



Genesis 3 - Solus Christus

By Mike Clark 10/22/2023

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^[c] 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.



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We live in an age that thinks most people are going to go to heaven and that people can get to heaven by being good and apart from faith in Jesus Christ.

It doesn't matter what religion you have or even if you aren't religious, if you live a relatively good life, you will go to heaven.

That is what the world says. But not only this, but you also have many who would call themselves Christians, believe you have to earn your salvation through good works.

Just having faith in Christ is not enough. Those would be the cults, but sadly that has even crept into the evangelical church. But the Bible says something completely different.

John 3:36 - Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Acts 4:12 - And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

The truth of Christ alone or solus Chistus, is the very heart of the gospel.

Our spiritual ancestors grounded their faith in it and based their teaching in it and filled their preaching with it.

Christ is the only object of the sinner's hope for salvation.

The true church of Jesus Christ has always believed this.

Listen to what the 1689 LBCF teaches -

LBCF – Chapter 8, Paragraph 1 - God was pleased, in his eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, his only begotten Son, according to the covenant made between them, to be the mediator between God and humanity. God chose him to be prophet, priest, and king, and to be head and savior of the church, the heir of all things, and judge of the world. From all eternity, God gave to the Son a people to be his offspring. In time these people would be redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified by him.

Paragraph 4 - The Lord Jesus most willingly undertook this office. To discharge it, he was born under the law and perfectly fulfilled it. He also experienced the punishment that we



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deserved and that we should have endured and suffered. He was made sin and a curse for us. He endured extremely heavy sorrows in his soul and extremely painful sufferings in his body. He was crucified and died and remained in a state of death, yet his body did not decay. On the third day he arose from the dead with the same body in which he suffered. In this body he also ascended into heaven, where he sits at the right hand of his Father, interceding. He will return to judge men and angels at the end of the age.

Paragraph 9 - This office of mediator between God and humanity is appropriate for Christ alone, who is the prophet, priest, and king of the church of God. This office may not be transferred from him to anyone else, either in whole or in part.

The gospel itself is a message about the exclusivity of Christ.

And so, the gospel must be preached to the ends of the earth according to Mark 16:15. True Christians have always been compelled by the fact that if people don't hear the gospel, they can't be saved.

And if they aren't saved, they will spend eternity in hell under the judgment of God.

And so, as we've been doing we are going to turn to the book of Genesis and see this great doctrine in the first book of the Bible.

And we are going to look primarily at Genesis 3. The story that's recorded for us here in Gen 3, could be called the SADDEST story in history, but contains the greatest news ever.

IT'S THE most TRAGIC STORY. It's a tale of DISASTER.

Because what happens in this story is ETERNALLY DEVASTATING.

Not only have all of our DAILY LIVES been radically injured and harmed...

...And not only has the EARTH been spoiled and plunged into ruin and decay...

...The population of HELL has been greatly increased as a result of what happened here.

All of EARTH'S sadness and sorrow and suffering...

...And all of HELL'S eternal anguish and torment were brought forth on this day.

Through a single act of eating, the universe became subject to a devastating curse.



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It was a DIVINE response of judgment to a DEVILISH act of rebellion.

It's because of what happens in this story that we need a Savior, that we need a Messiah, that we need Christ and Christ alone.

Point 1. Christ alone is the only answer to man's sin.

Watch how the story begins:

*Gen 3.1 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?"*

Do you see what the serpent is doing here?

He's trying to DISCREDIT God's CHARACTER to Eve...

...NOT ONLY by the TONE of his question, (Did God *actually* say?)

...BUT by deliberately MISQUOTING God,

...AND he's ACCUSING God by IMPLYING that He's been overly restrictive on them.

*"You shall not eat of **any** tree in the garden?"*

When Satan questions the goodness and truthfulness of God, it's the serpent's lack of goodness that's being revealed.

God's goodness and truth are UNQUESTIONABLE!

He IS goodness...He IS truth!

Questioning the GOODNESS of God is like questioning the wetness of water!

Questioning the TRUTHFULNESS of God is like questioning the brightness of the sun!

Goodness and truthfulness are part of God's NATURE!

But we are so often tempted to doubt those things about Him.

In fact, EVERY temptation raises questions about God's goodness and truthfulness.



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Every time we're tempted to sin against God, we're being deceived about the greater goodness and generosity of God to satisfy us if we obey Him instead.

Whenever we suffer, we often not only doubt God's love and goodness toward us, but we also start to doubt His promises too.

