

# Advent Readings Day 6

Evening came, but there was no relief for the anguished sinners. The evening brought God the father walking in the garden. Adam and Eve hid, but it was futile, for indeed, the God who has made all things by the word of his mouth knows where each of his creatures is and especially those creatures made in his likeness.

"Where are you?" The voice of the creator shook the garden, and there was power in it, for life and death.

The man answered, "I heard you and was afraid because I was naked, and I hid."

God spoke again, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" Adam threw the blame on his wife, and Eve blamed the serpent. God proclaimed a curse on the devil, multiplied the woman's pain, and cursed the ground the man was destined to work. All knew what would come next. Death! Death to those who bore the image of the living God. Though the story is silent on this point, I think it must have brought the devil great joy to know this experiment in glory was coming to an end.

The words of the creator fell upon their ears, "You will have a descendant, Eve, and he shall crush the head of the serpent, though the serpent will strike his heel." In this single statement, the whole story of redemption was told though it would take another four thousand years to unfold.

When God moved, he did not strike down the sinner or his wife. He should have. After all, the law stated that they should die on the day they ate of the tree. It would have been right for God to strike them to the ground. He would have been righteous to do so. Instead, he took the life of a beast and clothed Adam and Eve, for the covering the guilty ones had provided for their sin did not satisfy the requirement of God. Where death should have been poured out, mercy was instead.

They did not die that day, but they were banished from the garden and from the tree of life. They stepped from a life awash with grace into life under sin's power. But redemption was on its way.