**PP God on the Move**

**Part 1-*God in the Garden* (His Fellowship) Genesis 3:8, 22-24 (p. 3 pew) 2/24-25/2024**

You and I were made for God, but we were also made to be *with* God, and for the next 6 weeks,

we are going to follow this overarching storyline that threads through all the scriptures

You might be thinking that redemption is the overarching story of the bible

Redemption-*the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus for the atonement of our sins*-is the

only way for us to be with God by removing the sin that separates us

But for all of human history, God has been on the move, unfolding a plan He has had from all

eternity, a plan to dwell with His people who had become separated from Him by sin

This is the great story of the bible and in it we see God on the move to be with His people, and

nothing will keep Him from that goal, it is His mission

**PP *“You have led in Your steadfast love the people whom You have redeemed; You have guided***

***them by Your strength to Your holy abode.”*  Exodus 15:13**

**PP *“I will put My dwelling place among you, and I will not abhor you. I will walk among you***

***and be Your God, and you will be My people.”* Leviticus 26:11**

Let me invite you to stand and read with me: **PP Read Genesis 3:1-8, 22-24**

**PP** ***“And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day”***

**3:8**

God had created Adam and from him, took a rib and fashioned a wife for him

God planted a beautiful garden in an area called Eden, full of plants and animals, rivers and all

kinds of fruit trees, and that garden was home for the first couple

They took care of the garden, enjoying it but one tree, that of the knowledge of good and evil

In forbidding them from that tree, God tested them, would they love and trust Him and obey Him

Satan came into the garden tempting the woman with the false promise that she could become

like God through knowledge, if she would just eat from that forbidden tree

She fell for it, ate and gave some to Adam who the bible indicates was with her the entire time

They failed the test, defying God, rebelling against Him, and with that sin, their innocence

shattered, leaving them exposed, guilty, and hiding from each other and soon, from God

Growing up our home was on a hill overlooking Route 13, the main road in and out of our town

In front of our house was a sidewalk with pea gravel alongside and one day when I was young, I

was bored and wanted to see if I could throw those stones all the way to Rt. 13

Rearing back my arm, I let fly a mighty throw but as soon as the stone left my hand, I knew I

was in terrible trouble because I didn’t see the brand new car coming, drive by the man

who owned the Drift In, our local ice cream stop

Uncannily, that stone hit the side of his car, and he slammed on the brakes, screeching to a halt

I ran into the house and hid in the laundry room closet, burying myself under the winter clothes

I heard him come to the door, my mom answer it, and his yelling about his new car being hit

Then I heard my mom’s voice demand that I come down right at that instant and after multiple

apologies to this man, she shut the door and the worse terror began: *‘You wait until your*

*father gets home!’*

I went to my room, packed a suitcase full of clothes, snuck out the back door and headed up to

the hills

I flew the coop, out to the great beyond like Frodo, except it didn’t take long for me to get scared

and turn around and go back down to the house to face the music

Our first couple is about to go into hiding, for when the cool evening breeze blew, God came

walking into the garden, and they heard Him coming

The word **PP ‘*sound*’** *often means voice* and I wonder if perhaps they heard God talking and

maybe even singing as He approached them

Or perhaps like **Acts 2** it was a mighty rushing wind, but whatever it was, it is important to know

that God wasn’t popping by to say goodbye before He headed up to heaven for the night

Eden was His garden temple, His earthly home, His temple, and He dwelled there with Adam

and Eve and would have dwelled in the same way with all of humanity

You see, Eden was the dwelling place of God and Adam and Eve were commissioned to expand

the boundaries of His dwelling place by multiplying and filling the whole earth

So God came **PP *‘walking in the garden’* 8** *which is an idiom that means friendship*

When I was in Africa, I would often see two men or two ladies walking along holding hands

In Africa and India, two people of the same sex holding hands expresses close friendship

God was dwelling with Adam and Eve in friendship, walking with them in the garden

It was sweet fellowship, the best part of Adam and Eve’s day, face to face, enjoying life

For them, **PP** *‘Loving God was as natural as breathing, and as effortless.’* Kent Hughes

But would you think about something for a moment?

Until **Genesis 3:6**, Adam and Eve truly lived for they lived the way God designed life to be

Life is not God-intended life until He is with us and we are with Him, fully, no barriers

Life is not just the presence of cellular activity, brain waves, and a beating heart

The life God intended for Adam and Eve was living in the love, favor and presence of God

It was physical, emotional, rational, spiritual, with no longing unfulfilled

Do you know that getting a high from drugs is a longing for what we lost in Eden?