Our **SUFFERING**, our **CRAVINGS**, our **IGNORANCE**...they all tempt us to doubt the goodness of God's heart and the truthfulness of His words.

We start to believe that the thing tempting us is making **TRUER PROMISES** of some **GREATER GOOD**.

Watch how Eve gets sucked in:

First, she corrects the serpent, but then she misquotes God herself:

***Gen 3.2-3** 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.'"*

Now, God never said they couldn't touch it, only that you couldn't eat it.

Just like a Pharisee, Eve added to God's law a restriction God never made.

She limited her own God-given freedom, and then blamed God for restricting her life.

She just stepped into the devil's trap of doubting God's goodness and the freedom that comes from His grace.

SO: The devil takes her to the next step.

***Gen 3.4-5** 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."*

The serpent **LIES** by telling her that God's words are lies, "*Did God actually say?*"

This is the way all sin works.

The serpent says -

"Isn't it really OK to eat and partake of whatever you want?"



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“What’s the worst that could happen?”

“It’s not like you’re gonna really die.”

“God’s just trying to keep you from enjoying something good.”

“He’s WITHHOLDING something GOOD from you...”

“...Something that, if you had it, it would make you A LOT LIKE with Him.”

“God’s just being SELFISH with what he has.”

“He’s just PROTECTING His own power and His status over you.”

“God’s just trying to PREVENT you from becoming like Him.”

“Don’t worry about that, just have a taste...it won’t hurt you.”

AND that’s how temptation works:

- A bad thing is made to look good,
- AND the good God is made to look bad (for telling you that you can’t have it)

It’s such a seductive, but deadly, trap.

Like a fish biting a fishing lure, we’re deceived by a glittering deception.

Gen 3.6a 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,

Because of the serpent’s persuasive words, Eve gives the fruit a second look, a deeper consideration.

The hook of temptation is being set in her.

The devil lied to her, he made the forbidden thing that threatened death into something attractive, and pleasant, and desirable...

...he made her hungry to crave what she DIDN'T before, and what she SHOULDN'T.

All three categories of temptation are at play here: (identified in 1 John)

- Lust of flesh – “She saw that it was good for food.”



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- Lust of eyes – “It was a delight to the eyes.”
- Pride of life – the lure of knowledge – “Your eyes will be opened...and you will know...good and evil.”

Satan appeals to every vulnerability she had AND that we have.

What we SEE, what we CRAVE, and what we THINK about ourselves.

LUST and PRIDE.

And just like WE often are...Eve is being pulled by the DECEPTION, toward the TEMPTATION, by her HUNGER, her EYES, her PRIDE.

There are really just layers and layers of APPEALS BEING MADE here.

There are layers and layers of REASONS why she sins.

That's usually the way it usually is.

Sin is usually the result of a complex set of motivations within us pulling on us.

The EYES are pulling, the BODY is pulling, the MIND is pulling...to GET some OBJECT or PLEASURE or EXPERIENCE.

And it's when we give in, when we fail to resist the temptation, THAT'S when we sin.

Point 2. Christ alone is needed because sin always brings intense consequences.

In Adam and Eve's case, it plunged the world into brokenness and disorder, alienation from God, and death.

***Gen 3.6b** she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.*

In that verse we see the moment of surrender.

That's the first sin to ever be committed on the earth.

This is the most tragic moment for mankind.

UP TO THIS POINT, it's all been lies and temptation.

BUT NOW, all that deception and desire gives way to AN ACTUAL ACT OF SIN.



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They stood there together in front of the tree looking at the fruit.

...Eve **PLUCKED** it with her hand...
...**TOOK** a bite of it...
...**DIDN'T** immediately die...
...probably **DELIGHTED** at the taste of it...
...and encouragingly **HANDED** it to Adam...
...who, without much hesitation, **ATE IT TOO**.

THAT is the **PIVOTAL MOMENT** at which the world was plunged into sin, death, chaos, and judgment.

THAT is the most **TRAGIC**, though **SEEMINGLY HARMLESS** act in history.

They ate a piece of fruit.

It seems like such a small thing...Silly almost.

But it **WASN'T SILLY** at all...It was **MUCH WORSE** than that.

You might think,

"Why did God curse them for such a small thing like eating a piece of fruit?"

*"How could God curse the entire human race, and the entire world, for **THAT**?"*

BECAUSE it wasn't about a piece of fruit.

