

Women of the Word
IMAGE BEARERS
Made for Relationships...Made to Worship

Dear Fellow-traveller,

Scripture is full of word pictures of the true and living God by divine revelation. The Old and New Testaments depict Him meeting with men and women – made in the Image of God – in least expected moments and unusual places. *The God these old saints met was not always the God they wanted or understood.* Think of the retinue of appearances:

Adam and Eve walking first *with God* in the cool of Eden's dusk then being driven *away from God* in Eden in skins that shouted *death*; (our human Federal representative failed probation – a second Adam must crush the serpent's head);

Hagar, Abraham and Jacob met the *Angel of the Lord* without invoking a spirit;
(Later, in a time of human darkness, Gideon and Manoah were startled – Judges 6:11, 12; 13:esp. v 3ff, 8-19)

Moses sought the Lord in *the Tent of Meeting* and met God face to face (Ex. 33:7-11)

Old Testament Prophets like Isaiah, Daniel and Ezekiel were given *grand and glorious visions of our holy God*, seeing sights and hearing sounds they could hardly put into writing (Is. 6; Ez. 1:4-28; Ez. 10:4, 18; Daniel 10:5ff; 12:)

New Testament saints as Simeon and Anna saw the 'glory of God' in *an 8 day old baby*; others, later in His life were given *mercy, hope and sight* to see the Son of David, of Abraham *standing before them*;

New Testament Apostles like Peter, James and John saw *the weariness* of the holy One asleep, *the glory* of the transcendent One as He communicated with two of His best friends and the three saw the sole *magnificence and splendor* of their Savior.

John, the last living Apostle, *captured by the Holy Spirit* is given *the conglomerate picture* of all descriptions in both Testaments of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

The Holy Spirit has written a clear and unsullied revelation of our Triune God.
He *has included characteristics of Him that have been shared with us* so we can be brought into a relationship with Him and with others.
He *has revealed characteristics* that He alone possesses that we will never own but always need. At the end of the day:

- *we will be sure* of having the right information about God because we are going to the Only Reliable Source: God's Holy Word
- *we will rejoice* in what He has said and gain ability in discerning false opinions of voices around us that are not consistent with what He's told us about Himself.
- *we will possess* a view of God, true to His person and transforming for our lives.
- *we will live* as those 'made in His image' and 'transformed' into His
- *we will be convinced* that the Bible reveals Him as the creator of innocent humanity who fell but are offered a new birth and spiritual transformation. (2 Cor. 3:18)

Being transformed together with you...Elizabeth

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2 Cor. 3:18

Made for relationships...

Made for worship...

I Introduction

1. The Creation of Man in God's IMAGE: Genesis 2:18-25

18 Then the Lord God said,
***“It is not good for the man to be alone;
I will make him a helper suitable for him.”***

19 Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought *them* to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him.

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 The Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.

23 The man said,
***“This is now bone of my bones,
And flesh of my flesh;
She shall be called Woman, (ishshah)
Because she was taken out of Man.” (ish)***

24 For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

25 And the man and his wife were both ***naked and were not ashamed.***

II The FALL of Man from INNOCENCE: Genesis 3:1 – 24

3 Now **the serpent** was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made.

And he said to the woman,
“Indeed, has God 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 surely will not die!

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5 **For God knows** that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be 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 from its fruit and ate;*** and ***she gave also 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 loin coverings.

8 They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the 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.

9 Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him,

“Where are you?”

10 He said,

“I heard the sound of You in the garden, and
I was afraid because ***I was naked; so I hid myself.***”

11 And He said,

“Who told you that you were naked?”

Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”

12 The man said,

“The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.”

13 Then the Lord God said to the woman,

“What is this you have done?”

And the woman said,

“The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

14 The Lord God said to the serpent...because you have done this...cursed... (v. 14, 15)
to the woman He said...(v. 16), to the man...because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I have commanded you, saying: **“You shall not eat from it”**...(v. 17-19)

20 Now the man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all *the* living.

21 The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.

22 Then the Lord God said,

“Behold, the man has become like one of Us,

knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”—

23 therefore **the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden**, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken.

24 So **He drove the man out**; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction **to guard the way to the tree of life**.

III The BROKEN Image

1. Discuss each conversation in the above passages. What flaws in conversation are evident between ***the serpent and Eve and between*** Adam and God? What is man’s sin?

2. What sobering facts are implied in ***God’s curses on His creatures?***

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3. *What significance do verses 20 and 21 imply about God’s grace? What is implied by ‘garments of skin’?*

4. *What is implied by God’s final statements about man’s sin (v. 22) and the expulsion of man (v. 23, 24) from the Garden of Eden? What relational brokenness has now occurred? What spiritual brokenness has now occurred?*

IV The GOAL for God’s CHOSEN People: 1 Peter 1:10-16

A. A New Standard of LIVING

10 As to this salvation, (described in v. 2-5)

-the prophets who prophesied of the grace that *would come* to you

- ***made careful*** searches and inquiries,

- ***seeking to know what person*** or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted *the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow*.

12 It was revealed to them that *they were not serving themselves*, but you, in these things which now have been announced to

5. Declare your ACTION in relationships and worship because of this attribute.