

A Garment (Robe) of Innocence¹



SABBATH—APRIL 9

READ FOR THIS WEEK'S LESSON: 2 Timothy 3:16, 17; Luke 21:36; Genesis 2:20–25; Genesis 2:15–17; Genesis 3:6–11, 21.

MEMORY VERSE: “So God created man in his own likeness. He created him in the likeness of God. He created them as male and female” (Genesis 1:27, NIV).

LUCIFER'S FALL WAS NOT LIMITED TO HEAVEN. He has brought his lies and tricks to earth too. It is also surprising to see how successfully Lucifer has twisted the clearest truths of God's Word (Bible) into lies. He has caused millions of people to believe in his lies.

Genesis is clear: humans started out at the top of the earthly “food chain.” They were created, from the start, in the “image [likeness] of God.” They did not grow and develop over billions of years from tiny organisms (life forms) to larger living things. Evolution² teaches that humans started out at a lower level (as microbes³). Then after billions of years, they clawed their way up the food chain. But the Bible teaches that humans started out at the top in the image of God. Through sin they began a steady downfall.

This week, with clothing as a symbol in Genesis, we will study how that downfall began and what the only answer is.

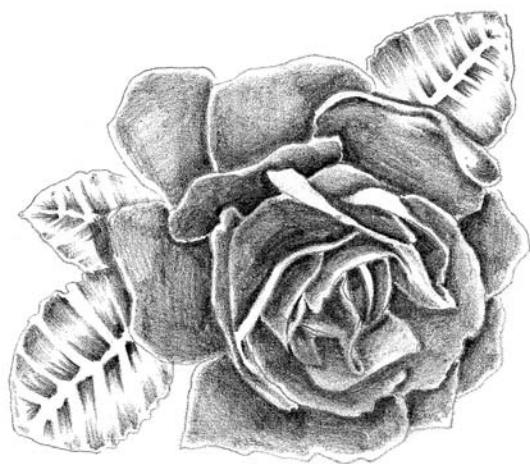
1. innocence—the state of not being guilty of a crime or other wrong act.

2. evolution—a theory (a set of ideas that has not been proved) that the differences between modern plants and animals are caused by changes that happen by a natural process over a very long time.

3. microbes—very small living things that can be seen only with a microscope.

SUNDAY—APRIL 10**THE FIRST DAYS
(2 Timothy 3:16, 17)**

Read quickly through the first two chapters of Genesis. Imagine what this earth must have been like when God created it. It was really a world unspoiled by sin. In what ways is our world today different from how it was back then?



Adam and Eve lived in a beautiful garden with sweet-smelling flowers.

Adam and Eve were put in a world so glorious that we cannot imagine it. It was a wonderful home in a beautiful garden with animals and other living things as loyal friends. Adam and Eve marveled at the beautiful scenery, the sweet-smelling flowers, the birds, and the animals. They felt deep joy in God's love for them and in their love for each other. Adam and Eve did not

want or need anything more. They took care of the Garden as they were commanded by their Maker. Adam and Eve surely looked forward to their Creator's visits as they walked together in the Garden. They talked with Him. They knew that He loved them, and their love for Him grew each day.

Adam and Eve's relationship with their Maker developed and grew in a world that did not know sin. How can we have a close relationship with our Creator in a world that has been spoiled by sin for so long? Read 2 Timothy 3:16, 17; Luke 21:36; Matthew 6:25–34; John 17:3 for answers.

Adam and Eve talked with the Lord face-to-face. It was an honor that we do not have now. But we do have the honor of living daily with the same God as Adam and Eve did. Yes, sin has gotten in the way. But Jesus has connected heaven to earth with bonds that never can be broken. Jesus has opened a way for us to live closely with our Creator as much as possible now.

How closely do you walk with God? As you think over your answer, ask yourself a few questions. What am I doing to make this closeness stronger? What things am I doing to break this closeness? What can I do to have a closer walk with the Lord?



Jesus has connected heaven to earth with bonds that never can be broken.

MONDAY—APRIL 11

NAKED, BUT NOT ASHAMED (Genesis 2:20–25)

It is very hard for us to understand what the world was like in the beginning. Our minds are so twisted by sin that we cannot imagine fully the sinless condition of Adam and Eve in Eden. Adam and Eve knew no pain, no suffering, no lies, no betrayal, no death, no loss, and no shame, not even sexual shame (which is perhaps the most common kind in a world so deep in sin today).

What kind of close relationship between Adam and Eve is shown in Genesis 2:20–25?

As “one flesh” (see Genesis 2:24), Adam and Eve were very close to God and to each other. The verse is very clear: they were naked and not ashamed (verse 25).