It was about something **SO BIG, SO IMMENSE, SO TRANSCENDENT, SO THREATENING**, that it would crush them to death to toy with it like that.

I'm talking about the **INFINITE HOLINESS OF GOD**, which burns in holy wrath against even the smallest act of sin and disobedience.

SEE: We have such a **CASUAL** view of sin.

But God takes it **DEADLY SERIOUSLY**.

The Puritans called it, "The exceeding sinfulness of sin."

THIS sin, like any other sin, is **SO SEVERE, SO GREAT, SO OFFENSIVE** to God, that it merits the most severe judgment.



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This sin plunges them and the universe into judgment...into DECAY, into DECEPTION, into DESTRUCTION, and finally into DEATH.

CREATION ITSELF is severely altered because of the introduction of sin into its midst.

Corruption spreads and sinks down like lead into the very fabric of the creation, into the very DNA of men and animals and plants.

Spreading like a living, deadly virus, everything is infected & damaged & cursed.

Adam and Eve have opened up the floodgates of God's judgment on the very world that God had just made so pristine and good, and so filled with abundance.

It's beyond tragic.

There AREN'T ENOUGH TEARS to WEEP and LAMENT the SEVERITY OF THE LOSS that occurs at this moment.

There aren't enough SIGHS OF LOSS or GASPS OF GRIEF to sufficiently HOWL and MOURN the pain and sorrow this deed will deliver upon mankind.

There aren't MINOR CHORDS HEAVY ENOUGH and SAD ENOUGH to play the funeral DIRGE that could lament the countless deaths coming upon the earth and in Hell.

This is a TERRIBLE CALAMITY that plunges creation into ruin and anguish.

This is where all SIN comes from...and where all SORROW comes from...and where all DEATH comes from.

All DECAY, BROKENNESS, LOSS comes from THIS FOUNTAINHEAD of sin in the Garden of Eden.

Again, this is why we need a Savior, we need Christ, we need the gospel of salvation in Christ alone.

When we trust in Jesus to forgive us for our sins, God not only TAKES AWAY our sins, but he also GIVES us the righteousness of Jesus.

SEE: In the same way that God considers Adam's DISOBEDIENCE and SIN and GUILT to be OUR disobedience AND sin AND guilt.



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...God now counts Jesus' obedience to be OUR OBEDIENCE...
 ...AND Jesus' innocence to be OUR INNOCENCE...
 ...AND Jesus' righteousness to be OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS...

That's how it works with God.

Adam was our representative...what he did counted for us.

And Jesus is our representative...what he did counted for us.

So you can't have a substitute Savior without first having a substitute sinner.

Jesus' death on the tree works the same way as Adam's sin with the tree.

***Gen 3.7** Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.*

The devil's promise of divine enlightenment didn't turn out like he'd said.

They see more, and know more, but what they now see and know HUMILIATES them...and they stand there naked and ASHAMED.

They certainly have a new awareness of good and evil...

And their shame compels them to cover themselves up.

They're trying to reverse the effects of what they've done.

They're hiding this new knowledge from their own eyes.

SEE: Sin EXPOSES us, HUMILIATES us, GUILTS us.

We bring shame on ourselves, offense to God, and consequences on our lives.

Sin COSTS us greatly, and it brings us VERY LOW.

I want you to notice how quickly this spark of sin in the garden turns into a wildfire.

When we come to Genesis 4, we see the first murder, Cain kills his brother Abel.

Then in chapter 6 we read –



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Gen 6.5 The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was **great** in the earth, and that **every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.**

The key word here is “intention”.

It's the same word used in Gen 2.7 for God's intentional design of man.
God made man BY DESIGN.

SO: man is DESIGNING ways to sin... CALCULATING how to be evil.

He's NOT JUST stumbling into sin, succumbing in weakness...

Man is being VERY INTENTIONAL about sinning...
...Being evil ON PURPOSE...
...being DELIBERATE about being devious.

Man is taking his God-given ability to be creative and inventive...
...AND he's DREAMING UP new ways to do sinful things...
...DEVISING evil schemes and evil deeds...CONTINUALLY.

There's hardly a stronger statement in the Bible about the evil of the human heart!

Gen 3.8 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

They heard the sound of God coming, and hid from God's presence.

Their guilty fears drove them AWAY from the Lord to hide among the trees.

They were ASHAMED to see His face.
They were AFRAID of His voice.
They COULDN'T BEAR to be near Him.

SO: They sought a place to safely retreat out of His presence.

