

The Garden of Eden Part 6: Naked (Presented on 7/8/2017)

The following text is based on a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-tGmiEPyMA&list=PLm16y1h4ekf7tVF2QesERFGaWqKR3mTIB&index=6>

***Portions of this sermon message have been edited to better transcribe the message. All the Scripture verses are from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted and are in red. Therefore, it is recommended that this document be printed in color.**

We are going to go back to Genesis 3:6 to set the stage for this week: **So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.** We have to remember the context from last week: Adam is not with Eve when Satan is having this discourse with her. Satan is an opportunist looking for the perfect time. He got to Eve when Adam was not around. That is critical because at the end of that discourse Satan gets her to cast her gaze upon the tree, and she takes of its fruit.

After this, we have what we called the “gap period.” This is the time between when Eve ate and she went and found Adam and gave the fruit to him to eat. That is a critical piece of information.

Let's continue in Genesis 3:7—**Then the eyes of both of them were opened.** Did you catch what just happened? Eve touches the forbidden tree and takes of the fruit which is something she is not supposed to do. Then during this “gap period” she goes to deliver this fruit to her husband. What do you recognize here? Her eyes are not open. Isn't that interesting!

So, this goes back to my point that Adam was the primary target. This is who Satan was after. He was after the head of the household. And what happened when the head of the household partook of the forbidden fruit? **Then the eyes of both of them were open.** It says both of them. That is powerful!

Remember that Adam was commissioned to guard the garden; he was supposed to protect his household. Adam didn't do this, and now the eyes of both of them were open. And after this moment—**they knew that they were naked Genesis 3:7.**

What in the world is going on here because what do we read in Genesis 2:25? We read—**And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.** It is pretty clear that they were not ashamed. Now all of the sudden they partake of the fruit of the tree, and now they know they're naked. This is kind of peculiar; there's something deep going on here. What is really happening?

To answer that question, I want to take you to some commentary from one of the most decorated sages in the history of Judaism. His name is Rabbi Shlomo Yitzchaki, otherwise known as Rashi. Rashi actually comments on this very thing, and he does it in a very humorous way. This is what he says—**Even a blind man knows when he's naked. What then is the meaning of “and they knew that they were naked”?**

Now you think about that statement. It is brilliant and hilarious at the same time because it is true. Think about it: even when their eyes were not open, they still should have known they were naked.

Everybody in their right mind can see that, and Rashi is bringing you to a place through this rhetorical question. Rashi recognized something happened, so how does he answer this? This is what he says—**They had one commandment in their possession, and they became denuded of it.** In other words, they were stripped of this commandment, and this is what happened on a much deeper spiritual level. In other words, what Rashi is telling you is that they were clothed in the righteousness of God; their obedience to His Law clothed them by covering their nakedness. Because of this, they didn't have shame. This is where he's bringing us.

Now all of this is interesting to me because of what we read in Revelation 19:7-8—⁷ **Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.** ⁸ **And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.** What is this fine linen? It is the righteous acts of the saints. So here's the bride of Yeshua, Israel, at His return, who has prepared, adorned, and clothed herself with righteousness by keeping His commandments, His Torah. That is fascinating!

Let me take it a step further and actually go backwards in Revelation 3:18 where we find Yeshua addressing the Church at Laodicea. This is what He says to them—**I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed.**

What did He just do? He took you back to the garden. That is the one story everyone knows where they weren't clothed, where they became naked, and where they knew their shame. This is in the garden. And Yeshua takes you back there to Laodicea where the people think they're rich and blessed. Yet he tells them that they are blind, miserable, wretched, and naked. He tells them that they need to recognize that they have nothing. They need to buy from Him. In other words, they need to keep His commandments.

Look at what Yeshua said in John 14:5—**if you love me you will keep My commandments.** Again in 1 John 2:3-4—**Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.** ⁴ **He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.** We keep seeing this played out over and over again. We are seeing this reality in the Garden of Eden.

Now going back to Genesis 3:7 where I want to finish this up—**Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.**

Isn't it interesting how they now recognize their nakedness and shame, and they immediately take action according to what they think is right. Think about this: they take action according to the dictates of their own heart in regard to how to resolve this situation that just went really bad. They are trying to figure out how to cover their shame. They come to the conclusion that they need to sow fig leaves together and cover themselves.

