

Garments of Grace Clothing Imagery in the Bible Lesson 3 2Q 2011

A Garment of Innocence

SUNDAY

The lesson asks us to consider what the earth was like prior to sin and how our world today differs from the world God created. Any thoughts?

- No death, decay, disease, noxious or poisonous herb, predators
- No weather extremes or polar extremes
- No fatigue

The Father and the Son engaged in the mighty, wondrous work they had contemplated--of creating the world. The earth came forth from the hand of the Creator exceedingly beautiful. There were mountains and hills and plains; and interspersed among them were rivers and bodies of water. The earth was not one extensive plain, but the monotony of the scenery was broken by hills and mountains, not high and ragged as they now are, but regular and beautiful in shape. The bare, high rocks were never seen upon them, but lay beneath the surface, answering as bones to the earth. The waters were regularly dispersed. The hills, mountains, and very beautiful plains were adorned with plants and flowers and tall, majestic trees of every description, which were many times larger and much more beautiful than trees now are. The air was pure and healthful, and the earth seemed like a noble palace. Angels beheld and rejoiced at the wonderful and beautiful works of God. {SR 20.1}

Thoughts? Have you ever considered how beautiful the earth must have been? Think of it, the mountains we see now and consider so majestic and beautiful, were like bones to the earth. If you saw a person with a bone sticking out of their leg would you think, "how beautiful?"

In the days of Noah a double curse was resting upon the earth in consequence of Adam's transgression and of the murder committed by Cain. Yet this had not greatly changed the face of nature. There were evident tokens of decay, but the earth was still rich and beautiful in the gifts of God's providence. The hills were crowned with majestic trees supporting the fruit-laden branches of the vine. The vast, gardenlike plains were clothed with verdure, and sweet with the fragrance of a thousand flowers. The fruits of the earth were in great variety, and almost without limit. The trees far surpassed in size, beauty, and perfect proportion any now to be found; their wood was of fine grain and hard substance, closely resembling stone, and hardly less enduring. Gold, silver, and precious stones existed in abundance. {PP 90.1}

Can you imagine what this must have been like? Rivers with beds of various precious stones, emeralds, sapphires, rubies, or waterfall with platinum, altering with diamonds and sapphires – can you imagine the beauty?

MONDAY

Read third paragraph, “The sinless pair...” thoughts?

What garments did Adam and Eve wear before the fall? What happened to those garments? Where did they originate? Are they related to the robe woven in the loom of heaven or are these two different types of garments?

What is the robe woven in the loom of heaven? How do we wear it? Is it a covering or something within?

This robe, woven in the loom of heaven, has in it not one thread of human devising. **Christ in His humanity wrought out a perfect character**, and this character He offers to impart to us... **When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is**

what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness. {COL 311.4}

Thoughts? Is this robe and the robe of light the same or are they different?

Was Moses started to “get dressed” in this clothing when he came down the mountain? What about Stephen, when his face shown like an angel?

It came about when Moses was coming down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the testimony *were* in Moses’ hand as he was coming down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that **the skin of his face shone** because of his speaking with Him.

30 So when Aaron and all the sons of Israel saw Moses, behold, **the skin of his face shone**, and they were afraid to come near him...

34 But whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with Him, he would take off the veil until he came out; and whenever he came out and spoke to the sons of Israel what he had been commanded,

35 the sons of Israel would see **the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses’ face shone**. So Moses would replace the veil over his face until he went in to speak with Him. Exodus 34:29-35

What is going on? Is this magic? Was Moses being transformed in character by his beholding of God? Was Moses putting on the robe of Christ’s righteousness? Can we experience this type of thing still in our bodies as Moses did?

When we are rebuilt by God into His image – i.e. the “character of God is perfectly reproduce in His people..” will we have such clothes?

