (as well as Adam).

4. God Made Tunics of Skin for Their Clothes (21)

This seems to imply more than instruct. What is implied is:

- a. The coverings that Adam and his wife made (v. 7) were somehow inadequate. They needed more than leaves.
- b. Clothes were now required and necessary to cover the nakedness of humans. (The purpose of clothing is to cover nakedness, not to engender lust or encourage desire. Clothing is to cover, not to reveal.)
- c. God made both Adam and his wife tunics (no loin cloths here). They both (as a man and as a woman) were fully covered. (Clothing is important to both genders.)
- d. Skins require the death of animals – the shedding of blood. This seems to be a key implication regarding the covering of sin, and eventually the eliminating of sin (Heb 9:22). It also seems to have set a precedent for offerings going forward. (Gen 4:4-5 – Cain & Abel cp. Heb 11:4). Both needed God's covering.

5. God Drove Adam From the Garden (22-24)

God sent HIM out of the Garden **to prevent the MAN from eating from the tree of life.** (The MAN was evicted, but the woman obviously accompanied him out. The woman's God-given place is wherever the man is.) Angels also guarded the tree.