

## 13. A NEW WARDROBE

Today we step into the world of high fashion to review a new clothing line. The designer was God. The new ensemble was a gift. God wanted to show Adam and his wife that he would continue to take care of their needs. Besides, God used this gesture to give them a glimpse of his strategy for saving them. To picture how his plan for salvation would work, God gave them animal-skin outfits to replace the fragile leaves they had stitched together to cover their shame. While Adam and Eve probably didn't understand the full significance of God's gift, the animal-skin outfits **foreshadowed** God's **substitute**, a Savior, who would take their place by dying the death they deserved. In hindsight, we can recognize the symbolism of God substituting his more practical choice of clothing (fur skins) for the poor clothing choice (leaves) that Adam and Eve made.

God embedded a second clue in this gesture. This clue revealed even more about how God planned to keep his promise. To learn more about that second clue, read *Genesis 3:21*. Then make an educated guess about the messages God was sending with his gift of a new wardrobe.

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God knew Adam and Eve would need protection in an environment damaged by sin. Their safe and secure landscape had turned into a dangerous place. God's first humans were not prepared for living in survival mode. The Bible describes the new wraps as "garments of skin." The new outfits would protect their bodies from wind, cold, snow, rain, frostbite, UV rays, and mosquitos. Later, clothing would also protect humans from the **immoral** desires of other humans. But these new duds raised a serious issue for Adam and Eve. Neither of them had any experience with death. Dressing in the skins of dead animals that God had given them made them remember what they had done. God was reminding them of his plan to overcome the guilt of their sin.

God's gesture of giving Adam and Eve this new, animal-skin wardrobe helped them understand what death means and how God was giving them a substitute for the clothing they had fashioned for themselves. The concept of substitution is a constant theme throughout Scripture. One of the most vivid pictures of substitution is the unblemished lamb that was brought to the Temple to be slaughtered. The lambs dead bodies were then placed on an altar and consumed in fire. That

practice was referred to as a *sacrificial offering* or a **sacrifice**. Thousands upon thousands of sacrifices were offered to God in Old Testament times.

Sacrificial lambs foreshadowed God's own Lamb, Jesus, who came to shed his lifeblood for the sins of the world (*John 1:29*). In New Testament Era times (We live in the New Testament era.), we witnessed God's actual sacrifice whenever we read about Jesus' death on the cross. There God accepted his Son's bloody sacrifice as the punishment for our sins.

If you drill a little deeper into this verse, you can also imagine the animal-skin wardrobe representing the blood-stained robe of Jesus' **righteousness** (*Isaiah 61:10*). In that foreshadowed picture, our sin is covered by the cloak of Jesus' goodness. When God sees his Son's righteous life covering us, he judges us to be innocent. In the last book of the Bible—*Revelation*—the Apostle John envisions a big crowd of people worshipping at the Lamb's throne. They are all wearing the same outfit. "... There before me was a great multitude no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands" (*Revelation 7:9*). We will be there in that crowd, dressed in pure white robes of his goodness.

END VIDEO. BEGIN CONVERSATIONS.

## REMEMBER WHEN ...

When you were young, did you have a favorite outfit that you wore on special occasions?

**WORD POWER: foreshadowed; substitute; immoral; sacrifice; righteousness**

## FROM THE TOUR

List some dangers Adam and Eve would face in their hostile, new environment.

Have you ever attended the funeral of a loved one? How did you feel in that moment?

How does this verse help you appreciate even more God's plan to save sinners?

## LEARN MORE

Read *Genesis 22:1-14*. Identify three pictures in this narrative that foreshadow God's substitutionary sacrifice of his own dear Lamb on Calvary's cross. [HINT: the three pictures that you are looking for appear in verses 2, 6, and 13.]

Read *Galatians 3:26-27*. What does *clothed in Christ* mean when it refers to baptism.

Read *Revelation 19:7-8*. What does the part about *clean linens* mean in this wedding scene?

## TAKE-AWAYS

Thank Jesus for cleansing your heart with the free and gracious gift of his forgiveness.

How would you explain to a friend what Jesus did for you when he died on the cross?



You removed my sackcloth and clothed me with  
joy.

*Psalm 124:7*