**‘Naked’**

In Genesis 2:25 we read, ***25And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.*** The question to ask is, ‘Why not?’ Why weren’t they ashamed? They became ashamed of their nakedness, so what happened? Let’s juxtapose Genesis 2:25 and Genesis 3:7 and 10. The answer may present itself to us. We’ve read Genesis 2:25, now let’s read Genesis 3:7-10.

***7Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.***

***8They 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. 9Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” 10He said, “I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.”***

The first thing we realize is that the first mention of the nakedness of the man and his wife takes place BEFORE they ate from the forbidden tree, and the second mention is AFTER they ate of it. We might simply conclude that by sinning against the Lord, their innocence was lost. But is that all? Maybe there is more.

What we can’t see in our English translations can be seen in the Hebrew. The Hebrew words translated in these passages by the one English word “naked” are different. The difference is subtle, but it is there. In the first instance, in Genesis 2:25, the Hebrew word is ***aw-rome***, but the Hebrew in Genesis 3:7 and 10 is ***ey-rome***. These two words don’t look all that different. Yet something WAS different about the man and the woman’s nakedness before and after they sinned against the Lord. But what could that have been?

Have you ever wondered why it is that mankind is the only creature created by God that cannot go about in its natural covering? Every other creature made by God can exist in its environment, regardless of whether that environment is frigidly cold or blazingly hot, without changing “clothes” so to speak. Mankind, however, cannot exist well without putting on an extra covering of some sort over the outer skin we have, and then changing that covering as needed to adjust for temperature and weather. Did God overlook something as important as giving man appropriate clothing when He created him or is there a detail we could be missing?

Dick Rueben in his ***Pattern for Revival Fire***[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/10/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn1) teaching series may have the answer. Recognizing that mankind was created in the image and according to the likeness of God, he believes that that image and likeness included their being covered with God’s ***shekinah glory***.

What is the ***shekinah glory*** of God? The word ***shekinah*** is not found in the Bible, but the concept is. The following is helpful.

Although God is omnipresent, He has chosen to manifest His presence in certain locations and at certain times within history. This **physical manifestation of God** has come to be called the Shekinah….It is the majestic presence or manifestation of God in which He descends to dwell among men. Whenever the invisible God becomes visible, and whenever the omnipresence of God is localized, this is the Shekinah Glory.[[2]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/10/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn2)

If the man and the woman had been covered by God’s ***shekinah glory***, then God’s majestic presence, His glory, could not remain on them after they sinned. The subtle difference between the two words ***aw-rome*** and ***ey-rome*** doesn’t capture how profoundly significant this was.

These people who had been naked and unashamed were now naked and very much afraid.

*Kathleen*

[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/10/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftnref1) http://store.dickreuben.org/collections/teaching/products/pattern-for-revival-fire-series

[[2]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/10/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftnref2) <https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/revelation/related-topics/the-abiding-presence-of-god.html>