

SIGN STUDY #1: THE ROBE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

The Heifer (2):30-41

(30) Behold, thy Lord said to the angels: **(1) "I will create a vicegerent on earth. "** They said: "Wilt Thou place therein one who will make mischief therein and shed blood?- whilst we do celebrate Thy praises and glorify Thy holy (name)?" He said: **(2) "I know what ye know not."**

(31) And He taught Adam the nature of all things; then He placed them before the angels, and said: "Tell me the nature of these if ye are right."

(32) They said: "Glory to Thee, of knowledge We have none, save what Thou Hast taught us: In truth it is Thou Who art perfect in knowledge and wisdom."

(33) He said: "O Adam! Tell them their natures." When he had told them, God said: "Did I not tell you that I know the secrets of heaven and earth, and I know what ye reveal and what ye conceal?"

(34) And behold, **(3) We said to the angels: "Bow down to Adam" and they bowed down. Not so Iblis: he refused and was haughty: He was of those who reject Faith.**

(35) We said: "O Adam! dwell thou and thy wife in the Garden; and eat of the bountiful things therein as (where and when) ye will; but **(4) approach not this tree, or ye run into harm and transgression."**

(36) Then did Satan make them slip from the (garden), and get them out of the state (of felicity) in which they had been. We said: "Get ye down, all (ye people), with enmity between yourselves. On earth will be your dwelling-place and your means of livelihood - for a time."

(37) Then learnt Adam from his Lord words of inspiration, and **(5) his Lord Turned towards him; for He is Oft-Returning, Most Merciful.**

(38) We said: "Get ye down all from here; and if, as is sure, **(6) there comes to you Guidance from me, whosoever follows My guidance, on them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve.**

(39) **(7) "But those who reject Faith and (believing in) Our Signs, they shall be companions of the Fire; they shall abide therein."**

(40) **(8) O Children of Israel! call to mind the (special) favor which I bestowed upon you, and fulfill your covenant with Me as I fulfill My Covenant with you,** and fear none but Me.

(41) And **(9) believe in what I reveal, confirming the revelation which is with you,** and be not the first to reject Faith therein, nor sell My Signs for a small price; and fear Me, and Me alone.

(1) God made Adam the steward of God's Kingdom (Khalifat Allah), and gave him everything he needed so he could be free to worship God.

(2) God has a great and wonderful plan that only he knows.

(3) The source of Satan's (Iblis) sin is pride (gharoor) and because of this unbelief he is an unbeliever. Pride is believing that we know better than God, which is the belief that all wrong action comes from. We need to watch out for pride in our lives and listen to what God says.

(4) God gave clear instructions to Adam and Eve, yet they did not follow them.

(5) God is always ready and willing to turn to us with forgiveness.

(6) After God showed his mercy to Adam he promised that he will send a guidance. The garden was gone forever for Adam and Eve, but the Lord promised that those who follow the guidance will have no fear or sorrow. It's a promise of a restored kingdom! We need to follow God's signs to it.

(7) Those without faith or believing in God's guidance/signs will go to hell.

(8) God tells us to remember what he has done for us and to remain in the covenant relationship with him.

(9) God commands us to believe in all that he reveals.

Al Arraf (7):11-26

(11) It is We Who created you and gave you shape; then We bade the angels bow down to Adam, and they bowed down; not so Iblis; He refused to be of those who bow down.

(12) (God) said: "What prevented thee from bowing down when I commanded thee?" **(1) He said: "I am better than he: Thou didst create me from fire, and him from clay."**

(13) (God) said: "Get thee down from this: it is not for thee to be arrogant here: get out, for thou art of the meanest (of creatures)."

(14) He said: "Give me respite till the day they are raised up."

(15) (God) said: "Be thou among those who have respite."

(16) He said: **"Because thou hast thrown me out of the way, lo! I will lie in wait for them on thy straight way:**

(17) (2) "Then will I assault them from before them and behind them, from their right and their left: Nor wilt thou find, in most of them, gratitude (for thy mercies)."

(18) (God) said: "Get out from this, disgraced and expelled. If any of them follow thee,- Hell will I fill with you all.

(19) "O Adam! dwell thou and thy wife in the Garden, and enjoy (its good things) as ye wish: **(3) but approach not this tree, or ye run into harm and transgression."**

(20) Then began Satan to whisper suggestions to them, bringing openly before their minds all their shame that was hidden from them (before): he said: "Your Lord only forbade you this tree, lest ye should become angels or such beings as live for ever."

(21) And he swore to them both, that he was their sincere adviser.