But He IS the only safe retreat!

Our only safe retreat is IN THE LORD!

Christ is our only safe hiding place!

This is what we impulsively do: We REBEL against God and then RUN from God.



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But God, being good, pursues them anyway.

Because even though He's going to punish them, He's also going to show them mercy.

Point 3. Sin brings a deadly curse, and it reveals our need for the Gospel and for Solus Christus.

***Gen 3.9** But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"*

LISTEN: God never asks questions to learn or discover something He doesn't know.

God knew where Adam was hiding, AND he knew what Adam had done.

God asks questions to make US CONFESS the truth...to confess our sins.
And God

***Gen 3.10-11** And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"*

God says: **"Oh really? You're naked? Who told you you were naked? Where did that awareness come from? Did you eat from the tree I told you not to eat from?"**

God knew EXACTLY what had happened and EXACTLY who had done it.

But Adam, like everyone who refuses to admit they're wrong, doesn't answer the question that was asked of him.

He redirects the conversation and shifts the blame so he can justify himself and defend himself.

After all this enlightenment, **NOW** they plead IGNORANCE!!

***Gen 3.12** The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate."*

He's refusing to take full responsibility. "Well God, the woman YOU gave me, it's her fault." And Eve does the same thing.

***Gen 3.13** 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."*



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And so, the blame game begins.

LISTEN: I'm glad Jesus didn't do this on the cross when he was being held responsible for our sins.

Can you imagine if He had starting doing this song and dance as they were about to drive the nails in his hands and feet?

Can you imagine if he'd tried to squirm his way out of taking responsibility for our sins and started shifting the blame back over to us?

We wouldn't be saved...and we would still be in our sins.

BUT, HALLELUJAH! He took the blame, bore the wrath, and now we stand forgiven!

But on that dreadful day, God fulfilled His promise to judge man's sin.

And that judgment will make us FEEL our need for God's goodness in salvation.

Now notice the curse God pronounces.

FIRST, God curses the snake:

Gen. 3.14 *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.*

So, to this day, snakes crawl on the ground and taste the dust as a means of smell.

But in the midst of this curse, look at what God says in:

Gen 3.15 *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."*

Right there, you have what scholars call "the protoevongellion." A



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This is the first proclamation of the Gospel in the Bible.

The first announcement of a coming deliverer...a Savior.

And the principle of solus Christus is rooted in that promise of salvation.

Adam and Eve could not have found such hope apart from that divinely revealed promise.

This is the promise of the coming of Jesus Christ.

He will come to save the offspring of man and to judge the devil.

God will send a son who will defeat the one who defeated them.

So this is the first promise of a suffering Savior who will have his heel bruised by the devil, his feet will be pierced with nails,

But in that very same incident, He will DELIVER the sons of man from the snare of the devil and from the curse of death.

AND He'll secure VICTORY over Satan by crushing Satan's head.

It was through His death on the cross that Jesus Christ TRIUMPHED over the devil, and REVERSED this curse brought on by sin, BECAUSE He died FOR sin.

He became sin for us, that we might become righteous.

He became a curse for us to deliver us from the curse.

Do you know how Adam got to Heaven? - Because of that promise right there.

In judgment, God remembers mercy!

Now Genesis 3 is not the only place where the coming deliverer is mentioned.

In Genesis 49, Jacob blesses his sons and there is something most interesting when he comes to bless Judah.

Judah receives a LONG and POSITIVE blessing from his father...

...A blessing that's just PERMEATED with PROMISES of leadership that reach far beyond the historical record of Israel's kings.



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God says:

- Judah will gain the leadership and praise of the nation.

Gen 49.8 *“Judah, your **brothers shall praise you**;
your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies;
your father’s sons **shall bow down before you**.”*

He’ll earn his right to lead by his heroic deeds over Israel’s enemies and will be looked to for leadership.

And that’s precisely the story of David...”Saul has slain his thousands and David his ten thousands!”

They’re praising the son of Judah!...which is the fulfillment of Jacob’s word play:

Judah means “praise”!...”*Judah, your **brothers shall praise you**...”*

Judah’s descendants will show themselves POWERFUL over their enemies and be PRAISED for it!

- Judah will be mighty....like a lion!

Gen 49.9 *Judah is a lion’s cub;
from the prey, my son, you have gone up.
He stooped down; he crouched as a lion
and as a lioness; who dares rouse him?*

Like a lion, Judah will be MIGHTY as a monarch...KINGLY in composure!

