

Stewardship Readings for the Free will offerings for the new Central Papua Conference office building.

As we plan to give free will offerings to support expansion of the work of God through the building of the new office building and the new Ela beach church for the Central Papua Conference office. I have prepared this readings to help us understand the theological foundations of free will offerings'. I have based only in Genesis 3:21 but have also quoted from the pen of inspiration to help us understand and to also appreciate the reason why we return offerings to God. The readings starts on Wednesday night and end on Sabbath Divine Service.

It is my prayer that when we have fully understood the theology behind the offerings that are given to God, we will do the following;

- 1) Prayerfully return a Faithfull offering according to how God has blessed us.
- 2) Use the offerings in the Local churches with more respect and reverence.
- 3) Support the work of God through a faithful and systematic benevolence.
- 4) Give from the overflow of the blessings of God to the cause of God in the local church, local district, and local conference, Union, Division and the General Conference.

The readings for the four days of revival are as follow;

Day	Topic	Key Text.
Wednesday night	Why did God make coats of skins?	Genesis 3:21
Thursday night	Why did God Clothe them?	Genesis 3:21
Friday night –Sabbath opening	Why was the first offering given?	Genesis 3:21
Sabbath –Divine Service	Why God did ordained the sacrificial offering?	Genesis 3:21

Artist impression of the new church



Artist impression of the new office.



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THEME: LOVING GOD, GIVING GOD

KEY TEXT: JOHN 3:16

Wednesday night

Theme song: 281

Topic: Why did God make coats of skins?

Key Text: **Genesis 3:21**

And unto Adam and his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

- 1) God made coats of skins to cover Adam's nakedness
- 2) God made coats of skins to cover Eve's nakedness.
- 3) The language used to describe the garments is reminiscent of the clothing of the priests in the tabernacle. Interestingly, before the priests can begin their service they also need to experience the state of being naked and receiving new garments. (Exodus 29:4-5)

The sacrificial slaughter of animals is implied when God clothes His wayward children and thus covers their shame.¹

Summary

This is the implied beginning of offerings. God does not talk about offerings in here. God's action in clothing Adam and Eve is a demonstration of God's love to them. Adam did not ask to be clothed, it was God's own initiative to clothe His wayward children. God reached out and clothed them with the plan of salvation.

Every time they offered their offerings it reminds them of the plan of Salvation.

Application.

Every time we bring offerings to God, it should remind us of the plan of Salvation that God gave Adam and Eve.

Conclusion

As we bring offerings to support the work of God through church projects, we are being reminded of the plan of Salvation that God gave to Adam and Eve.

God acts first and we respond in God's action of Love by bringing our free will offerings to Him.

¹ Andrew Study Bible commentary on Genesis 3:21

THEME: LOVING GOD, GIVING GOD

KEY TEXT: JOHN 3:16

Thursday night

Theme song: 281

Topic: Why did God clothe them?

Key Text: Genesis 3:21

And unto Adam also and to His wife did the LORD God make coats of Skins and clothed them.

Before expelling Adam and Eve from the garden, God provide them with more durable clothing suitable for hard labour that lay ahead and as protection against the extremes of heat and cold that followed the fall. (PP 61).

- 1) Also the skins were constant reminder of their lost innocence
- 2) Also the skins were a constant reminder of death as the wages of sin.
- 3) Also the skins were a constant reminder of the promised Lamb of God, who by His own vicarious death take away the sins of the world.

He who had been commissioned protector of the animal creation now unhappily found himself taking the life of one of them. They must die that he might live.²

Applications

- 1) Every time we return our offerings, it should remind us that we are sinners.
- 2) Every time we return offerings to God, it should remind us that the wages of sin is death.
- 3) Every time we return offerings to God, it should remind us of the death of the Lamb of God that was sacrificed for our sins.

