

Covered by the Sacrifice God Provides Skins

Introduction

Over the past months the Lord has graciously and tenderly been sharing from His Word with me with the intention of birthing and forming Life within. So much greater than materials to write booklets, I need to become the living epistle that bears the marks of His nature and carries His sweet savor of Life. And so, in these days my heart has been crying out that I would not be simply gathering unto myself more information about Him, but eating His flesh and drinking His Blood. With purpose of heart I desire to cleave unto Him as a branch that desperately needs His life to fill me. Oh how I want to know Him! I fear that sharing even the slightest bit of scriptures may silently communicate to others that Christ is fully formed in these areas, but it is not so with me. I need the Lord so deeply. In this needy place, in my own lack and weakness, I more fully realize that only the Holy Spirit can share Christ and open our eyes to His unveiled beauty and communicate that which surpasses knowledge and fills us with Life. May we pray for each other and bear one another's heart burdens to know and more deeply partake of the Lord. As members one of another, we need the supply of His Life that this true knowing will bring to the Body overall.

Heart Preparation

As I have been searching the scriptures for Jesus, my heart is crying out from deep places that need to be touched by the Sacrifice/the Lamb once again. The Life-Blood of the message needs to be applied to every part of me, even as blood consecrated every part of the tabernacle (Heb. 9:21-22). May the reach of the Lord go beyond a mere touch or experience into the piercing asunder of the flesh (Heb. 4:12). May the preaching of the Cross once again carry us to the altar where we allow the circumcision of the heart to be applied by the living Word of God. As those who are dead and no longer have a life apart from Christ, may we set our hearts with utter abandon to seek the Lord while He may be found (Is. 55:6)

Eternal Provision

*"... the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world"
(Revelation 13:8b).*

Jesus in eternity is called the Lamb that was slain. Before time, creation, mankind, and sin this was His name. From the foundation of the world, this is how He was known. What a description of the eternal Son! That He was slain is a description of His nature, for this defines who He is in His being, even apart from sin or failure. There is an eternal

Spirit behind His wounds, for they came before sin did. There was a desire within the heart of God to relate to man in a specific way that originated before redemption. If we can see that to some degree then we will be open to a greater view of God's Lamb and the spirit in which He is given for us. To know the heart behind the actions will cast out fear even if we are being "cast out of the garden" in that moment. This Lamb was and is and is to come as God's provision for all things, not only sin.

The Pre-eminence of The Lamb

"And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so"
(Genesis 1:24).

Previous to God creating man and woman he brought forth all forms of living creatures. The waters had brought forth abundantly, the skies held every winged fowl, and the earth brought forth cattle, beast of the earth and creeping thing, all after its kind. Before human flesh drew in one breath God had enormous provision waiting. Before man or woman was even formed the creation was burgeoning with life. What a picture of abundance and incredible supply!

In this same way, even before the earth was created, God had all provision waiting in His Son. Christ and Him crucified is the Gospel eternity waited to reveal to man for from the foundation of the world His Lamb was slain. The Son of the Father's love was predestined to have the pre-eminence in all things (Col. 1:17-18). The scriptures declare that all creation testifies of Him (Rom. 1:20). He is not only the redemption of all things pertaining to the new creation, but the very life and fullness thereof. In other words, this Lamb encompasses and fulfills every need pertaining to God's purpose and desire for man. The Lamb was slain from the foundation of the world, prepared to cover, atone and fill all of mankind with this same sacrificial nature. Before sin, failure, or man's best efforts entered the scene the eternal Lamb was ready to fulfill the destiny of all creation, a destiny that greatly surpasses only dealing with sins. It is a destiny that brings us into oneness with the Lamb Himself. This Lamb gave Himself completely so that we could be sanctified to the uttermost through His death and brought into union with all His fullness. The extensiveness of that provision would take endless ages to search out, and so we will simply focus on one aspect in this article.

Let's return to the beasts that were created before Adam and Eve. What do the animals show and mean to us? They provide for us food and clothing at the cost of their own lives. Within the beast is the provision of skin, blood and flesh. The skin covers us. The blood was a type of offering for sin. The flesh fills us. Before Adam or Eve the animals were present, they were waiting, they were multiplying... even as God's heart ever abounds with grace towards us seen in His provision that is beyond the measure of what we could ever fathom. It is the provision of His own Lamb for us.

The First Embrace

Genesis 3:20-21 "And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the

mother of all living. Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them.”

