

HOLY HELPS

GOD'S GARDEN GAIT

Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate of the forbidden fruit. In the context of the cause and consequences of that sin we have an amazing expression about God: Adam and Eve *"heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day...."*

The gait of God – God walking in His garden yet unspoiled by sin's curse. It sounds idyllic, a walk in a perfect paradise in the cool of the evening. But why was God there? Did He often walk in Eden? Did He have nothing else to do in His vast creation? Was this a leisurely stroll to survey His handiwork? Unfortunately for all of us, it was not. Here is the more complete story:

"When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. 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 coverings. And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, 'Where are you?'" (Genesis 3:6-9)

Picture that earthly paradise where flowers never faded, nothing ever died and where innocence had never been violated. One morning dawned with dazzling brightness and comforting warmth. Wafting on the gentle wind was a cacophony of bird songs and a plethora of sweet smelling aromas. Nothing had ever threatened the perfect environment into which a man and his wife had been placed by the Creator of this pristine place. However, this day was to end as no other day had ever ended.

Into this picture perfect paradise slithered that Old Serpent, Satan and before the day was over all would change and nothing would ever be the same on earth again. Yielding to the temptation that Satan dangled before them, Adam and Eve violated God's prohibition and immediately introduced into the human gene the deadly virus of sin.

And then, what they feared became reality: God came calling! They heard His footsteps *"walking in the garden in the cool of the day."* Every footfall brought Him nearer. Fear drove them to attempt to avoid the Eternal Inevitable, but the footfalls followed them. Dread gripped their souls. The sound of the Walking God who had provided all that they ever enjoyed grew closer. That sound, the sound of the steps of the Almighty One they could not endure. They hid but their hiding place was discovered by the eyes of omniscience. They attempted a "cover up" but God saw through that, confronted them with their sin and expelled them from Paradise - Paradise lost!

Since God's walk *"in the garden in the cool of the day"* that evening long ago, He continues to tread on the trail of Adam and Eve's offsprings to bring them back to Himself and prepare them for that Paradise yet future. Jesus came *"to seek and to save the lost."* (Luke 19:10) Listen to His footsteps and do not run from Him but run to Him for salvation. Paradise was ruined in the past but will be restored in the future! Will you be an occupant? JdonJ