

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS ANNOUNCEMENT

Genesis 3:1-24

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 3:1-24 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" ² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.' " ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. ⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." ¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." ¹⁶ To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you." ¹⁷ And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." ²⁰ The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹ And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them. ²² Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—" ²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

THE CREATOR

Perfect garden

Perfect universe

Perfect man

Perfect companion - woman

Perfect communion

THE CATASTROPHE

Satan ... booted from heaven

Satan ... broke on to the scene and came into the garden

Satan tempted

Couple lusted - Adam and Eve desired to obtain a good thing in a bad way.

THE COVERING

No one looks at a wild animal and wonders why they are not clothed.

It seems unnatural to clothe your animals ... although this is commonly done by some poodle lovers.

The same would have been unthinkable for Adam and Eve ... nudity was normal and beautiful.

They walked in complete intimacy and confidence before God and before one another.

Something happened ... and suddenly they weren't quite so comfortable ... they wished to guard themselves.

There was an inherent sense of shame, guilt or nakedness.

It was not the voice of God ... God had not yet spoken to them regarding their sinful decision.

It was not the voice of a preacher ... They were not convicted due to sitting in a revival service.

It was their conscience which pricked them from within.

Romans 2 speaks of this reality.

Having a sense of uneasiness, guilt or something, they attempt to provide their own salve or solution.

They quickly and desperately try to do something to solve their shame-guilt problem.

Adam and Eve constructed their own covering.

How ridiculous, using leaves to cover sin.

As if the physical could atone for the spiritual.

As if God could not see through the leaves.

Their attempt to cover themselves and erase the feeling of guilt was not successful.

So they then seek to hide themselves from God.

Notice that they heard God walking in the garden.

How does a Spirit walk?

God must have manifested himself in a physical form which could be heard and seen.

I believe this is none other than the Angel of the Lord, the Son of God, clothed with temporary flesh before his incarnation and virgin birth.

THE CURSES

CURSES WITHIN THE SOUL

Eve blames the serpent.

Adam blames the wife.

But the hardness of sinful man is seen most in the words of verse twelve, "The woman you gave me ..."

Adam blamed God.

Great pain would be found in the raising of children as they would quickly see with Cain and Abel.

They would faithfully raise a generation of God-rebels.

The work and employment of man would be traumatic.

Pornography ... Pedophilia ... Incest ... Rape ... Homosexuality ... Adultery

Discontentment... Lying ... Swindling ... Defrauding ... Embezzling ... Stealing

Terrorism ... Ethnic Cleansing ... Murder ... War

CURSES WITHIN THE BODY

The birthing and raising of children would be traumatic.

Evidently, childbearing before the fall would have been a pleasurable experience, without pain.

Great pain would be found in the bearing of children.

They physically began to deteriorate and fall apart.

What we have describe here this morning is the "de-evolution of mankind and the world."

Adam had been created to rule the earth, and now in the end the earth would rule Adam.

Whooping Cough ... Aids ... STDs ... Viruses ... Epidemics ... Cancer ... Heart Failure ... Death

CURSES AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Adam was to love his wife ... to protect his wife ... to look out for her welfare.

Now Adam is using her to protect himself.

Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

The woman would desire to usurp and rebel against the God-given leadership role of the husband.

To honor and submit would transition into rebelling and be resentful.

She would follow her husband's lead in resisting submission.

And most find in this passage the promise that men would unfairly dominate

To love and cherish would become to control and dominate.

CURSES AROUND THE GLOBE

There would be intense trial and turmoil in the living of life.

The earth – the living place of man – it would be a place of trauma and tribulation.

Evidently, work before the fall would have been incredibly enjoyable ... maybe like golf.

But now man's work would be frustrated and toilsome.

Famine ... Hurricanes ... Ice Storms ... Drought ... Tsunamis

CURSES ABOVE WITH GOD

Satan had already been excommunicated from God's heaven. Curses on Satan

Adam and Eve were now excommunicated from God's heaven on earth.

Because of sin, man had been expelled.

THE CHRISTMAS COVENANT

God looked like the loser

Hell had come to earth and paradise had gone to pot.

Satan looked like the victor

I PRESENT TO YOU THIS MORNING THE GOD WHO IS OMNISCIENT ...

Knowing what would happen with Satan

Knowing what logic Satan would use in his deception

Knowing what choice his man and woman would make

Knowing what would happen in the Garden

Knowing not how to gamble or take chances

I PRESENT TO YOU THIS MORNING THE GOD WHO IS OMNIPOTENT ...