Adam and Eve fell into sin. They rejected the tree of Life and choose to partake of death. The garden became closed, off limits. Satan had not only entered the scene but entered into relationship with mankind. Some heavy consequences were manifesting and things must have seemed unimaginable horrible to Adam and Eve. Yet man's darkest hours are not without the Lamb. Before the Lord sent Adam and Eve out of the garden, He Himself made them coats of skin and clothed them. God did not just provide Adam with Eve, but He provided them both with skins and then clothed them Himself. Can we see God's heart and eternal purpose in this? Can we see the hope of the Gospel woven into the very first incident of man's rejection? God's eternal provision reached forth into the most desperate situation, foreshadowing and speaking not only of forgiveness but of a union that would fulfill the purpose for all creation. Think about this, at the very moment it appears as if creation has failed its purpose, God sends forth a symbol of Christ and Him crucified which will ultimately fulfill its highest goal.

The skins were the first embrace of the Lamb towards humans (in type and shadow). This embrace covered their nakedness at the cost of a life. While there is no record in scripture of God literally slaying a beast to provide the skins, it does say that He made the coats. If, indeed, an animal was taken and slain to provide these skins, then that animal(s) would have fulfilled its ultimate purpose as a part of creation testifying of Christ. If there was an animal(s) taken, then the animal(s) that provided these skins could possibly have been the first of the whole creation to die. It would have been a death that represented the death of the Lamb to cover and atone for man. Adam and Eve did not yet have the instructions given to Moses concerning the priesthood and the offering of sacrifices as atonement for sin. They did not comprehend relating to God by and through the Cross of Christ. They had NO comprehension of the Lamb of the Father's heart who would be slain for them and for all.

God Himself moved as their priest and brought unto them, in type and shadow, a sacrifice as a covering. God's active motion towards Adam and Eve after He had spoken concerning their sin was not to slay them, slap them, or stone them. He moved to cover their nakedness with skins. Here is a picture of the Eternal Spirit offering Himself on our behalf even before Adam and Eve had stepped one foot out of the garden. For all their fear of future doom and the overwhelming sense of failure and separation, the skins spoke of God's plan to bring them into oneness through His crucified Christ, the slain Lamb and the hope of glory in human flesh. Quite possibly Adam and Eve walked out of the garden with their heads bowed in shame. Yet if we were to look closely at them we would not be able to fully see their nakedness for the covering of skins that was upon them. The symbol of God's heart to bring them into oneness through His slain Lamb was cleaving to their very bodies!!! The only thing we know of that they carried out of the garden with them were these skins representing God's heart to bring them into union through the Cross of His Christ!!! Where sin abounds, grace MUCH MORE abounds, if only we have eyes to see it (Rom. 5:20)!

This is the first manifestation in type and shadow of the Eternal Spirit applying the Sacrifice recorded in scripture. It is the first motion in the temporal realm of God Himself applying a crucified Christ to defiled and hopeless mankind. Can you see how the Eternal Gospel is demonstrated at that moment? Had Adam and Eve only knew the hope set before them through this picture of Christ, they would have set their hearts towards the Cross and embraced the coverings rather than their new found nakedness. We are naked, and God provides skins. It is the covering of a slaughtered beast. It is a picture of a crucified Christ for us.

The Abundance of Provision

We have already spoken concerning God's provision preceding even the creation of man. If Adam and Eve were to lift up their eyes and look around them, they would have seen that the land was teeming with supply. They may have seen cattle enough to provide burnt offerings for sin upon sin. They may have been able to look in another direction and find sheep covering a pasture, lamb enough to provide meat and skin for way more than two people. Think about it, God's provision is infinitely beyond the need. This declares to us that the Lamb of God MORE than satisfies and propitiates for our sin. The Crucified Christ of the Father's Heart is more than enough to the Father. He excels and abounds beyond only atoning for our sins, He fills all things and fills the heart of God. To understand the Father's heart is to see the provision of His Lamb from His viewpoint. This Lamb is His Son Who is Beloved of the Father. The Father's pleasure and satisfaction is bound up in His Son. His purpose and desire for all of mankind is bound up in the dear Son of His love. Oh the length and breadth, ... who could fathom the deep and endless spring of satisfaction the Son is to the Father? Within that satisfaction is God's acceptance of His death on our behalf.

Not A Cover Up – A Covering Through Death

There is no remission of sins without the shedding of Blood (Heb. 9:19-22, 1:18). The covering of Christ through His death does not come without the shedding of blood. Christ as our covering is not a cover up for sin. The fig leaves represented man's covering of his own nakedness. First Adam and Eve felt naked and so they covered themselves with something that shed no blood, an object that did not give its life through atonement. Then they covered themselves by hiding from God. Finally Adam covered himself by making excuses. There was covering upon covering, and none of them requiring the shedding of blood. God understood that hiding, excuses, and man-made fig leaves would never atone for the death that they had partaken of. Only through death could the power of death ever be broken, and that death had to come through a man who was not defiled by death. God foreknew that He would send His only Son who would become a man, the only man without sin, and He would become the sacrifice for all mankind's defiled condition of death. His Son would not only remove the death but bring in His Life. He would not just cover the sin, but replace it with eternal life. The skins show us both sides. Our sins are covered, but we are also clothed upon with Christ.