In the time of trouble, we all fled from the cities and villages, but were pursued by the wicked, who entered the houses of the saints with the sword. They raised the sword to

kill us, but it broke, and fell as powerless as a straw. Then we all cried day and night for deliverance, and the cry came up before God. ... The Israel of God stood with their eyes fixed upwards, listening to the words as they came from the mouth of Jehovah, and rolled through the earth like peals of loudest thunder. It was awfully solemn. At the end of every sentence, the saints shouted, Glory! Hallelujah! **Their countenances were lighted up with the glory of God; and they shone with the glory as Moses' face did when he came down from Sinai. The wicked could not look on them for the glory...** {RH, July 21, 1851 par. 13}

What is this clothing? When do we get this clothing?

"The fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.**" Gal. 5:22, 23. This fruit can never perish, but will produce after its kind a harvest unto eternal life. {COL 68.1}

"When the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come." **Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own.** {COL 69.1}

What happened to it? How do we get dressed in it now? Why was Christ' death necessary to dress us in this clothing?

TUESDAY

Read second paragraph, "A simple test..." thoughts

What does it mean "to see whether they would – in their freedom – obey the Lord"?

Did the Lord wonder? Did the Father look over to the Son and say, "Hey what do you think? Will they stay loyal or disobey? I don't know but I sure hope they stay loyal. What do you think the odds are?"

Was the tree put there “to see” if they would? Why was the tree put there?

Two reasons for the tree of knowledge – to protect – Satan could only approach at the tree - and develop them!

Our first parents, though created innocent and holy, were not placed beyond the possibility of wrongdoing. . . . They were to enjoy communion with God and with holy angels; but before they could be rendered eternally secure, **their loyalty must be tested**. At the very beginning of man's existence a check was placed upon the desire for self-indulgence, the fatal passion that lay at the foundation of Satan's fall. **The tree of knowledge, which stood near the tree of life in the midst of the garden**, was to be **a test of the obedience, faith, and love** of our first parents. While permitted to eat freely of every other tree, they were forbidden to taste of this, on pain of death. **They were also to be exposed to the temptations of Satan**; but if they endured the trial, they would finally be placed beyond his power, to enjoy perpetual favor with God. . . . {CC 13.2}

God might have created man without the power to transgress His law; He might have withheld the hand of Adam from touching the forbidden fruit; but in that case man would have been, not a free moral agent, but a mere automation. **Without freedom of choice, his obedience would not have been voluntary, but forced. There could have been no development of character.** . . . It would have been unworthy of man as an intelligent being, and would have sustained Satan's charge of God's arbitrary rule. {CC 13.3}

Could Adam and Eve have developed as individuals if they had no power to make choices for or against God?

If they would have not taken from the tree, endured the test, they would have been placed beyond Satan's power. What does this mean? What would have placed them beyond Satan's power?

- Would God have removed Satan from their presence and that is what places them beyond his power?
- What is Satan’s power? Lies, what puts them beyond this power?
 - Thinking through the issues and deciding for themselves and being so settled into the truth that they could not be moved. The tree, while a “test” was a tool for their development – without it, in the context of what was transpiring in the universe, they could never grow, develop and ultimately be secure.
 - What about today? What puts us beyond Satan’s power? “You will know the truth and the truth will set you free!” John 8:32. Life eternal is knowing God – John 17:3.
 - "Just as soon as the **people of God are sealed** in their foreheads--it is not any seal or mark that can be seen, **but a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved**--just as soon as God's people are sealed and prepared for the shaking, it will come. Indeed, it has begun already; the judgments of God are now upon the land, . . . that we may know what is coming. {FLB 287.7}
 - What settles us into the truth?

Thoughts?

What about after Adam and Eve sinned – what happened to the robe of light? Why did it disappear?

What was the source of this light?

Why were they barred from the tree of life? Was God punishing them? Or was it grace – what happens to a sinner who lives forever? Will they ever find peace, happiness, joy or would such a state be perpetual torture of soul? In barring the way was God punishing or in mercy preventing the experience of eternal suffering?

Why do some insist on presenting this as God punishing when he barred the way to the tree of life?

THURSDAY

Read memory text and then second paragraph, “First we...”

