

Two things happen through Adam’s believing in the promise of Genesis 3:15.

1. Clothing from God

- Shame
- Garments of salvation

1. First, **Adam and Eve receive clothing from God.** ‘*And Yahweh God made garments of skin for Adam and for his wife, and he clothed them*’. In the garden of Eden, nakedness expressed innocence. Consciousness of nakedness expressed shame. ^{☒1} From now on it is shameful to be naked in public. ^{☒2}

God’s provision of clothes is a way of expressing the fact that when we believe, He clothes us with garments of salvation. We are covered with righteousness; the Christian can say he has the righteousness of Jesus. ^{☒1} He has bright clothing; he is full of joy. He has clean clothing because he himself is clean in God. ^{☒2} ^{☒3} He soon will be clothed with the clothing of a glorious resurrection body. ^{☒4}

- Death of a substitute

We note that the clothing required the death of a substitute. By the death of a sacrifice clothing came from that sacrifice. By the death of God’s Son we come to be clothed with the righteousness of God’s Son.

2. Incomplete salvation

- Not yet released from death
- Knowledge of good and evil

2. However there is a second aspect to the matter. **Adam and Eve’s salvation is not complete.** They do not get to final glory. One day we shall be ‘raised’ with ‘an imperishable body’, ‘*raised in glory ... raised in power ... raised a body for the Spirit*’ ^{☒1} but Adam had not reached that level of glory.

Adam and Eve were not released from the fact that they would die. When we receive salvation it is a salvation in our relationship to God, but we are still ‘*waiting for... the redemption of our body*’. ^{☒1} Adam was brought into **that** position. So he had to be put out of the garden of Eden. He could enjoy a relationship with God, but he could not yet enjoy resurrection-glory. The **physical** sign of God’s anger towards sin remains for the moment.

Man had come to a knowledge of good and evil. He had known a taste of good (because he was once sinless); he had a taste of evil (because he was now a sinner). Now God speaks again. ‘*And Yahweh God said, “Behold the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. And now lest he stretch out his hand and also take fruit from the tree of life and so eat it and live for ever... ”*’ ^{☒1}, and Yahweh God put him out of the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken ^{☒2}.

- Eternal life in fellowship with God

Humankind could have lived forever, not because they were naturally immortal but by eating of the tree of life. Now they are excluded. Man loses eternal life in fellowship with God. He had that originally. He was in fellowship with God, and God and man met with each other in the cool of the day. Life in fellowship with God was due to go on forever. That is what ‘eternal life’ is. It is life that goes on forever, but it is also a special kind of life. It is life in closeness with God. Adam had known that life and should have lived forever without death.

^{☒1} Genesis 3:7, 21
^{☒2} see Genesis 9:22, 23

^{☒1} 2 Corinthians 5:21
^{☒2} Mark 9:3
^{☒3} Revelation 3:4
^{☒4} 2 Corinthians 5:1–2

^{☒1} 1 Corinthians 15:42–44

^{☒1} Romans 8:23

^{☒1} 3:22
^{☒2} 3:23

But now as a result of his sin he loses that. He is put out of access to the tree of life.

- *Out of access to the tree of life*

'And He thrust the man out, and at the east of the garden of Eden He placed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned in every direction to guard the way to the tree of life'. ¹

¹ 3:24

God was reconciled to Adam, but it was still necessary for Him to express His hatred of sin. Adam's final salvation, even in the body, has not yet come. God thrust out the man and the woman, and put cherubim – some kind of angels – to guard the way so that Adam could not get back. A flaming sword turned every way to guard the way. No matter from which direction Adam came he could not get back to paradise.

A note of hope

All of that happened as the result of the fall. Is there any way back? There is one note of hope, in Genesis 3:15, of the entire situation being reversed. The human race will divide into two. Out of the woman will come a 'seed'. From that 'seed' will come a Saviour. He will be born as a human being, as *'the Seed of the woman'*. He will strike a fatal blow, and undo all that Satan has done.

- *Release from Satan in stages*

This release from Satan comes in stages. For many centuries God prepares the way. Then there comes one who is not born of a human Father but is the seed of a woman. He lives the life we should have lived. He died as we should have died. He has perfect righteousness, perfect faith. And He makes a perfect way of salvation.

- *Jesus reverses Satan's work*

As we believe in Jesus the work of Satan is reversed. If Satan got us to sin, Jesus gets us to live for God. If the snake engineered the fall, Jesus brings a restoration. If the devil put us out of eternal life Jesus brings us back into eternal life. If Satan's work resulted in our being powerfully driven out of paradise, Jesus' work will bring us back and keep us safe forever. He undoes all that the snake has done, undoing the guilt of sin, the power of sin, eventually wiping out even the very presence of sin.

By faith in Him we receive eternal life. It is as if we are back in the garden of Eden.

	<p>Dr Michael Eaton is highly respected internationally as a theologian, author, preacher and teacher. He lives in Kenya where he is one of the leaders of the Chrisco Fellowship. His <i>Preaching Through The Bible (PTTB)</i> books are highly popular worldwide. Michael Eaton puts the theological and practical meaning of the Bible in a clear and down-to-earth way so that what is written can be easily understood by the reader.</p>	
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