

# THE COVERING OF JESUS CHRIST

**Q: What is the forecast for this year's winter nights?**

**A: DARK and COLD**

Many have heard this message before, but it is my hope is that you will hear this fresh and keep this on your heart always. I will tell it to you in three parts:

- 1) What God created
  - 2) What man did with it
  - 3) What God says we can do now
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## **1)What God Created**

### **New American Standard Bible**

"In the beginning" God created for six days. On the sixth day God created...?

### **Genesis 1:26-31**

**26** Then God said, "[ai]Let Us make mankind in Our image, according to Our likeness; and [ai]let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the livestock and over all the earth, and over every crawling thing that crawls on the earth." **27** So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. **28** God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that [ak]moves on the earth."

29 Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the <sup>[a]</sup>surface of all the earth, and every tree <sup>[am]</sup>which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; 30 and to every animal of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to everything that <sup>[an]</sup>moves on the earth <sup>[ao]</sup>which has life, *I have given* every green plant for food"; and it was so. 31 And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, **the sixth day.**

## Chapter 2

8 The LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed. 9 Out of the ground the LORD God caused every tree to grow that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life *was* also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and tend it. 16 The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not <sup>[o]</sup>eat, for on the day that you eat from it you will certainly die." 18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper <sup>[o]</sup>suitable for him."

[break]

21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. 22 And the LORD God <sup>[s]</sup>fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.

### *Moving to verse 25*

25 And the man and his wife were both naked, but they were not ashamed.

*At this point all was well. They were in perfect harmony and relationship with God. They had the garden, sunshine, clean water, various tasty food and each other. They were without sin, without shame and without guilt. A literal paradise on Earth.*

## **2)What man did with it**

### **Genesis 3**

#### ***Begins with the first squirming***

**3** Now the serpent was more cunning than any animal of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, **[aaaahhh]** "Has God really said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" **2** The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; **3** but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'" **4** The serpent said to the woman, "You certainly will not die! **5** For God knows that on the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will <sup>(a)</sup>become like God, knowing good and evil." **6** When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took some of its fruit and ate; and she also gave *some* to her husband with her, and he ate. **7** 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 waist coverings.**

*They made coverings and they made them for themselves, with their own hands and for their own selves. Adam didn't make two sets, Eve didn't make two sets. Each made a covering for themselves, for their own needs.*

**8** Now they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the <sup>(b)</sup>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. <sup>9</sup> Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup> He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself." <sup>11</sup> And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?"

### ***Now begins the second squirming***

<sup>12</sup> The man said, **[aaaahhh]** "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me some of *the fruit of* the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this *that* you have done?" And the woman said, **[aaaahhh]** "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." <sup>14</sup> Then the LORD God said to the serpent, ... /

At this point, God doesn't want to hear from the serpent. God declares the sentence.

<sup>21</sup> And the LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and **clothed them**.

God shows them their disobedience but has pity on man by providing the first animal sacrifice which **covers their sin**. At this point, sin has entered the picture. The good life is over. Man is now in a fallen state,

### ***Romans 6:23***

For the wages of sin *is* death, but the <sup>[b]</sup>gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

God's creation tried to squirm out of it with their own efforts, making their own pathetic coverings... the fig leaves, dying as they stand there. They weren't designed for that.

**This is the state of all people who are outside of Christ's forgiveness.**

There is no hiding from this fact. Consider...

### **Psalm 139 : 1-12**

- 1** You have searched me, LORD,  
and you know me.
- 2** You know when I sit and when I rise;  
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
- 3** You discern my going out and my lying down;  
you are familiar with all my ways.
- 4** Before a word is on my tongue  
you, LORD, know it completely.
- 5** You hem me in behind and before,  
and you lay your hand upon me.
- 6** Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
too lofty for me to attain.
- 7** Where can I go from your Spirit?  
Where can I flee from your presence?
- 8** If I go up to the heavens, you are there;  
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
- 9** If I rise on the wings of the dawn,  
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
- 10** even there your hand will guide me,  
your right hand will hold me fast.
- 11** If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me  
and the light become night around me,"
- 12** even the darkness will not be dark to you;  
the night will shine like the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.

When we walk out of this building tonight, it will be **dark** BUT God sees everything and we need to be **covered**. Not because of the **FORECAST** but rather because of our **sins**.

### **Psalm 32**

- 1** Blessed *is he* whose transgression *is* forgiven,  
Whose sin *is* **covered**.
- 2** Blessed *is* the man to whom the LORD does not <sup>[b]</sup>impute iniquity,  
And in whose spirit *there is* no deceit.

These words are also found in

### **Romans 4:7-8**

7 "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven,  
And whose sins are **covered**;

8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin."

### **Psalm 85**

1 LORD, You have been favorable to Your land;  
You have brought back the captivity of Jacob.

2 You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people;  
You have **covered** all their sin. *Selah*

3 You have taken away all Your wrath;  
You have turned from the fierceness of Your anger.

### **Isaiah 27:9**

9 Therefore by this the iniquity of Jacob will be **covered**;  
**And this is all the fruit of taking away his sin: FF**

### **Isaiah 61:10**

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has **clothed me** with the garments of salvation, He has **covered** me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks *himself* with ornaments, And as a bride adorns *herself* with her jewels.

The imagery is that of someone who has put on something beautiful.

### **A Military Uniform**

I don't know if we might consider a military uniform beautiful, but I can tell you this. I was a soldier in the US Army. The US Army didn't ask me to provide my own uniform. It was supplied for me as a covering to designate and identify me as a soldier. All of my prior possessions, especially my clothes were all put away and a new and very different life began.

As a soldier, I wore a soldier's uniform and was then **covered** by the UCMJ. This is the military's own judicial system, with its own rules and regulations. When a soldier has been accused of violating the UCMJ, they can be charged and accused in a military trial.

On the other hand, **civilians** are those who have **NOT put on** the uniform are **NOT covered** by the UCMJ.

### **3)What God says we can do now**

How do we become **in** Christ?

How can we **put on** the [uniform] of Christ having our sins **covered**?

#### **Romans 5:18**

**18** Therefore, as through <sup>[b]</sup>one man's offense *judgment came* to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one<sup>[c]</sup> Man's righteous act *the free gift came* to all men, resulting in justification of life. **19** For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

#### **Romans 13:13-14**

**13** Let us walk <sup>[a]</sup>properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. **14** But **put on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts.

#### **1 Corinthians 15**

**20** But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have <sup>[d]</sup>fallen asleep. **21** For since by

man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as **in Adam all die**, even so **in Christ all shall be made alive**.

### **Galatians 3:26-28**

<sup>26</sup> For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>27</sup> For as many of you as were **baptized into Christ have put on Christ**. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Outside of Christ, the forecast ahead is horrifying death. Make no mistake. We all need to accept the covering God has provided for our sins or we will suffer an eternal death apart from our creator Jesus Christ.

According to the scriptures, if you have **heard** this, **believed** this, desire to **repent** of your sins (stop squirming), and **confess** Jesus Christ as Lord, we will baptize you into Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins and into a new life. Please step forward, if you have not already done so.