

Introduction: As we look at the Bible as a whole, we see through its pages, the story of redemption. The Bible is a redemptive book. Over the next few weeks I want to look at the story of redemption, which culminates with the death, burial and resurrection of Christ our Savior.

Genesis 3:1-21

- Man is always trying to hide from God (vs. 8)
- God was seeking out Adam and Eve (vs. 9)
- The excuses begin (vs. 12) Adam blames God
- The woman blames the serpent (vs. 13)
- The curse, the banishment because of sin (vs. 17-20)
- The first atonement (vs. 21)

Matthew Henry notes *"If the Lord had been pleased to kill them, he would not have done this for them."*

He also notes these points:

- That clothes came in with sin. We should have had no occasion for them, either for defense or decency, if sin had not made us naked, to our shame. Little reason therefore we have to be proud of our clothes, which are but the badges of our poverty and infamy.
- God is to be acknowledged with thankfulness, not only in giving us food, but in giving us clothes also. Jacob acknowledged God's providing in Genesis 28:20 **"If God will be with me and will keep me on this journey that I take, and give me food to eat and garments to wear."**
- These coats of skin had a significance. The beasts whose skins they were must be slain, slain before their eyes, to show them what death is.
- It is supposed that they were slain, not for food, but for sacrifice, to typify the great sacrifice, which, in the latter end of the world, should be offered once for all.
- God clothed them, thus we are clothed with the righteousness of Christ. Therefore, the shame of our nakedness might not appear.
- Adam and Eve made for themselves aprons of fig-leaves, a covering too narrow for them to wrap themselves in. In Isaiah 28:20 the Lord warns Judah, **"The bed is too short on which to stretch out, And the blanket is too small to wrap oneself in."**
- Such are all the rags of our own righteousness. But God made them coats of skins; large, and strong, and durable, and fit for them; such is the righteousness of Christ. Therefore put on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Application: From the very beginning God planned and made provision for man. It's not man's way, but God's way.

Exodus 12:1-13

- God instructed them to take a lamb.

- To kill it, blood was to be shed. Blood was shed in Genesis 3 for Adam and Eve.

Leviticus 1-6

- The law of burnt offerings, cf. Leviticus 1:2-4, the innocent animal was an atonement.
- This would make him accepted before the Lord.
- It must have been without defect, the best of the flock.

Leviticus 16:5-22

- One of these goats must be slain, in token of a satisfaction to be made to God's justice for sin, the other must be sent away, in token of the remission or dismissal of sin by the mercy of God.
- He must next kill the goat which was the sin-offering for the people (vs. 15).
- He is next to confess the sins of Israel, with both his hands upon the head of the scape-goat (vs. 20-21).
- The goat is to be released into a solitary land, the wilderness (vs. 22). The goat is the one who bore the sins. Some have said its release into the wilderness is a sign that the sins are not to be found, Jeremiah 50:20 *"In those days and at that time, declares the LORD, search will be made for the wrongdoing of Israel, but there will be none; and for the sins of Judah, but they will not be found; for I will forgive those whom I leave as a remnant."*

Note: The later Jews had a custom to tie one shred of scarlet cloth to the horns of the goat and another to the gate of the temple, or to the top of the rock where the goat was lost, and they concluded that if it turned white, as they say it usually did, the sins of Israel were forgiven, as it is written, *Though your sins have been as scarlet, they shall be as wool.*