The Lion of Judah has the MIGHT to make EASY PREY of Satan, the lion who lurks about, roaring, seeking whom he may devour.

He’ll TRIUMPH over every principality and power!...and put them to OPEN SHAME!

- Judah will rule eternally.

Because of out of Judah will come the Messiah!...The Lion of the Tribe of Judah!

Gen 49.10 *The **scepter shall not depart** from Judah,
nor the **ruler’s staff** from between his feet,
until tribute comes to him;*



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and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

The **SCEPTER** of kingship and the **STAFF** of the lawgiver would belong to Judah's sons!

BUT these words move us **BEYOND** Israel's **ANCIENT** kings to the eschatological **FUTURE!**

They're pointing us **BEYOND** the normal period of Israel's history to the **DAWN** of the **MESSIANIC AGE.**

The **SCOPE** of that kingdom is **FAR** beyond the scope of the single nation of Israel.

The **REALM** of His **REIGN** is the **NATIONS!!!**

He'll incorporate the **GENTILES** into his benevolent empire...**AND:**

The obedience of the **NATIONS** will be to **HIM**...they'll bring gifts of tribute to **HIM!**

He's the One to whom it **BELONGS!**... He's the One to whom **THEY** belong!

Through the Gospel, we can say that already the **NATIONS OBEY** Him, and **PRAISE** Him, and bring their **OFFERINGS** to Him.

The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is made up of people from every tribe and language and nation!

He is building His church, His kingdom, with ransomed ones from every corner of the globe.

His church, His kingdom is **INTERNATIONAL!!**

Every flag on earth is represented! Like the athletes streaming into the Olympic stadium on opening night carrying the flags of the nations they represent...

The church of Jesus Christ has members from all over the world streaming into it...streaming **TO** Him as their King...

Bringing Him their allegiance...bringing Him their hearts, their hands, their all.

All for the **JOY** of being called by His name...Of being made **HAPPY** citizens in His kingdom...



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...Who can't hardly believe they get so many good BENEFITS from Him!

...Who come singing the ANTHEMS of the Lamb...PRAISING HIM with songs and hymns and spiritual songs...SINGING and making melody in their hearts to the Lord!

They can't stop singing His name, it's so SWEET to their ears and THRILLING to their hearts...

He's put a NEW SONG in their hearts...and they can't resist the ENTHUSIASTIC urge to proclaim the praises of Him who called them out of darkness into His marvelous light.

...They can't help singing about how they were once were NOT a people but are now the people of GOD...

...They just keep SINGING with JOYFUL HEARTS and even with TEARS about how they didn't deserve mercy but now they've obtained mercy.

The words just POUR from their lips like an undammed river...

Rev 5.12 *"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
To receive power and riches and wisdom,
And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"*

Rev 5.9-10 *For You were slain,
And have redeemed us to God by Your blood
Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,
10 And have made us kings and priests to our God;
And we shall reign on the earth."*

Their king OWNS their hearts, BECAUSE...

...They can't stop being AMAZED by His LOVE, and His WILLINGNESS to freely FORGIVE their sins, and PARDON their crimes against Him.

He's the One who PRAYED for them and CRIED for them...the one who BLED for them and DIED for them...

SO: They JOYFULLY BEND their knees to His gracious scepter, and LOUDLY CONFESS He is Lord with singing and with shouts...

...And EAGERLY SUBMIT their heart to His righteous laws...



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...Because His ROD and STAFF PROTECTS them and COMFORTS them and making them feel SECURE...

...GUIDING them and GOING WITH them through shadow-valleys of death, and DELIVERING them from the evils they would fear...

He scatters their ENEMIES...He scatters NIGHT away!

He's the King of Glory!...Strong and Mighty...the Lord mighty in Battle...

He's the Son of the Most High God...the NATIONS are His INHERITANCE!

The ENDS OF THE EARTH are his POSSESSION!

He BREAKS them with a rod of iron, DASHING his enemies like a clay pot.

BUT for His people...For the ones who KISS their King and put their TRUST in Him...

...Like a Good Shepherd He LEADS them to lush meadows and quiet waters...and to tables spread with nourishing feasts...right in front of their enemies...

...He REVIVES their drooping heads...ANOINTING them with the OIL of gladness, ...

...And HEALING them with BALM for their wounds...RESTORING their SOULS!

His beauty and love CHASE after them every day of their life...

Because He's made His house their home forever.

