# **New Beginnings Part 7**

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Genesis / Sign of the Cross; Jesus; Adam (first man); Eve; God's Grace / Genesis 3:20–24

1. Last week talked about the consequences of sin

2. As we come to the end of [Genesis 3](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ge3), we are coming to the end of the Garden, the end of paradise on earth.

3. But there is good news, as we continue our study today the theme will be this, and really the theme of the whole of Scripture,: “The Lord responds to human rebellion with judgement and grace.”

# Big Idea: Even in the worst, God is still merciful and gracious

1. Even in your lowest of lows, God still extends mercy

**Genesis 3:20 NIV**

1. **Adam’s faith:** Even throughout all of the judgment they just received, all of the pain, all of the hurt there was a glimmer of hope in that the seed of the woman would one day crush the serpents head. In response to that, Adam names the woman Eve, which means “life.”

**Genesis 3:21 NIV**

1. **God’s Grace:** Adam and Eve hid themselves with fig leaves. It is not a long-term solution. They would have quickly withered and died.

2. Now it’s not specifically written in the text but it’s implied that an animal was sacrificed, killed to cover them.

3. This is the first time we see the Biblical doctrine of substitutionary atonement.

**Genesis 3:22–23 NIV**

1. So we see another form of God’s judgement once again but maybe upon further investigation we will actually see that, although it may be judgement, it is simultaneously Mercy. Let’s look

2. Sin has entered the world and sin must be be judged. And that is why Adam and Eve are forcibly evicted (the Hebrew terms in verses 23 and 24 are very strong) from Eden. They were pushed out, kicked out, booted, ejected, removed forever.

a. So now God must cast them out. He really has no choice.

i. If they stay in Eden and eat from the Tree of Life, they will live forever in their sin, separated from God.

ii. It is for their own good that they are cast out. As humiliating as it was, it was also a “severe mercy” of the Lord. If God lets them stay, they are both doomed and damned.

**Genesis 3:24 NIV**

1. Now, how do we find God’s mercy in vs 24? It seems like it’s the final blow.

2. All appears hopeless and lost until we consider one important fact.

a. As the curtain lowers for the final time on Eden, our last view is of the cherubim and the flaming sword guarding the entrance, but somewhere in the distance is the Tree of Life

# Take Away: Eternity with the Creator is available once again

a. The tree is guarded but it is not destroyed. The whole truth of salvation hangs on that point. If God had destroyed the Tree of Life, none of us would ever be saved. We would live, die, and enter eternal punishment.

**Revelation 22:1–2 NIV**

a. When John gets his final glimpse of the heavenly city of God, he sees the throne of God, and from that throne a mighty river of water–the water of life!–flowing through the midst of the city.

b. And there on each side of the river stood the tree of life. The Tree of Life is now everywhere. Each month it brings forth a fruit. And its leaves are for the healing of the nations, meaning that God intends that vast multitudes should come to this tree and find strength, life, help, hope and healing.

c. What was once a single tree for just two people to enjoy has become a vast heavenly orchard with fruit for billions of people.

d. When Jesus died on the cross, the great veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom.

e. The message is clear as crystal. Through Jesus Christ, the way to God is now open to anyone, anywhere, any time.

f. That’s why the Tree of Life appears at the end of the Bible. Christ has opened the door to heaven, and through him and by him and in him anyone who wants to, can come in.

g. Through Jesus, all things are made new. Through Jesus we can once again be in the presence of God

**Revelation 21:1–5 NIV**

1. And this is all because of Jesus. It’s all because he was able to succeed where Adam couldn’t

**Romans 5:17–21 NIV**