Continuing in Genesis 3:8—⁸ **And they heard the sound.** Now if you look at this in the Hebrew, this is an OK translation, but it's not the best. You'll find many other translations that translate it more accurately, in my opinion, as "voice." That is because in the Hebrew the word is *qowl* which literally means voice. This is going to mean something to you in just a moment. Continuing—**they heard the sound** (or the voice) **of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day and Adam and his wife**

hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden (there's His voice; Adam heard God's voice) and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

Wait a second! How is that possible? We just learned that Adam had clothed himself; he covered his nakedness by sewing fig leaves together. What is going on? The answer is that the moment Adam hears the voice of the LORD he actually runs because his nakedness comes out; his shame is exposed.

Let me ask you a question? What does this tell you about the voice of God? It tells you that the voice of God, when it comes on the scene, exposes all sin. That is what His voice does. It can't help it because the voice of God is pure Holiness. So when it goes forth, make no mistake, it will convict and condemn all sin.

I'm going to tell you this: the Torah is vitally important to the Church today. We look at what Adam just experienced in regard to clothing himself, but then the voice of God brought conviction so that Adam is freaking out; he is terrified and paralyzed with fear. But then you find out what is happening here and you think about it: the Torah is vitally important to the Church.

Now, you might question that statement and wonder what the Torah has to do with the voice of God. I am going to tell you that it has everything to do with the voice of the LORD. Everything!

Let me take you to Deuteronomy 27:9-10—**Then Moses and the priests, the Levites, spoke to all Israel, saying, "Take heed and listen, O Israel: This day you have become the people of the LORD your God. ¹⁰ Therefore you shall obey the voice of the LORD your God, and observe His commandments and His statutes which I command you today" (Emphasis added).** Do you recognize something? We are just told right here within the Torah that the voice of the LORD is literally equated to His commandments. They are synonymous with one another. This is a critical point to pick up on.

Let me continue in Psalms 81:1—**Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth (Emphasis added).** I want you to think about something: when you think about the Torah, you should be thinking about the Words of His mouth. Do you want the proper context of what the Torah really is? It is His voice.

Let me show you another verse in Psalm 119:72—**The law of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of coins of gold and silver (Emphasis added).** And again in Daniel 9:11—**Yes, all Israel has transgressed Your law, and has departed so as not to obey Your voice (Emphasis added).**

I can show you many other examples in the positive and in the negative. It doesn't matter either way because what we discover is that the Torah is the voice of God. You cannot get away from it.

So, where am I going with this? When Adam heard the voice of the LORD in the garden, what did he hear? He heard the Torah; he heard the Law of God. This is the Law which exposes every sin and flaw. It is condemning and convicting. It makes you fear and tremble at the sound of it especially when your shame has come out.

I want to take you to Revelation 6:15-16 because I want to draw a parallel for you. I want to show you that at the end of the age the wicked actually do the exact same thing that Adam did in the garden: ¹⁵ **And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶ and said to the**

mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and **hide us** from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb (Emphasis added)! What does it say? It says—**hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb**. What did they do? They are doing the exact same thing Adam has done. Adam took cover; he took shelter and went and hid at the voice of the LORD.

That is an amazing thing! So let me tie this in deeper. Why are these men hiding? We would say they are hiding because the wrath of the LORD is coming. It is, however, more specific than that. Revelation gets more specific. This is what it says as we continue in Revelation 19:15—**Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations**. This is an amazing thing to me because these people who are running and hiding are doing so because Yeshua has come on the scene. The wrath of the Lamb has come on the scene, but how do you define that wrath? What is this wrath? The Scripture states that He opens His mouth and out comes a sword. It is not a literal sword; this is imagery that we are given. But what does that mean? To answer that question we just need to look at the Apostle Paul and how he defines it—**And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God (Ephesians 6:17)**.

The sword is His Word. It is His Torah. So when you put it in context and start looking at this, the reality is that this sword that comes out of Yeshua's mouth is the Torah.

Look at Hebrews 4:12—**For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword**. Over and over again we find that the Word of God is likened to a sword, and this is the sword that is going to come out of Yeshua. Think about the reality of what happens when Yeshua opens His mouth. When He yelled at Lazarus and told him to rise, death could not hold him because Yeshua spoke life into Lazarus.

Right from the start of creation God spoke saying—**Let there be light (Genesis 1:3)**. Elohim spoke it and it came into existence! That is power! But here's the scary thing: He's going to come in at the end of the age, and He's going to open His mouth yet once again, but this time it's not to create; rather, it's going to be to destroy. It is going to be to convict the wicked and condemn them to the eternal death which is the second death. That is scary!

