

Covering

(4 25 10)

Interesting Note

- **Something interesting happened to Adam & Eve after they ate the fruit**
Gen 3:7 - Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.
- **Afterward, the Lord came looking for them**
- **Gen 3:10 - Adam answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”**
- **Apparently the covering that Adam/Eve made were not good enough to cover their nakedness & shame...**
 - **They still had to hide from God**

God's Covering

- So God had to make a more effective covering for them
- Gen 3:21 - The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.
- What is so special about this covering?
 - Is it because skins provide better covering over plants?
 - Why do we wear cottons instead of fur?
 - I believe that there is more to this story...

Cain & Abel

Move forward to the story of Cain & Abel in Genesis 4

Gen 4 – Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, “With the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man.” Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor.

Why?

- **Commentaries say God favors Abel's offering because of the difference in attitude, not the types of offerings**

What I believed happened

I believe there's more than just the attitude difference...

- **I believe that Cain & Abel's parents have been telling them bedtime stories about how they started wearing animal skins..**
- **The story may have gone something like this...**
 - **Kids... there was a time when things were just perfect...**
 - **Your dad did not have to work (except to name the animals)**
 - **But one day, there was a snake...**
 - **He tricked your mom, and we ate the fruit..**
 - **We tried to sew fig leaves but that just wasn't enough**
 - **We still felt shame and guilt, so we had to hide..**
 - **But God was so gracious... he killed a couple of lambs**
 - **He made new clothings for us (like the one you're wearing)**
 - **We felt cleanse after that because the blood of the lambs cleansed us from our sins....**
 - **So if you ever have to make an offering for your sins...**

Abel

- I believe that both Cain & Abel knew which offering was acceptable to God's sight... But only Abel truly believed it. That why in Heb says:
 - Heb 11:4 - It was by faith that Abel brought a more acceptable offering to God than Cain did. Abel's offering gave evidence that he was a righteous man, and God showed his approval of his gifts.
- Abel understood that his righteousness was made by the blood of an animal
 - Lev 17:11 – For the life of a creature is in the blood...it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.
 - Heb 9:22 – In fact the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin.

Cain

- I believe Cain thought he could do things his ways
- Many Asian cultures have offer sacrifices of fruit, vegetables, meat (never about the blood) & rice along with incense on altars
 - Examples in Chinese restaurants
 - 2 Purposes
 - To appease & honor the ancestor's spirit
 - To have a better life for self
 - If you don't, they will react
 - That was what we used to do

All About the Blood

- **Heb 9:14 (NLT) – Under the old system, the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a young cow could cleanse people's bodies from ceremonial impurity. Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God.**
- **Rev 7:14 (NLT) - “These are the ones who died in the great tribulation. They have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and made them white.”**

Jesus' Word

- **John 6:53-56 (NLT) – “I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you cannot have eternal life within you. But anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise that person at the last day....Anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him.”**
- **Many deserted him b/c they thought the teaching was too hard & offensive**
- **John 6:63-64 (NLT) – Does this offend you?... The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But some of you do not believe me.**

Adam/Eve

- **Adam & Eve understood this when God gave them the new covering.. They were cleansed and did not have to hide anymore.**
- **Cain & Abel knew about it. Abel believed it by faith. Cain did not.**
- **Same for us today... do we accept the blood of the Lamb to cleanse us from all our sins....**

Edification Time

- The Lord's Supper

