



East of Eden
Genesis 3:20-24
March 22, 2020

He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.
- **Genesis 3:24**

I. GOD'S GRACE - EVE WILL BEAR CHILDREN

- Adam now provides a personal name to his wife. Her name is *Chavvah* [Heb. חַוְוָה] which means “life-giver,” “breath” or “living.”
- God is saving Adam and Eve through judgement. They do not gain freedom, they actually forfeit it. But God will not abandon them outside the garden (2 Pet. 2:19).

II. GOD'S GRACE - CLOTHING TO COVER THEIR DISGRACE

- Adam and Eve are given their first covering. Skins from slain animals are used to cover the results of their sin. God took care of the slaying and the clothing (Luke 15:22).
- Grace comes before judgement. Adam and Eve, although banished from the garden, will not leave naked (v. 21).

III. GOD'S JUDGEMENT - BANISHMENT AND BARRING

- Two steps are taken to execute judgement in response to Adam's sin:
 1. God drives humankind out (v. 23).
 2. God blocks reentry (temporarily) to paradise (v. 24).
- Sin leads to separation (Isa. 59:1-8; Matt. 3:1-12; Luke 3:15-18).

IV. OUR HOPE - A RETURN FROM EXILE

- Those who know Christ are now in, with, and part of Christ (Eph. 2:4-9; Col. 3:2-4).
- The tree of life must be guarded, but not forever. The cherubim and sword will be removed, and we will eat from it one day (Rev. 2:7, 22:2, 14, 19).

KNOW: God is both active in removing sin from his perfect creation and in providing a way back to him from our exile.

DO: Come home. Return from Exile.

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Genesis 3:20-24

1. Talk about the flow of this passage. What seems to be the emphasis?
2. Adam names his wife “Eve,” meaning “Life-giver.” Why does this seem to have significance in the narrative of the Fall?
3. Why did Adam and Eve leave Eden? Did they go by choice?
4. How would you respond to someone who said to you, “the God of the Old Testament was full of judgement and wrath?”
5. Who is the “us” of verse 22 do you think?
6. Why did God set a guard against reentry into Eden? Couldn't God guard it himself? Does this mean Eden still exists somewhere? What are your thoughts?