Summary

Christ came to suffer in behalf of the fallen race, for Satan made the boast that no one could withstand his devising and in this world live a spotless life. Clothed with human nature, the Redeemer subjected Himself to all the temptations with which human beings are beset; and He overcame on every point. The record of His life is given to the world, which no one need be in doubt as to the power of the grace of God. To every soul who strives for perfection of Christian character, this world becomes a battlefield on which is fought the controversy between good and evil. And everyone who trusts in Christ will gain the victory.—Letter 38, 1907. {CTr 32.6}

Conclusion: Adam and Eve were clothed with a very costly clothing. The lamb was stripped of its clothing so they could be clothed. The Lamb of God was naked so we can be clothed with His righteousness.

Appeal: Free will offerings has always and will always be a painful exercise to those who do not understand the love of God in their hearts.

² Seventh Day Adventist Bible commentary on Genesis 3:21

THEME: LOVING GOD, GIVING GOD

KEY TEXT: JOHN 3:16

Friday night

Theme song: 281

Topic: Why was the first offering given?

Key Text: Genesis 3:21

And unto Adam also and to His wife did the LORD God make coats of Skins and clothed them.

- 1) The sacrificial service, though not specifically mentioned here, was instituted at this time.³
- 2) The story of Cain and Able's sacrifices related in the next chapter (Genesis 4) shows that the first sons of Adam and Eve were well acquitted with this ritual.
- 3) If God had not issued definite regulations concerning sacrifices, His approval of Abel's offering and His disapproval of Cain's would have been arbitrary.

That Cain did not accuse God of partiality is evidence that he as well as his brother knew what was required.

The universality of animal sacrifices in ancient time points to a common origin of this practice.⁴

The first offering was given by God.

The plan by which alone humanity's salvation could be secured involved all heaven in its infinite sacrifice. The angels could not rejoice as Christ opened before them the plan of redemption, for they saw that salvation of the human race must cost their loved Commander unutterable woe. In grief and wonder they listened to His words as He told them how He must descend from heaven's purity and peace, its joy and glory and immortal life, and come in contact with the degradation of earth, to endure its sorrow, shame, and death. {CT 31.2}

Why did God give the first offering?

God gave His only begotten Son to the human race, that people might become partakers of the divine nature by accepting the remedy for sin and allowing the divine grace of Christ to work in their lives. . . . Fallen humans, by laying hold of the divine power brought within their reach, can become one with God. Everlasting life is the blessing that Christ came to give to the world. {CTr 32.3}

Appeal: God gave the first offering for the Salvation of mankind. We give offerings in response to God's plan for our Salvation.

³ Patriarchs and Prophets P68; cf. Desire of Ages 28).

⁴ Seventh Day Adventist Bible Commentary on Genesis 3:21

THEME: LOVING GOD, GIVING GOD

KEY TEXT: JOHN 3:16

Sabbath –Divine Service

Theme song: 281

Topic: Why did God ordain the sacrificial offering?

Key Text: Genesis 3:21

And unto Adam also and to His wife did the LORD God make coats of Skins and clothed them.

- 1) The sacrificial offerings were ordained by God to be to man a perpetual reminder and a penitential acknowledgement of his sin and a confession of his faith in the promised Redeemer.
- 2) They were intended to impress upon the fallen race the solemn truth that it was sin that caused death.

To Adam the offering of the first sacrifice was a most painful ceremony. His hand must be raised to take life, which only God could give. It was the first time he had ever witnessed death, and he knew that had he been obedient to God, there would have been no death for man or beast.

As he slew the innocent victim, he trembled at the thought that his sin must shed the blood of the spotless Lamb of God.

This scene gave him a deeper and more vivid sense of the greatness of his transgression, which nothing but the death of God's dear Son would expiate.

And he marvelled at the infinite goodness that would give such a ransom to save the guilty.

A star of hope illuminated the dark and terrible future and relieved it of its utter desolation.⁵

Conclusion.

As we bring our freewill offerings to support the projects in the church of God, let us take some quiet to meditate on the first offering that was given by God. Let us also take time to appreciate reasons God had in ordaining the first offerings.

- 1) The sacrificial offerings were ordained by God to be to man a perpetual reminder and a penitential acknowledgement of his sin and a confession of his faith in the promised Redeemer.
- 2) They were intended to impress upon the fallen race the solemn truth that it was sin that caused death.

⁵ E.G. White ,Patriarchs and Prophets page 68