

22 January 1996      Sydney, Australia

Fig Leaves

*Letter from Ishah*

Dear David Zerubbabel,

My name is Ishah. I came to the Edah almost two years ago, after having spent ten long years in the double prison of Christianity. I'm *so* thankful our Master saved me out of that strong delusion and brought me into His true kingdom of light. I'm grateful that I could be washed clean of all that I'd given myself to in Christianity, and that I could come into such a wonderful life with a loving and powerful Abba who *truly* saves His people. I love our Master Yahshua and I'm so thankful to be His disciple.

Recently in one of our morning minchahs we heard about how the purpose of redemption is not greater than the purpose of creation. Our Father wants to restore us to what we were created for. Our Master died to get us back to that place. We began to talk about Adam and Eve and the way they were created to be and how far we've fallen from that. Ha Qinai talked about how he spent his whole life busy with needle and thread, covering himself in fig leaves like Adam and Eve did (Gen 3:7), until he was like a bush *covered* in fig leaves. But now our *Father* has covered us. I could *so* much relate to what he said, and at a later minchah, after talking about it with Chen, Yael, and Yotham, I spoke about how it spoke to me. Yoneq wanted me to pass it on to you so that you could make it into an article for one of the next Billy Graham freepapers, with an illustration of Adam and Eve covered with fig leaves. So here's basically what I said:

Adam and Eve tried to cover themselves with fig leaves when they saw that they were naked. They thought that once those fig leaves were covering them, then they wouldn't be naked anymore. There is no more perfect fig-leaf covering than Christianity. Most Christians, except nominal ones who were just born into it, *become* Christians because they see their nakedness and their need of covering; they see that they're sinners in need of forgiveness. So they put on this nice big green fig leaf, covering themselves with a good performance, and think that now they're covered and no longer naked and needy, like the Laodiceans in Rev 3:17-18.

Only our Father can provide us with the true covering that we need — a covering that involves death and the shedding of blood. His heart is to cover us, but we need to expose our naked condition and acknowledge our desperate need for this covering before He can clothe us. Christianity keeps people from this. Like me: I knew I needed forgiveness, but once I'd *asked the Lord into my heart*, without entering a blood covenant with Him — life for life — I thought my sins had been dealt with and now I was a good person, clean and righteous. I thought I no longer needed to be cleansed from my guilt. But those who are sincere know deep inside that they're still naked and uncovered, and when our Father seeks them out, they expose their true condition again, taking off their fig leaves so they can receive the true covering provided by God Himself, just like Adam and Eve did (Gen 3:21).

I'm so thankful that those who have willing hearts will hear the voice calling them out of confusion (Rev 18:4-5) and come under our God's true covering. I'm especially thankful for our Father's heart to cover us and provide us with the sacrifice we need to be clothed in white garments. These clothes are white as lamb's wool and easy to keep clean because every stain shows up clearly on them, whereas stains on the dark green of the fig leaves remain hidden, so the sins continue to pile up, unconfessed and uncovered. Our Father *wants* us to be clothed; He *wants* to forgive us, not desiring that *any* should perish, but we need to expose our shame and stop covering ourselves so we can be healed and receive what He has provided for us. He says, "Come now, and let us reason together. Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be white as

snow; though they are read as crimson, they will be like wool. If you consent and obey ..." (Isa 1:18)

I *love* our Master. It's such a relief to stop trying to cover myself, to rip those fig leaves off, expose my shameful condition, and then be covered by such a merciful Abba. He's so wonderful. He *died* so we could be clothed in Him! I pray that *many* more will come out of Christianity and receive the true salvation that's been provided for them.

I send you much love in our Master Yahshua's name,

Ishah