Thoughts? What do you think of the idea that if fig leaves were good enough that there would be “no need to kill innocent animals”?

Does inspiration ever say, anywhere, that God killed innocent animals for their skins to cover Adam and Eve? If God could speak animals into existence could He not speak animal skins into existence? Which is harder to create the living animal or the skin? Why do some insist God killed animals to clothe them?

What would it say about God if this were so?

Do we see God in the killing business? Is God the executioner of the universe? Why does sin result in death? Is it because God must kill or that sin destroys and unremedied sin results in death?

What about “our works would have been cheaper than the death of Christ.” Is it about “expense”? Did salvation have a “price tag” on it that required a “payment” to achieve the freedom for sinners?

Is it like C.S. Lewis’ depiction of the *Lion Witch and the Wardrobe*? The White Witch has enticed a “son of Adam” and now she has the “right” to his life and Aslan makes a deal with the White Witch to pay her the price of his life to save the “son of Adam”?

Is it true that it was at great cost that God provided salvation through Christ? Yes! Was there any other way to achieve our salvation? No!

So what do we mean when we use language of “expense” or “price”?

- Is it a payment like a mortgage payment?
- Is it a price like a prison sentence?
- Or does it mean something else?
- If a father donates a kidney to save his son, did he pay a “price” did it “cost” him? What was the price? Why was there a price? Was it a legally imposed price?

Read third paragraph, “Second, what’s...” thoughts? What do we mean by blood?

We heard in the sermon last week that the death of Christ was not to appease the Father – but what was it for? What was accomplished by Christ’s death? Why was “blood” necessary to save mankind? Who demanded “blood”?

If we had the shroud in which Christ was buried today, and we had the actual dried blood of Christ upon it, would this dried blood save us? Could we present this dried blood to God as our “price” to heaven? Or does the blood have to be fresh?

When we speak of being saved by the “blood” is it red corpuscles or is this language symbolic of something else? If so what?

Where is the blood applied? Who needs the blood?

Scripture tells us that “the life is in the blood” so the blood is representative of the life.

Jesus said that unless we eat His flesh and drink His blood we can have no part with Him. John 6

What does this mean?

“In the study of the Bible the converted soul eats the flesh and drinks the blood of the Son of God, which He himself interprets as the receiving and doing of His words, that are spirit and life.” Fundamentals of Christian Education 378.1

“The leaven of **truth** works a change in the whole man, making the coarse refined, the rough gentle, the selfish generous. By **it [the truth] the impure are cleansed, washed in the blood of the Lamb.**” Christ’s Object Lessons 102

What does the blood symbolize? Where does the truth and life of Christ get “applied” in reality? What does this application result in

when it is applied to the heart/mind of a sinner? Would it be cleansing of the sinner's heart and mind from sin? Would it not be the reproduction of Christlike character within the sinner?

Where in the OT sanctuary service was the blood applied? If the blood represents the life and truth of Jesus the what is the meaning of the ministry of blood in the sanctuary service? What is it doing? Does God need the truth presented to Him? Who needs the truth and the character of Christ? Then wouldn't the OT system be a lesson book on God's plan to actually heal and transform the sinner and bring us back into at-one-ment with God?

What questions do you have about this?

WEDNESDAY

Read third paragraph, Notice too..." thoughts? What else is implied in the question from God? Isn't it that, "Adam who told you that you are naked? You didn't hear me saying anything did you? I am not the one criticizing, finding fault or making you feel insecure and uncomfortable. Adam that is what sin has done. You have been changed by it."

FRIDAY

Read top two paragraphs – what did we learn in the last two weeks which unlocks the symbolism of these quotes? (see COL quote under this week's Monday's lesson) What is actually going on when one is "clothed" with the robe of Christ's righteousness?

Read and discuss question 4

What is evil? What does evil look like? Is it red, horns and pitchfork? Or robes of light, priestly vestments, claiming to be your friend, while telling you lies about God? Which is most evil?