“The sinless pair [Adam and Eve] wore no man-made garments [clothes]. They were clothed with a

covering of light and glory, such as the angels wear. So long as Adam and Eve obeyed God, this robe of light continued to cover them.”—Adapted from Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*,⁴ page 45.



Adam and Eve were clothed in a covering of light.

Exactly what did this light look like? How did it work? And what was its purpose? We do not know. Even with the covering of light, Adam and Eve were said to have been “naked.” The fact that they were not ashamed must have meant that this covering of light did not completely hide their nakedness. But in that sinless world, it did

4. *Patriarchs and Prophets*—patriarchs were leaders of God’s people in early Bible times, men such as Abraham and Isaac, or other leaders of Israel, such as Moses; prophets are men or women who are spokespersons for God.

not matter. This is because there was no shame in that world.

The fact that Adam and Eve were naked seems to show the kind of physical closeness the sinless couple enjoyed. There was an openness and an innocence (no guilt) about them. Adam and Eve lived in complete honesty, openness, and freedom before each other and before God. It was how the Lord had planned it. How nice it must have been.

How much openness is there in your own life? Or are you always hiding things and yourself in coverings that do not show what is really going on? (Read Matthew 10:26.) If this is true, what parts of your life must you start to change?

TUESDAY—APRIL 12

THE TEST (Genesis 2:15–17)

Last week's lesson talked about a very important truth: the freedom that God gives to all people to choose right or wrong. Again, without that freedom, they might be able to do "moral" (good) things in the same way a house alarm protects people from crime. But who would call the alarm itself "moral"? In the same way, people who have no choice but to do the right thing are not "moral." Only free beings can be moral ones.

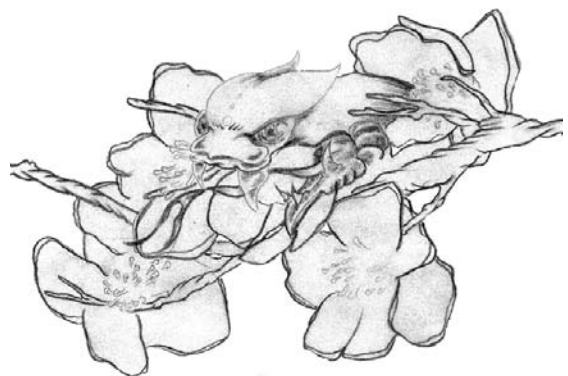
A simple test was given to Adam and Eve to see if they would obey the Lord in their freedom. Adam and Eve had to prove that they would do the right thing with the freedom given to them.

Read Genesis 2:15–17, which describes the test given to Adam (and Eve too). Think about the place in which this test was given. How did that place make their sin worse?

Study carefully what Satan said to Eve in Genesis 3:1–4. What truth did he mix in with all his lies?

It is interesting that the tree was of both "good and evil." God, clearly, did not want to keep Adam and Eve from good. The whole world God had created, with Adam and Eve in it, was good, even "very good" (Genesis 1:31). But the Lord wanted to protect Adam and Eve from the knowledge of evil.

That is not hard to understand, is it? Even in our fallen world, parents want to protect their children from the knowledge of evil. How much more did God want to protect Adam and Eve from evil! He wanted to protect them from the knowledge of the one thing that would cause them to lose their garments of light.



Eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil would cause Adam and Eve to lose their garments of light.

Evil is not always easy to see and avoid. It can hide in many ways. What might some of these ways be? How can we learn to recognize these kinds of evil and then learn to protect ourselves from them?

WEDNESDAY—APRIL 13

A NEW SET OF CLOTHES (Genesis 3:6–11)

As we know very well, Adam and Eve failed their test. To call the results sad would not be enough. Far from it. “Sad” would not be enough to describe the terrible results of Adam’s and Eve’s disobedience.

According to Genesis 3:6–11, what was the first thing that happened to Adam and Eve after they fell? (This is exactly what Satan said would happen in verse 5.) What does this mean? What does it tell us about the results of their sin?

Adam’s and Eve’s eyes were opened. This is just as Satan said they would be. Now Adam and Eve were seeing the world differently from the way they had before. All through those verses, the theme of their nakedness appears again. It appears in Adam’s and Eve’s fall from innocence, their sin. And it appears in their new relationship to God and to each other. They now know they are naked.

Notice, too, the Lord’s question to them: “Who told you that you were naked?” (verse 11, NIV). It suggests

that in their innocence, Adam and Eve never thought of their nakedness. This just seemed a natural way to be, and they did not give it any thought. But now they were filled with the shame it brought.

What is the true meaning of Adam’s and Eve’s answer to their nakedness?