OH! Their cups BRIM with BLESSINGS.....and so because of Him...they don't need a thing!

AND YET, He's promised them more still...His kingdom will usher in a new age...even a new heavens and a new earth!

Listen to the descriptive language of:

Gen 49.11-12 *Binding his foal to the vine
and his donkey's colt to the choice vine,
he has washed his garments in wine
and his vesture in the blood of grapes.
12 His eyes are darker than wine,
and his teeth whiter than milk.*



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Now at first that sounds a lot like the story of Palm Sunday....

...AND that seems like an obvious connection, because when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey's colt, that was a very REGAL, KINGLY act.

And the people were paying homage to Him verbally and symbolically by laying out the palm fronds in his path.

Hosanna to the King! The Son of David!

But there's more in these words than that incident.

SEE: These verses use the really rich and descriptive language.

Binding a foal to a vine and washing garments in wine...

...Whatever else that might symbolize, it's clearly describing a time of great PLENTY...of ABUNDANCE and SPLENDOR...

...Like PARADISE...like the Garden of EDEN...A GOLDEN AGE.

It's describing a day that says GOODBYE to the hard days of THORNS and SWEAT...

...for a day of the SHOUT OF REJOICING and FEASTING.

With imagery like wine and milk, it's not a detailed prophecy...

...BUT it sure catches the MOOD of a time when the CURSE WILL BE LIFTED and the land will have ABUNDANT BLESSING.

It's the promise of a GOLDEN AGE...a NEW HEAVENS and a NEW EARTH.

Now back to Genesis 3.

Gen. 3.16 *To the woman he said,
"I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be for your husband,
and he shall rule over you."*

SO, the curse on sin is why giving birth hurts so much.

And the curse on sin is why women have to submit their husbands' authority.



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And the man will feel the burden of the curse as well.

Gen 3.17-19 *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.”*

The good gift of work has now become painful and tiresome because the ground we assigned to do our work in will be riddled with thorns and thistles.

AND not only will our work will be painful, and sweaty, and exhausting, it'll eventually kill us!

But notice yet again, how in judgment, God remembers mercy:

Gen 3.20–21 *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.*

In that verse you have a substitutionary atonement.

God made garments for them from SKIN.

SO: God provided a substitute animal sacrifice to cover their shame.

There's the Gospel again.

One victim dies to cover the shame and guilt of another.

Remember Genesis 22?



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Gen 22.7-8 And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” 8 Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.

Gen 22.9-10 When they **came** to the place of which God had told him, Abraham **built** the altar there and **laid** the wood in order and **bound** Isaac his son and **laid** him on the altar, on **top** of the wood. 10 Then Abraham **reached** out his hand and **took** the knife to slaughter his son.

Gen 22.11-12 But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” 12 He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.”

Gen 22.13-14 And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering **instead of his son**. 14 So Abraham called the name of that place, “**The LORD will provide**”; as it is said to this day, “**On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.**”

This WASN'T MERE CHANCE that the ram was there...the Lord provided it for a sacrifice INSTEAD of Isaac.

God provided a SUBSTITUTE! So Abraham offered up the ram instead of Isaac.

The ram died in Isaac's place...just as Jesus died in our place.

SEE: The greatest act of God's provision was the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

God offering up His own Son as a substitute sacrifice for us, when our sins made us deserving of death...

Jesus is the Lamb who was slain to clothe us with His own perfect righteousness.

But God still isn't finished with His mercy.

It may not seem like a mercy, but it is.

SEE: In vv. 22-24 of Genesis 3, man is driven from the garden like the chaff of Psalm 1. He is expelled from the sanctuary of God's presence.

As a sinner, he can no longer stand in the congregation of the righteous.



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Man is driven from the presence of the Lord to work hard, to sweat, and feel the weight of the curse.

That, in turn, is meant to DRIVE us BACK TO THE LORD, in brokenness and repentance to find in the Lord mercy and grace to help in time of need.

It's meant to make us feel: Vanity of vanities, all is vanity, apart from Jesus Christ.

SO, lonely, sweaty, exhausting work, apart from God is a TOOL meant to drive us...

...To seek the salvation and goodness of the Lord...

...To find our rest in him...

...To make Him our hiding place, our refuge, our shelter, our Savior.

He is our deliverance from the curse of sin.

He is our hiding place.

He is rest for our souls.

1 Timothy 2:5 *For there is one God, and there is ONE mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*

PRAYER