

# Notes for the Ones Called-Out to Meet

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## Setting the Stage -- Seven Aspects of Salvation From Genesis

by Dan Trygg

“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 loin coverings. <sup>8</sup> And they heard the sound of Yahweh God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of Yahweh God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> Then Yahweh God called to the man, and said to him, ‘Where are you?’ <sup>10</sup> And 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 of which I commanded you not to eat?’ <sup>12</sup> And the man said, ‘The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.’ <sup>13</sup> Then Yahweh God said to the woman, ‘What is this you have done?’ And the woman said, ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate.’ <sup>14</sup> And Yahweh God said to the serpent, ‘Because you have done this, cursed are you more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly shall you go, and dust shall you eat all the days of your life; <sup>15</sup> and I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.’”

Genesis 3:7-15

**The beginning chapters of the Bible are so important for understanding the reality of our circumstances and the conditions in which we live.** They also provide a necessary backdrop for grasping God’s plan of redemption in Christ Jesus. **The good news is all about what God has done, and will do, to address the problems caused by human sin and to bring about His eternal purpose.**

**The first hint of a salvation plan is in Genesis 3:15,** where God tells the serpent, “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.” **Scholars have called this the *protevangeli*um, meaning “the gospel beforehand”, or “the first gospel”.** This verse declares that “the seed of the woman would “bruise” or “crush” the head of the serpent, even though the seed of the serpent would also “bruise” or “strike” Him on His heel. **Clearly, this word picture describes a fatal blow to the serpent, as well as a fatal blow to the seed of the woman, if the serpent is understood to be a venomous snake.** How this would be fulfilled would not revealed for millennia, but **this prophecy was specifically fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth. He dealt Satan the death blow to his demonic control and power over humankind, ...but in so doing He also paid the price of His own life (Heb. 2:14,15). Because He rose from the dead, however, He defeated the enemy, purchased our salvation, and set into motion a new dominion and dynamic that reverses the effects of sin in the lives of people who trust in Christ as their Redeemer and King. In the end, the enemy will be fully displaced, the brokenness of sin fully removed, and God’s dominion will be fully established once again on planet earth.**

**In today’s study I want to briefly mention seven aspects of this salvation reclamation and renewal, based upon the original effects of sin seen in these early chapters of Genesis.** To see the contrasts will help us to more clearly understand what Jesus has done, what the kingdom of God is bringing to the world through the expanse of the church, and what our role in these things is to be.

**(1.) From the disobedience of sin to the obedience of faith.** This was the clear mark of Satanic influence and human good and evil. This choice to disregard God and disobey Him is countermanded by the choice to value God and choose to trust in and live for Him. God took the initiative to send Jesus, the seed of the woman, to pay for sin. He bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness (1 Pet. 2:24). He was pierced through for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities, and Yahweh caused the iniquity of us all to fall upon Him (Isa. 53:4-6). He who knew no sin became sin on our behalf, in order that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (2 Cor. 5:21). The purpose of the gospel was to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations (Rom. 1:1-5). This was the mystery which was hidden for generations, but has now been revealed, and is proclaimed through the gospel of Jesus Christ to all nations, leading to this obedience of faith (Rom. 16:25,26).

**(2.) From nakedness and emptiness to fullness and glory.** The first thing Adam and Eve realized after their choice to sin, was that they were naked. They felt vulnerable, empty, self-conscious, and insecure. They made coverings for themselves. What had happened was that they had unwittingly turned aside from the life of the Spirit of God within them, and, for the first time, they were experiencing a “lack of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23). Throughout history, people have chosen to put their pain away from themselves, and pursue pleasure, as a way of trying to cover up and escape from this inner feeling of emptiness (Eph. 4:17-19). Choosing to take Jesus, through faith in Him and His work, reintroduces the life of the Spirit into the experience of the believer. He is the One who makes us alive, and produces within us the glory or radiance of God (2 Cor. 3:18). He is the Spirit of glory (1 Pet. 4:14). Sadly, so many

believers are trying to fill the “hole in their soul” with earthly pleasures, or addictive behaviors, rather than put aside these vain things, and learn to walk in the glory and life of the Holy Spirit. No wonder they are frustrated!

