

## ***Repairing Brokenness***

Genesis 3:8-15 (June 6, 2021)

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<sup>8</sup>They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But 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; and I hid myself.”

<sup>11</sup>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>The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.” <sup>13</sup>Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.”

<sup>14</sup>The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup>I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”

### ***Historical Context***

Portrayals of God appearing as a reverberating sound of thunder causing mountains and trees to quake is a common one in the Old Testament. However, conjuring the sound of dry leaves or twigs crushing under the deity’s *feet* as God walks through the garden may take a little more imagination. Yet, one of the arguments for the use of different sources to compose the Torah is the characteristic anthropomorphic view of the deity (for example God walks and talks to humans) in the creation account in Genesis 2, in contrast to the more distant, majestic vision of God in Genesis 1.

### ***Theme: Boldly Make All Things New***

The story of the Garden in Genesis is the story of brokenness. And, as such, it’s a story that we know all too well. We know it in our bones. In the beginning, after God had drawn us out of the clay and filled us with His breath, God was right there with us. He walked with us in the Garden. He talked with us in the Garden. He told us where to find food. He made sure we had companions.

Did you catch the fact that as the evening breeze moved through the Garden that we heard the Presence of God moving among the trees? It was good. It was very good.

And then we broke it.

Yes, we ate of the tree. And, that was bad enough. But, it was not the end. We felt our nakedness, and because of that we were afraid when God came around. We were never afraid before. That was new. And that was bad. And then, we tried to push off the responsibility. We couldn’t even own up to our mistake. We couldn’t just stand there naked and reveal the naked truth that we had screwed up.

Who knows? Perhaps if we had the fortitude to confess our wrongdoing, and ask for forgiveness, things might not have been as broken. Or at least the broken thing could be addressed, and the painful process of repairing the brokenness could have begun.

But, no, what began was fear and finger pointing. Here's the thing: We all stand naked before God. God knows who we are and what we do. We might fool everyone around us. We might even fool ourselves. But, we will never fool God.

But, we need not stand there in fear. And we shouldn't do anything but realize our own fault when it is in fact our fault. Only then can the brokenness be repaired.