Let me ask you this: when you look at this Word of God, the fact that it's the Torah, and we know that the Torah is the voice of the LORD, are we surprised when we see what's happening to modern-day Christianity? Are we surprised as we look at the work that the devil is doing in that his strategy is to go after the Torah? He tries to convince believers by telling them, "No, no, no, the Torah is a curse. Don't listen to it because it is void. It is completely abolished. When you hear the word Law, run."

Understand something: the last thing the devil wants you to do is to listen to the voice of God. The devil can't stand this. What was the devil's strategy against Eve? It was to remove the voice of God from the equation. He wanted to remove the Law from the equation. That is why Satan came to Eve and asked—**Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?' (Genesis 3:1)**.

Satan comes to call into question God's voice, His Torah, by telling Eve, "It is not valid; you don't need to listen to it. It's not valid anymore; listen to me."

People, the devil knows something: the moment that you turn your heart to Yeshua in order to call upon His name, the moment that you are willing to pick up your cross and follow Him, Satan has lost. This is not just about believing. This is about following Him because He is the King. We have got to follow Him.

The moment you do that, all of those bondages, all of those addictions, and all of those shackles that he's put you under will fall off. This is the power of truth!

Have you ever been sitting in your room reading the Word and, all of the sudden bam? At that moment, the most profound thought hits you. The Holy Spirit just opened something up and you sit back and go, "That's crazy." How many of you have experienced that when you're reading the Word? That's the Holy Spirit, right?

I want you to consider something: the devil is a liar; is he not? He is the father of lies. To get you to accept the lie, you have to reject the truth. Think about this and think about your own life: every single one of us has accepted a lie in our life; the devil has peddled it, and we have bought it. Don't forget: for you to do that, you had to reject truth.

That is the scary thing for me; that's what humbles me. It is when the Holy Spirit shows you things like that and it brings you down to your knees, and you really realize: "I have rejected who You are, Yeshua." He's the Way, the Truth, and the Life. His character, His nature, and His Holiness are the aspect that I've rejected. When you think about that, it's humbling; and it should bring you to a place of repentance.

What did Eve do? She had to reject the truth that she was not allowed to eat of this tree. She had to accept Satan's lie—you will surely not die. Satan had to move the truth out of the way. He is so good at what he does.

Think about all the lies that he tells everyone one of us in this room. Each of us has been told a different lie. We believe we're not good enough, we don't look the right way, we don't have the right talents, the LORD will never accept us, or I've sinned too much in my past history. You have to reject the truth to accept that lie. The truth is Yeshua came to save; He did not come to save the righteous; He came to save the sinner and bring him to repentance.

Knowing this, do you think that Satan is going to attempt to do everything in his power to get us to reject the voice of the LORD and reject the Law of God? The answer to that is absolutely! He did it to Eve, and he's going to attempt to do it to you. He's killing the Church right now; he is seducing the Church.

We were warned over and over again throughout the entire Bible about false prophets. We were told that they would come to us in sheep's clothing. The devil comes as an angel of light, and his ministers come as ministers of righteousness. They will speak the right thing; they will say things like, "I love Jesus; you love Jesus." They say everything in order to get you to take your guard down. But I'm going to tell you something about false prophets: they do not speak according to the voice of the LORD. They don't speak according to His voice. They don't speak according to the Law because there's no light in them. This is the reality.

Take this a step further by looking at Romans 7:7—**What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet."** You need to understand that we need the voice of God. It gives us the ability to identify and define sin so that we can deal with it. That is what God's voice does. It has great power! So the devil's strategy is very simple: get the people to stop listening to the voice of God. Destroy their ability to identify sin, and you will destroy their ability to define sin. You're left in a perfect state to receive the lie. That is the reality. If you can't identify or

define it, you're left in this perfect state where you're spiritually paralyzed. That is the perfect opportunity to receive the lie.

Let me take this a step further in regard to this voice Adam heard in the garden because we know that the voice is the Torah. We need to put this further into context to truly appreciate what he experienced.

When you think about the voice, we know it's the Word of the LORD. What do we know about Yeshua? We know that Yeshua is the Word of the LORD. Let's start putting these pieces together—in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (John 1:1). John 1:14—And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Think about it this way: Yeshua is literally the voice God. So, let's get this straight: the voice is the Torah and the Torah is Yeshua. We know this is even mentioned later on in this Gospel of John in 5:39—You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. Again we have—For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me (John 5:46). He is talking about the Torah. When He's referencing Moses, He's referencing the Torah. He is saying that the Torah is about Him. This is just the reality.

