

"COATS OF SKINS"

Genesis 3:21

Intro: Christ is presented in a number of ways in the OT:

- 1) In personal appearances, such as, as "the angel of the Lord." We know from John 1:18 that every time God appears in OT, it had to be Christ.
- 2) In prophecies concerning either His first coming or His second coming.
- 3) In types. These are persons, or events, or symbols which clearly point to Christ. There are similarities between a type and a parable.

The Passover Lamb was clearly a type of Christ. See 1 Cor. 5:7. The brazen serpent was a type of Christ. See John 3:14, 15. The rock from which the children of Israel drank in the wilderness was a type of Christ. See 1 Cor. 10:4.

There are not only types of Christ, but types of God and even types of the Holy Spirit. We must not treat everything as a type or parable, as though there is some hidden meaning behind everything that is mentioned in the Bible, but neither can we afford to fail to recognize that there are types in the Word of God.

Such is what we have in Gen. 3:21. God did something here for Adam and Eve which was typical -- a type, a picture, an illustration -- of what He does for every sinner who believes in Christ.

(Read Gen. 3:21.)

In order to understand this we need, first, to look at the background of what happened here.

I. THE BACKGROUND (Gen. 1:1-3:20).

- A. Man created by God. This is given in chapter 1, and given more in detail in chapter 2.
- B. The Garden of Eden, and the one prohibition placed upon Adam and Eve. This is in chapter 2:8-17.
- C. Eve tempted by Satan and man's fall into sin. We have this in Gen. 3:1-6.
- D. God's judgment upon the Devil, the woman (Eve), and the man (Adam). We see this in Gen. 3:7-21.

Before God actually pronounced judgment, we see that Adam and Eve were judged in two other ways:

- 1) They were immediately conscious of their nakedness, and they attempted to remedy the situation.
- 2) For the first time they experienced fear of God. And Adam blamed this upon his nakedness. He knew that the garments which he had made were not sufficient for him in the presence of God.

This all gives us the background for our text tonight. Our text tells us what God did for Adam and Eve, the provision that He made for them.

### III. GOD'S PROVISION FOR TWO SINNERS (Gen. 3:21).

It would be difficult to see how salvation could be more clearly presented this early in the OT than it is in what we are told in Gen. 3:21. This is why we can speak of this as a type. It is an OT picture of salvation through Christ.

We need to remember three things from the background which we have just covered:

- 1) First, as soon as they had sinned they realized that they had lost something which they had before.
- 2) Second, they sought to meet their own need.
- 3) Third, when God came to them as obviously He had on many occasions previously, they knew that they were not prepared to meet Him. They needed more than what they had done for themselves.

After this, God pronounced judgment upon the serpent, the Devil, upon the man, and upon the woman. These were all judgments that had to do with this life. But the biggest problem which existed for Adam and Eve was their alienation from God. This was evidence of spiritual death. And Adam and Eve had already learned that they could not repair the damage which their sin had caused between them and God.

A little meditation on Gen. 3:21 will teach us a great deal about our salvation.

- A. Adam and Eve didn't deserve to have God do anything for them.

They were guilty. They had disobeyed God. They knew what the consequences of disobedience would be before they sinned. And so everything about their judgment was deserved. They deserved to die spiritually (which is separation from God), physically (which is separation from the body), and eternally (which means shut out forever from God's presence).

They were like the one thief on the Cross who said to the other:

Dost thou not fear God,  
seeing that thou art in the same condemnation?  
**And we indeed justly;**  
**for we receive the due reward of our deeds:**  
but this man (the Lord) has done nothing amiss  
(Luke 23:40, 41).

Adam and Eve were getting "the due reward of their deeds!"  
They deserved what they were getting.

B. Notice that they did not ask God for help.

They had tried to help themselves, but they did not ask God for help. They tried to excuse themselves, but there is no indication that they asked God for mercy. Obviously, that was not in their hearts.

So what followed was not God's response to anything that they had asked Him to do.

And now we come to the wonderful part.

C. God, of His own will, took the "coats of skins,"  
and clothed them.

God's own heart prompted Him to do what He did. He was acting in mercy and grace. He had pronounced judgment upon them, and then clothed them.

Where did He get the "coats of skins"? They had to come from animals. Up to this point we have no reason to believe that any animal had died. These animals did not just die; they wee killed!

But you say, "They did not deserve to die! They had not sinned!" What a wonderful type they are of our Lord Jesus Christ! He did not deserve to die either. He is the One Person Who ever lived on the earth who did not deserve to die. And so those sacrificial animals, those substitutes, who were killed that Adam and Eve might be covered, are a type of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blood had to be shed or Adam and Eve would not have had an adequate covering. Sewing fig leaves together was a picture of their works; only by a work of God could they be sufficiently covered.

But notice another thing: Our Bibles tell us that "the Lord God" not only made the "coats of skins," but He "clothed them." That is, God did not provided the covering and leave it up to them to put the covering on; God made sure that they were covered because He "clothed them"!

Let me mention one more thing:

- D. The clothing did not cost Adam and Eve an ounce of energy, nor a second of work. It was free! It cost the animals their lives, but it cost Adam and Eve nothing!

Cf. Eph. 2:8, 9.

Could you have a better picture of the sovereignty of God in salvation?

We may have tried at some time, or some times in our lives, to make ourselves acceptable to God by our works, but in our hearts we knew that what we were doing was not enough. We were trying to cover the effect of sin, but could not take away the sin.

And we would never have asked God to save us if He had left us to ourselves.

But our Bibles tell us that He chose us, and bought us, and sought us, and brought us, and covered us with nothing less than His own righteousness provided for us, not by a living Christ, but by a crucified and risen Savior!

Those animals died a death which Adam and Eve should have died. And it was their skins with which God "clothed" Adam and Eve. This is what Isa. 53:6 tell us. This is what 2 Cor. 5:21 tells us. This is what 1 Cor. 15:3 tells us. This is what 1 Cor. 1:30 tells us. This is what Phil. 3:8, 9 tell us: "Yea, doubtless, and I count all things but loss..." Saul of Tarsus tried to clothe himself in his national origin. He tried to clothe himself in his religion. He tried to clothe himself in what he thought were good works. But when He met Christ, he cast that all away because none of that helped him at all in his relationship with God.

Concl: You see how much there is in this one verse to help us to understand the only way we can be saved. It is "not by works of righteousness which we have done..." (Tit. 3:8).

Perhaps someone here tonight is still working on "fig leaves." God wanted all of us to know that whatever we may try to do for ourselves will not be enough. It is only by His provision for us that we can be saved, and we don't even get the glory for putting it on. God clothed Adam and Eve with "coats of skins"; He clothes us with His own righteousness which is ours free, but at the cost of the death of His own beloved Son.