

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."

Text: Genesis 3:8-15 A 6/10/18 2 Corinthians 4:13-18 Mark 3:20-35 Ps. 86 Resp. Ps. 51a
742, 384, 779, 778

OUR SIN, AND GOD'S SALVATION

Dear fellow believers in Christ,

God had commanded Adam and Eve not to eat fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2:16-17; 3:2-3). But they disobeyed God and ate some of its fruit anyway. The Bible says, "*Sin is the transgression of the law*" (1 Jn. 3:4b, KJV). In His Word God tells us what to do and what not to do. When we disobey what God says in His Word, we have sinned.

Adam and Eve had become sinful. They deserved to be destroyed by God. But we're told, "*They heard the sound of the LORD God walking*" (from the original text, "*walking around*") "*in the garden.*" The Lord let Adam and Eve hear Him walking around near them to let them know He was there and give them the opportunity to come to Him and tell Him what they had done.

Scripture says, "*The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love*" (Ps. 103:8). "*The Lord ... is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance*" (2 Pet. 3:9b). God's grace and mercy toward us guilty, undeserving sinners is amazing! Instead of punishing us and destroying us eternally because of our sins, He invites us to come to Him and confess our sins to Him.

"*Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.*" In contrast to the close, loving relationship Adam and Eve had with God before they sinned, now they tried to hide from Him. The Bible says, "*Your sins have separated you from God*" (Is. 59:2a). Adam and Eve tried to hide their sin and guilt from God. God had to come to them and save them. And in His love and mercy, God did.

Jesus says, *“The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost”* (Lk. 19:10). When we were lost in our sins Jesus came to us and found us and saved us.

The psalmist says, *“When I kept silent [about my sin], my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long”* (Ps. 32:3, NIV). His guilty conscience bothered him. Sometimes when we sin and have a guilty conscience we don’t want to face up to what we have done. The only way we can get rid of a guilty conscience and be at peace is to come to God in repentance.

“Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, ‘Where are you?’” Of course God knew where Adam and Eve were. He again gave them the opportunity to come to Him and confess their sin. Scripture says, *“The kindness of God leads you to repentance”* (Ro. 2:4, NASB).

Before Adam and Eve sinned they had been perfectly innocent. The first thing the Bible tells us after they sinned is *“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.”* Afterwards Adam told God, *“I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.”* Adam didn’t want to admit that the real reason he was afraid and tried to hide from God was because he had sinned.

God said to Adam, *“Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?”* Instead of simply stating what Adam and Eve had done, God once again gave Adam the opportunity to own up to it and repent of it.

The Bible says, *“If we say that we have not sinned, we make [God] a liar, and His Word is not in us”* (1 Jn. 1:10). As we heard, God tells us what sin is in His Word. If we sin and deny it, or try to excuse it, in effect we’re calling God a liar for saying we have sinned. With David we need to simply, humbly confess to God, *“Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You are proved right when You speak and justified when You judge”* (Ps. 51:4, NIV).

Adam told God, *“The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.”* Adam admitted he had eaten some of the fruit. But he blamed God for giving him his wife, Eve, and he blamed Eve for giving him the fruit.

Adam didn’t fool God, and neither do we when we make excuses for our sins: *“Well, Lord, what I did is kind of Your fault for letting me get me into that situation. And it’s really the other person’s fault, too. If he wouldn’t have done what he did, I wouldn’t have done what I did.”* When we have done wrong, we need to be honest with ourselves and confess it to God.

“And the Lord God said to the woman, ‘What is this you have done?’ And the woman said, ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate.’” Like Adam, Eve admitted that she had eaten some of the fruit. And like Adam, Eve tried to excuse her sin: It wasn’t her fault, it was the devil’s fault. The devil tempts us, but he can’t make a sin. When we sin, it’s our own fault.

A doctor sometimes has to hurt us so we can heal. Our heavenly Father lovingly confronts us with our sin in His Word to lead us to repent of it and be forgiven by Him. The psalmist says, “*I acknowledged my sin to You and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the LORD’ – and You forgave the guilt of my sin*” (Ps. 32:5, NIV). Although Adam and Eve tried to excuse their sin, they didn’t deny it. When God later confronted them with the serious consequences of their sin, their quiet acceptance demonstrated their repentance. And God forgave them.

“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.’” We don’t know if snakes look different now after Adam and Eve sinned, or look the same as they always have. We do know that when we see a snake crawling along the ground, it’s a reminder of Satan entering a snake and tempting Adam and Eve, and of the Fall into sin.

God told Satan, “*I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed.*” God let Satan and Adam and Eve know that although Adam and Eve were now sinful they did not belong to Satan. Part of what God meant by Eve’s “*Seed*” is all who believe in God as Eve (and Adam) did. Satan’s “*seed*” are the evil angels and the unbelievers. God “*put enmity*” between us believers and Satan and the unbelieving world. By God’s grace we Christians don’t follow Satan and the world. We belong to God, and follow Him. Paul assures us, “*You belong to Christ*” (1 Cor. 3:23a). Jesus says, “*My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.*” “*They will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him*” (Jn. 10:27, 5a).

Now the Lord focused on one special Descendent of Eve, telling Satan, “*He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.*” With these words God gave the first promise of the Savior of the world: Jesus. Satan would “*bruise [Jesus’] heel.*” Satan’s followers, the unbelievers, would cause Jesus to suffer and die on the cross. But Jesus would “*bruise [Satan’s] head.*” Jesus would rise from the dead and defeat Satan (and sin and death)! Scripture says, “*The Son of God appeared ... to destroy the devil’s work*” (1 Jn. 3:8, NIV). “*The blood of Jesus Christ [God’s] Son cleanses us from all sin*” (1 Jn. 1:7). “*Death is swallowed up in victory. ... Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ*” (1 Cor. 15:54c, 57a).

Because Adam and Eve became sinful, and every human being is a descendant of Adam and Eve, we’re all sinful, too. As God had mercy on Adam and Eve, so He has mercy on us. As He promised, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, as the Savior of our human race. Jesus died on the cross for the sins of the whole world. By faith in Jesus all of our sins are forgiven, and we are saved. One Day God will make us perfect, and take us to live with Him forever in His perfect home in heaven. Amen.