**(3.) From alienation and fear toward God to intimacy and love toward Him.** The next thing we see was that these people became fearful of God. They hid *themselves* from Him. He did not rail at them, or come at them in rage. He came and calmly sought them out. Afterwards, in history, He would be the One to seek relationship with people. Even here in the Garden, He came to seek the ones who were lost. When He called out to them, they admitted that they were afraid, because they were naked, and hid themselves. Intimacy with God was a goal and promise of relationship with Him throughout the scriptures (Prov. 25:14; Prov. 3:32), but it was especially fulfilled through the coming and indwelling of the Holy Spirit, which those who trust in Jesus would receive. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is very personal. He comes to dwell within the believer, never to leave (Jn. 14:16,17). He teaches, and bears witness within us that we are God’s dear children, and He is our “Abba”, “Daddy” (Jn. 14:26; 1 Cor. 2:12; Rom. 8:15,16). It was Jesus’ mission to bring about reconciliation, so that we could have free, open and confident access to the Father (2 Cor. 5:18-20; Eph. 3:1-12; Heb. 10:16-22). God intends that we be led by His personal direction (Rom. 8:14).

**(4.) From death to Life.** God warned them that in the day they ate of the forbidden tree that “dying they would die” (2:17). Death entered the world along with sin, and death spread to all people (Rom. 5:12). But the free gift of God through Jesus Christ is much more powerful. Where sin abounded, grace abounded all the more. And where sin reigned in death, grace might reign in righteousness to life of the age to come through Jesus Christ (Rom. 5:20,21). By identifying with Jesus, we are united with Him not only in death, but also in newness of life. It is the Spirit who makes alive (Jn. 6:63; 2 Cor. 3:6). Jesus came to give us life that overflows (Jn. 10:10).

**(5.) From being *under* the authority of the devil to taking authority *over* him.** When Adam and Eve obeyed the serpent, they unwittingly gave him authority over them. The dominion that God had given to them, they had yielded to him by choosing to listen to and serve him (cf. Rom. 6:16). Thus, we see, in Luke 4:5,6, that when the devil showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, he boasted that the authority of them had been given to him, and he could give it to whomever he wished. ...and Jesus did not challenge that statement. But, according to Colossians 1:13, God delivered us from the authority of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of the Son He loves. We are no longer under Satan’s authority; we are in Christ’s kingdom. And all authority on heaven and earth have been given to Him, and He is with and in us. Furthermore, He specifically gave His followers authority over serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy so that nothing would harm them (Lk. 10:19,20; cf. Matt. 10:1). Now, by submitting and drawing near to God, we can resist and oppose the devil, and he will flee from us (Jas. 4:7,8; 1 Pet. 5:6-11). During the remainder of this age, we are at war with the devil and his fallen angels, but we are equipped with armor and powerful weapons so that, with God, we can pull down the strongholds of lies and false messages that the enemy uses to try to manipulate and control us (Eph. 6:10-20; 2 Cor. 10:3-6; Matt. 16:18).

**(6.) From being under fallen human governments, characterized by injustice and violence, to the expanse of the kingdom of God, characterized by righteousness and peace.** This does not show up clearly until the 10th chapter of Genesis, even though the world before the flood was also destroyed because of the growing levels of violence. In chapter 10, we read of Nimrod who was the first to establish a kingdom over an expansive area. The glimpses God gave us regarding kingdoms and governments is that they are infiltrated by “the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is working among the sons of disobedience” (Eph. 2:2; Rev. 12:9). Although God is overseeing and controlling the times and boundaries of nations, the enemy is also at work, trying to influence and control governments, cause wars, and oppress people. Through Jesus’ victory over sin and Satan, and the coming of the Holy Spirit, the kingdom of God is having influence and spreading like hidden leaven throughout earthly nations and across borders. This kingdom is characterized by righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Rom. 14:17).

**(7.) From being under futility and frustration to glory and fulfillment.** We first read of this in Genesis 3:17-19, where God tells Adam that a consequence of his choice to disobey God was the loss of access to the Garden of Eden, and the corruption of the created order. The ground would now produce thorns and thistles, and the produce necessary to sustain life would no longer come easily. It would only be by virtue of toilsome labor and hard work that humans would now be able to subsist. In Romans 8:19-25, Paul describes how God subjected the world to futility. It was corrupted by sin, ...and continues on under the brokenness and futility caused by sin. But God intends to redeem creation itself. Just as we groan for the fulness of our salvation, the redemption of our bodies, and the completion of our salvation, the creation itself groans and travails with birth pangs. Just like we ourselves will be transformed at Jesus’ coming (1 Cor. 15:51-57; 1 Jn. 3:2), so the creation itself will be radically transformed. There will ultimately be new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells (2 Pet. 3:7-14), ...where there is no more death, no more mourning and no more pain (Rev. 21:1-4). The imperfections and corruption of this present creation will be totally gone. The tree of life, which was lost to us by sin, will be restored, and there will no longer be any curse. We will dwell with God in glory, joy, and the fulfillment of all that is good, righteous and true (Rev. 22:1-5).