God's Promise to Adam and Eve

Read Genesis 3:14-19

God made us like Himself. He made us lords, to rule over His creation. He made our home a beautiful garden and filled it with all we could ever want or need. He drew near to us. He walked with us. Life was beauty, abundance, wholeness, harmony, and peace.

Sovereign God honored us with the power to make choices. We used that power to reject Him. We mistrusted His goodness. In our arrogance we ignored His wisdom and pursued our own way. We still do, and every day we eat the bitter fruit of our fear and pride.

But when we rejected Him, God did not reject us. Even in judging us He planted the seeds of our salvation:

- He decreed that an age-long battle would ensue between Satan and Eve's
 descendants. Satan would strike their heel, but they would strike his head. They
 would crush it. This is the Bible's first promise of Messiah. A Son of Man, a
 descendent of Eve, a Deliverer would forever defeat Satan and end his
 destructive influence over our race.
- 2. Even death, our greatest curse and punishment, became part of His plan of salvation. What a tragedy it would have been for us to live forever in our fallen state, separated from God, the source of all good! Therefore in love God immediately proclaimed that we would die, and He closed the path to the tree of life so that our corrupted condition wouldn't go on forever (Genesis 3:24). Death, though terrible, could end our separation from Him, if we chose to repent and trust Him again. Death could reopen the way to life, to rebirth, to a new creation where life would be all He intended it to be.

With paradise destroyed, within minutes our loving God began to unveil the marvelous mystery of salvation—a salvation already planned before the foundation of the world (Matthew 25:34; Ephesians 1:3-4; Revelation 13:8). He immediately began to point us toward Jesus Christ.

Father, we cannot fully grasp Your goodness.

It is too far above us.

It is too broad in time.

We cannot trace Your love and all its magnificent ways.

Hymn: Before the Starry Universe

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