(22) So by deceit he brought about their fall: when they tasted of the tree, **(4A) their shame became manifest to them, (4B) and they began to sew together the leaves of the garden over their bodies.** And their Lord called unto them: "Did I not forbid you that tree, and tell you that Satan was an avowed enemy unto you?"

(23) They said: **(5) "Our Lord! We have wronged our own souls: If thou forgive us not and bestow not upon us Thy Mercy, we shall certainly be lost."**

(24) (God) said: "Get ye down. With enmity between yourselves. On earth will be your dwelling-place and your means of livelihood,- for a time."

(25) He said: "Therein shall ye live, and therein shall ye die; but from it shall ye be taken out (at last)."

(26) O ye Children of Adam! **(6) We have bestowed raiment upon you to cover your shame, as well as to be an adornment to you. But the raiment of righteousness,- that is the best. Such are among the Signs of God, that they may receive admonition!**

(1) Again, pride was the source of Satan's sin.

(2) Satan promises to be the open enemy of man and will do what he can to keep us off the straight path (Surat Al Mustaqin). He wants to keep us from understanding God's mercy.

(3) Again, clear instructions and warning from God.

(4A) It was clear that Adam and Eve has disobeyed God.

(4B) Adam and Eve tried to fix the problem of shame themselves without the help of God. This failed because God rejected it.

(5) Before God had mercy their situation was one of being lost. They ask for the only thing that could help them, God's mercy.

(6) In response to Adams request for mercy God gives the raiment (robe) of righteousness. This not their righteousness, but the righteousness of God wrapped around them. The robe covers their shame and makes them beautiful and is a sign from God.

Al TaHa (20):115-123

(115) We had already, beforehand, taken the covenant of Adam, but he forgot: and We found on his part no firm resolve.

(116) When We said to the angels, "Prostrate yourselves to Adam", they prostrated themselves, but not Iblis: he refused.

(117) Then We said: "O Adam! verily, this is an enemy to thee and thy wife: so **(1) let him not get you both out of the Garden, so that thou art landed in misery.**

(118) "There is therein (enough provision) for thee not to go hungry nor to go naked,

(119) "Nor to suffer from thirst, nor from the sun's heat."

(120) But Satan whispered evil to him: he said, **(2) "O Adam! shall I lead thee to the Tree of Eternity and to a kingdom that never decays?"**

(121) **(3) In the result, they both ate of the tree, and so their nakedness appeared to them: they began to sew together, for their covering, leaves from the Garden: thus did Adam disobey his Lord, and allow himself to be seduced.**

(122) But his Lord chose him (for His Grace): He turned to him, and gave him Guidance.

(123) He said: "Get ye down, both of you,- all together, from the Garden, with enmity one to another:

(4) but if, as is sure, there comes to you Guidance from Me, whosoever follows My Guidance, will not lose his way, nor fall into misery.

(1) Another clear warning from God.

(2) Satan promises us an alternative kingdom to what God offers.

(3) Adam and Eve disobeyed God.

(4) God promises restoration in the form of his guidance. Whoever follows this guidance will be lost or unhappy.

Genesis 3:1-15

1 The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the LORD God had made. One day he asked the woman, "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?" 2 "Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden," the woman replied. 3 "It's only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, **'You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.'**"

4 "You won't die!" the serpent replied to the woman. 5 "God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil." 6 The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. **So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too.** 7 At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. **So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.**

8 When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the LORD God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the LORD God among the trees. 9 Then the LORD God called to the man, **"Where are you?"**

10 He replied, "I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked."

11 "Who told you that you were naked?" the LORD God asked. "Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?"

12 The man replied, "It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it."

13 Then the LORD God asked the woman, "What have you done?"

"The serpent deceived me," she replied. "That's why I ate it."

14 Then the LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this, you are cursed

more than all animals, domestic and wild.

You will crawl on your belly,

groveling in the dust as long as you live.

**15 And I will cause hostility between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring.**

**He will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel.”**

21 And the LORD God made clothing from animal skins for Adam and his wife.

Main Points of the story:

1. God put man in a wonderful place, but he didn't follow God's guidance.
2. Satan is an open enemy to all men.
3. God promises his mercy and to restore us for all who return to God and follow him.
4. Once we return to God, he clothes us with the robe of righteousness.

Spiritual meaning of the sign:

1. We may try to cover our own shame before God (just like Adam and Eve tried to cover themselves with leaves), but we can't do it without God's mercy. Instead, God offers us the robe of righteousness.
2. Just like God used the physical robe of animal skins to cover Adam and Eve's shame, one day God will send a great sacrifice to spiritually cover the shame of all who accept it.

Application:

To receive God's mercy, we must accept the robe of righteousness that God offers today.