

GLEANINGS

THE INNOCENT ANIMAL

²¹*The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.*
²²*And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever."* ²³*So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken." (Genesis 3:21-23 New International Version)*

God shed the blood of an innocent animal in the Garden of Eden in order to cover the nakedness of Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:21). Could Jehovah have clothed their nakedness without sacrificing an innocent animal? Of course He could. But God was giving them a reality picture of their need for the sacrifice that His Son, Jesus Christ, would give one day in the future. From that day forward, every Patriarch testified about the coming Messiah each time He offered a sacrifice to Jehovah.

As the innocent animal was dying, the people of the Old Testament went to God in prayer and asked forgiveness of their sins. While looking forward in faith, they asked that the sacrifice the innocent Son of God would give one day, pay the sin debt they owed God. Every sin has to be paid for by either the Messiah or by us. Each time the Patriarch was asked by his friends and family why he was sacrificing animals and birds, he was to explain the gospel to them. He was to tell them about the death of the coming Messiah and he was to invite them to repent of their own sins and accept the coming Messiah as their personal Savior. It did not take them any more faith to believe that He would die then it takes for us to believe that He has died. All are saved by faith in Christ because of the grace (the unmerited favor) of God.