Fully able to create a free-will worshiper

Fully able to vanquish the Devil from his universe

I PRESENT TO YOU THIS MORNING THE GOD WHO IS OMNIPRESENT ...

Watching what was “going down” in his Garden

He was present and accounted for

I PRESENT TO YOU THIS MORNING THE GOD WHO IS MADE A COVENANT ...

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

The fancy theological word used for this conversation is the “Protoevangelion.”

ONE SEES A BABY

One particular seed to come. (Singular)

The text speaks of the “seed of the woman.”

In matters of procreation, it is the man who produces and gives the seed.

The woman is the recipient in the process.

This is a forecasting of special, miraculous, odd conception.

ONE SEES A WOUNDING

There will be a future, legendary battle between two representative seeds.

The Prince of this World ... vs. ... the Prince of Peace.

This special descendent would be wounded.

ONE SEES A VICTORY

It is a two-fold pronouncement ... One word to the sinner ... one word to the Satan.

Pronouncement of hope ... Pronouncement of horror

He is wounded yet victorious ... bitten but crushing.

ONE SEES A DISTINCTION

They experienced the sovereign approach of God ... coming to them ... walking towards his rebels.

It is wonderful to see that even as we hide ourselves from God, He pursues those who do not desire his presence.

The calling of the Lord that we once hated, soon becomes the most beautiful sound ever heard.

They experienced the unconditional love of God for sinners. (Four Promises)

There will be enmity between Satan and his woman.

There will be war between Satan and the Woman.

That which Satan first conquered he will first lose.

Satan, you will not even be able to keep the woman which you have just gained.

Satan, though you have gained a legacy of converts, you will not thwart my plan to have a legacy of God worshipers.

I PRESENT TO YOU THIS MORNING THE GOD WHO APPLIED HIS COVENANT ...

GOD PROVIDED CLOTHING FOR HIS SINNERS

And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

We learn that man cannot cover himself; God must provide the covering.

But this was only a temporary covering used to point man to the eternal covering.

GOD PROVIDES ACCESS TO THE TREE OF LIFE FOR HIS SINNERS

Revelation 22:14 Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.

CONCLUSION

THE SCRIPT OF GOD

Scripture portrays a God who has planned everything out in perfect detail and carefully works to complete his determined plan.

Psalm 33:11 The plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.

Isaiah 46:9-10 Remember the former things long past, for I am God, and there is not other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things which have not been done; saying, "My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all my good pleasure."

So ... what happened in the garden?

Scripture would necessitate a view on the fall that it part of God's mysterious will to accomplish God's mysterious desire.

It was not an accident.

It was not a blemish.

It was not unforeseen.

It was sin. It was wrong.

But it was sovereignly planned for a purpose.

Earthly misery ... leading to eternal glee

Temporary pain ... leading to paradise

That which could be lost ... leading to that which can never be altered.

THE SONG OF THE ANGELS

The angels witnessed the fall in eternity past

The angels witnessed the fall in the garden

The angels witnessed the tragic excommunication

The angels guarded the entrance to the garden

The angels witnessed numerous millennia of misery

The angels heard the promises

Ephesians 3:8-10 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,⁹ and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things,¹⁰ so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

There was so much joy because, for over 4000 years, God had been promising this special event.

There was so much joy because, for over 4 millennia, God had been moving history towards this climax.

No wonder they sang ... loudly ... many of them

Luke 2:13-14 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,¹⁴
"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

THE SONG OF ADAM AND EVE

The saints in heaven watch

The saints in heaven pray

The saints in heaven sing

Revelation 14:1-3 Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.² And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps,³ and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.

Can you imagine Adam and Eve in Heaven?

To realize how easily they could have been damned to eternity in Hell, but they weren't.

To realize how easily they could have damned all their descendents, but there was hope.

I think that Adam and Eve were leading the heavenly choir. It was probably a pretty charismatic event.

No one could celebrate quite like Adam and Eve.

No one can celebrate Christmas like one whose world has been shattered, yet has been promised grace and peace by God.

Third verse of "Joy to the World"

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground

He comes to make his blessings flow, far as the curse the is found.

THE GREAT OPPORTUNITY

Are you feeling the sting of sin?

Are you feeling a bit naked or alienated from God?

Are you experiencing the tribulation and trauma of this earth?

Would you argue with God over the severity of your sin?

Would you cover your own sins?

Proverbs 28:13 He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever **confesses** and renounces them finds mercy.