**‘Expulsion from the Garden’**

***20Now the man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all the living. 21The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.***

***22Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”— 23therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. 24So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.*** Genesis 3:20-24

In ***‘Trouble for the Woman,’***[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2017/01/" \l "_ftn1) and ***‘Trouble for the Man,’***[[2]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2017/01/" \l "_ftn2) we considered the judgments God gave not only to Adam and Eve but to mankind in general. Sin had entered into the earth through their disobedience and there would be ongoing consequences.

The closing verses of Genesis 3 provide us with some more information. First: The man, Adam, names the woman. He had named all of the animals the Lord God had brought to him. Presumably, the names Adam gave to the animals “fit” them and their character. Now, Adam names his wife ‘Eve.’ Why this name? He gives it to her ***“because she was the mother of all the living”***. All of the families of the earth originate from these two people, just as all of the trouble in the earth originated with them.

Secondly, we read, ***21“The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.”***  After they sinned, Adam and Eve covered themselves with fig leaves they sewed together. Fig leaves were not good as coverings for their nakedness. Now God provides for their need for clothing. He made garments of skin for Adam and Eve to wear. Do not move too quickly from this sentence. Pause a moment to remember that garments of “skin” weren’t just lying around the Garden of Eden. Some animal had to die in order for its skin to become clothing for Adam and Eve. The first death takes place right here in Eden and it was God who killed the animal. Was this act by God a foreshadowing of the sacrificial system which would eventually be put into place by Him within Israel? Could be.

The third and fourth details we see are found in verse 22. ***Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever.”***  In reading the first half of the verse, ***“Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil,”*** we can conclude that though God knows both good and evil, mankind was never to have known evil. That would have been wonderful! The goodness of God was all man was ever meant to know, but eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil changed that. By choosing to disobey God and eating of the forbidden fruit, Adam and Eve chose as their source for gaining knowledge a source which God had forbidden. God, being pure love and perfectly good, wanted to be our Source for knowledge. Adam and Eve chose otherwise. It was a terrible mistake! But then God goes on to say, ***“and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever” —*** What does this mean? Why were Adam and Eve forbidden from reaching out their hand to eat fruit from the Tree of Life? It hadn’t been off limits to them before now. Until this time, the only tree which was forbidden to them was the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Why the change?

We do not know exactly what all is meant by this verse. It appears that had Adam and Eve been able to reach out to eat from the Tree of Life their fallen condition would have become permanent! There would not have been any possibility for God to reverse the curse on mankind. We not only would have lived forever, we would have lived forever in a world increasing in population and increasing in sin and evil. We do not even want to imagine how horrible that would have been.

But God, in His great mercy, kindness, and love, wanted to reverse the curse man was now under, ***“therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. 24So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.”*** There would be no way for man to return to the Garden of Eden or to the Tree of Life in his own strength or by his own cunning. God did make a way for us to return to Him, and to return to enjoying all of His goodness and love. That way is through His Son Jesus. Jesus is the WAY to the Father – the only way. His blood doesn’t just cover our sin; it washes us clean! Isaiah declared this to be true when he spoke these words of our Lord, ***‘Though your sins be as scarlet, they will be white as snow.’*** [[3]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2017/01/" \l "_ftn3)

Does the Tree of Life still exist? Yes, but it is not on the earth. Revelation 2:7 tells us that its location is in the ***paradise of God***. Its fruit will be enjoyed by all who overcome this world through faith in God’s Anointed Servant and Son, Jesus.

*Kathleen*

[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2017/01/" \l "_ftnref1) http://yourbibleblog.com/2017/01/04/trouble-for-the-woman/

[[2]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2017/01/" \l "_ftnref2) http://yourbibleblog.com/2017/01/06/trouble-for-the-man/

[[3]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2017/01/" \l "_ftnref3) Isaiah 1:18