The Tabernacle Is Covered By Skins

“And thou shalt make a covering for the tent of rams' skins dyed red, and a covering above of badgers' skins” (Exodus 26:14).

Even in the heavenly pattern for the tabernacle given to Moses, skins covered the entire structure. This great parable of God dwelling in man (scene in the tabernacle) is not without skins. In fact, if you looked from above, most of what you would see would be skins surrounded by white linen. A great covering of badger's skin encompassed the entire structure where God Himself dwelled. Through death Christ has bore our sin and covered our transgressions. Through death Christ has made us one flesh with Himself wherein we are not only covered by His Blood, but we cover Him and become the place of His habitation.

Covering One Another In Love

Some of you may have seen a documentary called, “The March of the Penguins.” This documentary follows the step of penguins in the Arctic over the period of one year. These penguins live in the harshest terrain on the planet. They will not survive without each other's care. At one point in the year the male penguins are carrying and protecting the eggs of their unborn child while withstand temperatures close to and lower than minus eighty degrees below zero in Fahrenheit. At this time they have not eaten in approximately three months. The only way they can survive is for all of the penguins to huddle and press together forming a massive clump of penguin bodies. They are using their body warmth and feathers to cover and warm each other so they can stay alive. At different times the penguins will take turns going to the outside of the huddle so others can be warmed within. Their feathers, skin and flesh are being used not just for their own covering, but to provide a life-line to the whole group. What a beautiful picture of the Body of Christ. There is the Spirit of Christ that will work in our hearts to leave the warmth of the inside huddle to take our place in the freezing cold outer edge so that others may receive warmth and protection inside. This is the spirit of the skins. It is a covering that happens through the nature of the Lamb at the cost of His own life. If we truly conform to the image of Christ then we will function as flesh of His flesh, and part of being His flesh is functioning as the skins do, to cover one another in love.

It cost Jesus His Life to cover us with His Blood and make us bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh. And we too will have to pour out our lives to cover each other in love to protect each other until the Seed of Christ within each of us can come forth in Life. If the Daddy penguin froze in the cold, then the baby penguin in the egg would die also. As members one of another we must be as the skins that cover each other until Christ is formed in every member. The skins cover not only the treasure but the vessel also. Even if we can only see the earthen vessel, we must remember that Christ is within and has made us His Body, therefore love fervently at all times and cover one another in love!

The Spirit Of The Skins

As we conform to the Spirit of Christ we will be as His very skin and cover the cold, weak and naked members of the Body. What are members of one Body but those but those who are covered by the same skin? We may have to pour out our soul and die to self so as to be able to be cover and shelter our brothers and sisters from the cold conditions of this world and carnality, but the Lamb within will reach forth and bring His love into manifestation through us for them till we all come into maturity together (Eph. 4:13). Love covers a multitude of sins (I Pet. 4:8). Love bears the weak and immature members until Christ is formed in every part. Skins covered the sins. Skins did not excuse the sin, for in order to become that covering it had to first be slain and then have the blood shed on their behalf. Christ died to become skins. The skin covers because it atoned through dying. It speaks of the Eternal Spirit of God as displayed to all mankind through a crucified Christ. May this same Life reign in us today.

Conclusion

It is possible to miss the Lamb and all that He is in all fullness of provision. We can miss the great communion table where we partake of His flesh and drink His Blood, where we become clothed upon with Christ. Yet what bliss to know the joy of entering in through the Lamb! In the parable of the man who had two sons, the elder son did everything “right” yet missed the great feast. The prodigal son found and received his father’s provision, which included a fatted calf that was slain, and went all the way in to the heart of his father’s house. Bless God, that’s what those animal skins meant to the heart of God. The represented the promise of a way in to oneness through the Cross of Christ. God know what Adam and Eve where yet blind to. He saw the hope of glory, the Crucified Christ that would usher all men from death to life. The Lamb then becomes much more then our provision for sin, He becomes the very spirit and nature by which we live. Soon those who are covered will be found covering others! Bless the Lord, may we be covered, filled, and brought into union with God in all fullness by embracing the provision of the Lamb that was slain. Of His fullness may we all receive, and this grace for grace (Jn. 1:16).***