That lingering dissatisfaction in life is the evidence that you are not in Eden anymore

That loneliness, depression, grief, sorrow, restlessness, and shame…we cannot find the garden!

The evasive pursuit for glory, for beauty, for fulfillment are longings for what was lost in Eden

Each sermon I give I am aware that it could have been better, more clear, better said: Eden pangs

Adam and Eve and all their children lost ‘life’ on that fateful day, and death settled into our souls

Not instant, stop-breathing death, but the collapse of innocence and glory and joy, the end of all

that is as it should be, and into this mess walked God in His holiness and blinding glory

What should’ve been the best part of their day became in an instant their worst

Have you ever been with someone who is stunningly beautiful, or incredibly fit, or amazingly

smart and confident, and felt diminished, inferior, making you aware of your flaws?

Maybe it's a guy who is tall and you are short, and you feel your shortness, it gnaws at you

Or a girl who has a dazzling smile, and you keep your mouth closed in that picture around her

Imagine what it was like for this newly shattered couple the moment they heard God coming

They had covered their nakedness with fig leaves, but that’s like putting sheepskin on a wolf

God’s holiness burns fig leaves away leaving bare the ugly reality of shame

Hearts pounding, they fled from the One Whom they had only known love and friendship

Man left God before God left man and that same hiding is hard-wired into every one of us

But look with me at this fact: God, Who knew what had happened, walked to them with mercy

His name given in verse 8 is **PP *‘Lord God’*** which is *Jehovah Elohim*, the faithful, personal,

loving Lord and Savior!

And saving is what they needed because there is nothing they could do to fix their problem

Fig leaves wouldn’t work, hiding from God wouldn’t work, they needed God’s mercy!

Jehovah Elohim won’t leave His children in sin, so he drew them out of hiding, calling to them

with questions designed to move them to confess what they did

Confess they did, but not without trying to soften the blow by shifting the blame off themselves

Adam blamed his wife, threw her under the bus, yet he blamed God as well for giving him her

Eve was a little more honest in her blame shifting: ***‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate’* 13**

But God is holy, and judgment would fall, first on the devil, then Eve and finally Adam

To Eve He said, **PP *“I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring***

***forth children.”* Genesis 3:16**

This is more than physical pain in giving birth, but the sorrow of a mother when her children sin

This is the reason for Solomon’s words, **PP *“A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son***

***is a sorrow to his mother.”* Proverbs 10:1**

*Eve*, God said, *you will taste the sorrow that you and Adam have caused me*

Do you know, **PP** *When we sin we are not just breaking the law of God, but the heart of God*

Sin requires the life of a living being to die in order to atone for it, to take it away

**PP *‘the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skin and clothed them’* 3:21**

Yet the blood of an animal can over cover sin, never take it away, and for that it requires a

different sacrifice

**PP *“He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to***

***righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep,***

***but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”* 1 Peter 2:24–25**

I think we often scrub God of emotions, but can you imagine the sorrow in His heart when He

walked in the garden calling out to Adam and Eve, knowing full well what they did

His Son would one day die for their sins, our sins, all the sins of those who will believe in Him

Yet I wonder if there was another sorrow in His heart that we see at the end of the chapter?

**PP *“Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good***

***and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and***

***live forever—” therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work***

***the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man, and at the east of the***

***garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to***

***guard the way to the tree of life.”* Genesis 3:22-24**

To drive them out of the garden was to drive them away from His presence and fellowship

Eden was lost, they had no way back, for it was guarded by the cherubim with a flaming sword

Yet all along, before God created the world, He planned for this, and His mission to dwell with

His people over the whole earth was not hindered

Nancy Guthrie brilliantly explained, **PP** *“God’s plan for his creation was then, and remains*

*now, to establish his kingdom in a new creation, ruled by his Son and his Son’s bride who*

*will share his glory and enjoy his presence in an eternal Sabbath rest.”*  Nancy Guthrie

How can we enjoy His presence, what all of our hearts are longing for?

There is only one way, and it is through faith in Jesus, upon Whom that terrible sword of God’s

judgment fell

Who also was driven from God’s presence: ***‘My God, My God, Why have you forsaken me?’***

Jesus, who was naked and ashamed so that He who knew no sin became sin for us

**PP *“By His death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most***

***Holy Place.”* Hebrews 10:20 (NLT)**

For the next 5 weeks we will follow God Who is on the Move to dwell with His people

His plan, His mission is clear and we might wonder why we have never seen it so clearly before

But when you see it, you will never unsee it, and it will fill your heart with anticipation!

Pray