Imagine Adam and Eve hiding behind some bushes. They were looking at themselves with their mouths wide open. And they were trying to cover themselves before the Lord. Looking for coverings, they must have decided that the fig leaves were the best. Here we have the first lesson in salvation by works. Humans are trying to solve the problem of sin by their own works and actions. Adam’s and Eve’s efforts are sad, but they are not any worse than ours are today.

THURSDAY—APRIL 14

ANIMAL SKIN (Genesis 3:21)

Yesterday we read about what Adam and Eve said and did after they sinned. Today we will read about what God said to them. In the verse given above, we have the gospel message being used as a symbol.

First, we learn that Adam’s and Eve’s fig-leaf covering was not good enough. If it had been, there would have been no need to kill innocent animals in order to clothe the fallen couple. In the same way, all our efforts to keep the law well enough

to be saved fail. If working our own way to salvation were good enough, then Christ would not have had to die for us. Fig leaves would have been less trouble than the death of innocent animals. And our works would have been cheaper than the death of Jesus. In both cases, our works (fig leaves) are not good enough. That is why Jesus had to die for us. That is why innocent animals had to be killed. There could be no other way (Galatians 3:21; Romans 3:21–28).

What is the main difference between fig leaves and animal skins? What comes from animal skins that does not come from fig leaves? Of course, the answer is blood. That alone should tell us how the gospel (good news) appears in Genesis 3:21. (See Leviticus 17:11; Revelation 12:11; 1 Peter 1:18, 19; Hebrews 9:22.)

Perhaps the best part of the verse is the last part. It says, “[He] clothed them” (Genesis 3:21). The Hebrew is clear: it was the Lord who placed the animal skins on Adam and Eve. It was His act. It was what He did for them that covered the shame of their nakedness. As we saw yesterday, the quick results of their sin were shown in the nakedness theme. Now God Himself solves the problem by clothing Adam and Eve Himself, in a covering made from innocent animals who were killed. The verse says only that a “skin” covered them. It does not tell us what kind. But it might not be hard to make a correct guess. (Read Genesis 22:8; John 1:36; John 3:16.)

From the beginning of time, the Lord Himself revealed (showed) the plan of salvation. Adam’s and Eve’s sin was terrible. But it was not greater than God’s grace to save them from it. This is a point we should never forget.

Think about the wonderful promise of salvation by faith in Jesus. Think about the promise that our salvation is found in what Jesus has done for us. Salvation is not found in what we can ever do for ourselves. How can you learn to make Christ’s righteousness (goodness) the center of your life and your walk with the Lord?

FRIDAY—APRIL 15

ADDITIONAL STUDY: Read Ellen G. White, “The Creation,” “The Temptation and Fall,” and “The Plan of Redemption,” pages 44–70, in *Patriarchs and Prophets*.

“The white robe of innocence was worn by our first parents when they were placed by God in holy Eden. . . . There is nothing a man can do about his lost robe of innocence. . . . Only the covering that Christ Himself has given can make us fit to appear in God’s presence. This covering, the robe of His own righteousness, Christ will put upon every repenting,⁵ believing soul. . . . This robe, woven in the loom of heaven, does not have one thread of human action. Christ

5. repenting—being sorry for your sins and turning away from sinning with the help of the Holy Spirit.

in His human form shows a perfect character [life]. And He offers to give this character to us.”—Adapted from Ellen G. White, *Maranatha*, page 78.

“The Lord Jesus Christ has prepared a covering, the robe of His own righteousness. Then He will put it on every repenting, believing soul who by faith will receive it. . . . When the Lord looks upon the believing sinner, He does not see the fig leaves covering him. Instead, He sees His own robe of righteousness. . . .”—Adapted from Ellen G. White, *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, November 15, 1898.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

❶ According to Genesis 3:6, what were the ways to Eve’s soul that the devil used to make her fall? How do these same things work for him today too?

❷ Think more about nakedness as the central concept (thought) in the Eden story. What else can we take from this idea that could help us to understand what was going on there?

❸ Read the two Ellen G. White

quotes in Friday’s study. How is the wonderful truth of the gospel shown in those words?

❹ Read Hebrews 5:14: “Solid food is for those who are grown up. They have trained themselves with a lot of practice. They can tell the difference between good and evil” (NirV). Think about the whole question of evil. What do we mean by the word *evil*? Is it something that is always the same? Or does evil depend on what each culture thinks of as evil? What happens when evil in one culture is now no longer thought of as evil? How much does culture itself influence (control) our understanding of what is and is not evil? How can we step beyond our culture and know for sure what is good and what is evil? How are we to understand Isaiah 5:20: “How terrible it will be for those who say that what is evil is good! How terrible for those who say that what is good is evil! How terrible for those who say that darkness is light and light is darkness! How terrible for those who say that what is bitter is sweet and what is sweet is bitter!” (NirV).