

THEY KNEW AND FEARED

BY GRACE REDEEMED



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Created With Choice

In the Garden, when God created man, He did not create a being that was forced to obey, nor one that was already inclined toward sin, but one who was made in His own image with the ability to respond to Him, to love Him, and to choose obedience or disobedience. The Garden of Eden was not only a place of beauty, provision, and perfect design, but also a place where responsibility was clearly established by the LORD Himself. In Genesis 2:16–17, God said, “Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it,” and within those words we see both the generosity of God and the boundary He established. The phrase “mayest freely eat” reveals liberty, while “thou shalt not eat” establishes responsibility, showing that man stood before God with a real choice that required a response. God did not hide His will, nor did He make obedience confusing, but clearly revealed what was right and what was not, leaving Adam without uncertainty.

The presence of the tree was not a trap, nor was it a hidden danger, but a visible reminder that obedience to God was to be chosen willingly. Adam was not created fallen, nor created unable to obey, but created upright, with the ability to do right and the freedom to do wrong. This truth is essential because it shows that what took place in the garden was not something forced upon man but something entered into by his own decision. God gave both command and consequence, making it clear that the choice

carried weight and that man's response mattered. From the very beginning, man stood before God with responsibility, and that responsibility was rooted in a real and meaningful choice.

The Reality of That Choice

The reality that man was created with the ability to choose is seen not only in the garden, but also in God's dealings with Cain, where the LORD said in Genesis 4:7, "If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door." These words reveal that even after sin entered the world, God still spoke to man as one who could respond rightly, showing that responsibility did not disappear with the fall. Cain was not told that he was incapable of doing well, but that doing well would lead to acceptance, and failing to do so would bring consequences. The choice remained real, and the responsibility remained his.

In the garden, Adam and Eve were not driven by a sinful nature to disobey, but were presented with a decision that required a response. The serpent could deceive, but he could not force them, and the command of God stood clearly before them as a call to obedience. What took place was not the result of God compelling sin, but of man stepping beyond the boundary that God had lovingly established. This is an important truth because it reveals that sin entered through choice, not compulsion, and that responsibility rests where the decision was made. God did not create man unable to obey, nor did He make sin inevitable, but allowed man the dignity and responsibility of choice, and that choice carried consequences that would reach far beyond the garden.

They Were Not Ashamed

Before that choice was made, Adam and Eve lived in a condition of complete innocence, purity, and freedom from guilt, a condition that is described simply in Genesis 2:25, “And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.” Their nakedness was not a source of discomfort because there was nothing within them that produced shame, and nothing between them and God that caused separation. They were open before one another, and fully at ease in the presence of the LORD, enjoying a relationship that was unbroken and unhindered.

There was no need to hide, no need to cover themselves, and no sense of exposure, because there was no guilt to expose. Their conscience had not yet been awakened to sin, and so they lived in a freedom that flowed from their innocence. This was the condition God created man to enjoy: a life without fear, without shame, and without separation. They were not ashamed because there was nothing in them that brought shame, and they lived in harmony with God without any awareness of guilt. This makes what follows so powerful, because the loss of that innocence would come suddenly, and the contrast would reveal just how deeply sin affects the human heart.

They Knew

When Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, the change that took place was immediate and profound, as recorded in Genesis 3:7, “And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked.” This knowing was not simply physical awareness,

but a moral awakening, where their conscience came alive and revealed that something within them had changed. They saw themselves differently because they were now different, and what once brought no concern now brought discomfort and exposure.

They were not ashamed because they were naked; they became ashamed because they were guilty. The guilt within them created a new awareness that they had never experienced before, and that awareness could not be undone. Their innocence was gone, replaced by a knowledge that brought with it a sense of vulnerability and exposure before God. This moment marks the beginning of man's awareness of sin, where the conscience begins to testify that something is wrong, and that inward awareness begins to shape every response that follows. What was once natural now felt wrong, not because their bodies had changed, but because their hearts had changed.

They Covered and Hid

The first response of Adam and Eve reveals the natural tendency of man when confronted with guilt, as they immediately sought to cover themselves by sewing fig leaves together and making aprons. This was man's first attempt to deal with sin, using outward effort to address an inward problem. The fig leaves may have provided a temporary covering, but they could not remove guilt, nor could they restore what had been broken. This act established a pattern that continues to this day, as man attempts to fix what only God can resolve.

But covering themselves was not enough. In Genesis 3:8, it says they hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among

the trees of the garden. The presence that once brought joy now brought fear, and the fellowship they once enjoyed was replaced with a desire to escape. Their efforts to hide were futile, yet they reveal the condition of the human heart when burdened with guilt. Man not only tries to cover himself, but also to distance himself from God, believing that distance is safer than exposure. Yet no covering removes guilt, and no hiding place removes God.

They Feared

When God called unto Adam, the response revealed the full effect of sin, as Adam said in Genesis 3:10, “I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.” Fear had entered where peace once existed, and that fear was rooted in guilt before a holy God. Shame caused them to look inward, but fear caused them to look upward, realizing they could not stand before God as they were.

This is the work of conscience, awakened in the garden and present in every person, revealing sin and producing accountability. The fear Adam experienced was not merely fear of consequence, but fear of exposure, and it drove him to hide rather than draw near. This same pattern continues today, as man avoids the presence of God when confronted with guilt. Yet that fear is meant to lead him to the realization that he needs something beyond himself to restore what has been lost.

God Came, and God Called

In one of the greatest displays of grace, God did not leave Adam and Eve in their hiding place, but came to them and called,

“Where art thou?” This question was not for God’s knowledge, but for Adam’s response. Even after their disobedience, God sought them, demonstrating that He is not the one who withdraws from man, but the one who reaches out to him.

This reveals the heart of God, who is both just and gracious, holding man accountable while extending an invitation to return. The call of God is not forced, but given, allowing man the opportunity to respond. This moment shows that while man hides, God calls, inviting him back into His presence. It is the beginning of restoration, where God moves toward man even when man has moved away from Him.

By Grace Redeemed

The final act reveals what man could never do for himself, as God made coats of skins and clothed them in Genesis 3:21. Their fig leaves were not enough. God provided the covering, and that covering required the shedding of blood, pointing forward to Christ.

Man chose disobedience, but God provided redemption. They knew, they feared, but by grace they were covered. This is the wonder of redemption, that God does not leave man in his fallen condition, but makes a way back.

Final Words

The purpose of these pages is not only to understand what happened in the garden, but to feel the heart of God who came looking for man when he hid himself. The same God who called,

“Where art thou?” still calls today, not to condemn, but to restore, and He desires more than our awareness of sin; He desires our return to His presence. This is the ABODE that Jesus spoke of in John 14:23, where He said, “If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.” This is not distant theology, but a present invitation. If this truth has stirred your heart, The LOVE Book was written to help you go further, not simply to understand, but to experience the reality of abiding in His presence. The same God who sought Adam and Eve desires to dwell with you, and He is not calling you to hide, but to abide, where His presence becomes real, His peace becomes known, and His love becomes the place where you live.

He called in the garden... He now calls you to abide.

The
LOVE
Book

*Has the love of God
reached your heart?*



By Dave Weeks

With love and prayers,
Dave Weeks