So, what did Adam hear? Let's start putting these pieces together. Adam heard Yeshua; this is what He heard. That voice that went through the garden was the Word of the LORD. Adam heard our LORD Yeshua.

That is a powerful concept because how did Adam respond to him? Or rather, how did Adam respond to the Word of the LORD? He ran for the hills because he was convicted; he was condemned.

Let me ask you this: what did Yeshua do in His ministry when He came here to Earth? Most of you would say that He healed and showed compassion. He did those things; however, that is not all he did. What did He do? Read John 7:7—The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that its works are evil.

This is what He did when He came to earth. He testified. He was holy, and the Word or voice of the LORD went forth and did what it always does: it convicted and condemned the wicked. This is condemnation.

What does Yeshua say in John 3:19? He said— And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. This is absolutely terrifying!

Going back to our passage because there is a little more I want to unravel—Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself" (Genesis 3:9-10).

I want to circle back to this issue. Despite Adam sewing these fig leaves together and covering his own body, covering his own shame and nakedness, what happened? It failed. The moment that voice spoke, the moment the Holiness of the Living God came on the scene, Adam realized that he was completely ashamed of who he was. He was completely laid totally bare before God.

There is such an important lesson here to learn from what Adam just experienced. What is that lesson? Adam did not have what it takes to right the wrong. He did not have it.

So we have goat hair and goatskins. Isn't that interesting! That was an integral part so that Israel would know that blood had to be shed in order for there to be intimacy with God.

Let's take this a step further. I want to take you to Genesis 27:8-9 where we read about Isaac who is about die. So, he calls to his firstborn son, Esau. He's going to bless him with the firstborn blessing and the inheritance with the promise. His wife Rebecca catches wind of this, and she acts quickly because she doesn't want her son Esau to receive the blessing because he was a wicked man. So, she instructs her son Jacob to do the following—⁸ **Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to what I command you.** ⁹ **Go now to the flock and bring me from there two choice kids of the goats, and I will make savory food from them for your father, such as he loves.** Continuing in Genesis 27:14-16—¹⁴ **And he went and got them and brought them to his mother, and his mother made savory food, such as his father loved.** ¹⁵ **Then Rebekah took the choice clothes of her elder son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son.** ¹⁶ **And she put the skins of the kids of the goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck (Emphasis added to all verses).**

Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel, was just clothed in a garment of animal tunics. And we discover that they were goatskins. The very thing that covered Jacob was the very thing that covered the tabernacle.

Let me take it a step further. In Scripture God commands the observance of the high holy day of the year, the greatest holiday of the year: Yom Kippur or the Day of Atonement. This was the day when atonement for all Israel was given.

Now, listen to me carefully. It wasn't just the unknown sins, or sins that were committed in ignorance; it was for the intentional sins and those committed in rebellion. It was for those who intentionally violated Torah, for those who sinned in ignorance, and for those who intentionally rebelled directly against God. Yom Kippur covered all of these. The stars of the show, I mean outside of the High Priest, were the two goats. And through them, the very two goats that covered Jacob, Israel was atoned.

And so you start thinking about what happened because we're not really given the details. Well, it's interesting because the LORD has a way of sharing other details elsewhere in the stories. It is kind of a bonus point if you will.

When Adam sinned, he was covered in the skins premeditating what this ceremony was. We could even look at Passover. The Passover lamb was either taken from the lambs or the goats. This is what it was. So it's just a really powerful story that we see the gospel message exists in the Garden of Eden. It exists; Yeshua exists. Hope for us is there.

The reason I covered Yom Kippur was obviously because of the goat information. But understand that whatever sin you have committed, do not buy the lie. Proverbs 23:23—**Buy the truth, and do not sell it.** Do not buy the lie that you cannot be saved because of what you've done in your life and how many times you cycle back. If you give it all, if you give everything you have to the LORD this day, you will be saved: **That whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved (Acts 2:21).** That's the truth. Go and buy it. It does no good to start praying to Yeshua if you do not believe.

If you open your heart, this is the truth. Start analyzing your life. What lies has the devil told you? What lies are holding you in bondage? What truths have you rejected to get to the place where you are

at right now? And because of that, you hate yourself. You hate who you are. If you don't want to be that person anymore, give it to the LORD. Sell the lie and by the truth.

I want to close with this passage in Romans 5:6-9—⁶ For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. What was Adam before he was clothed? What was he before these animals had to die or before Mashiach? He was a sinner. ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. This is the promise; this is the truth. Amen!