

Substitution

The question: Is this the first appearance of substitution, since an animal (or animals) had to die to provide clothing for Adam and Eve?

On the question of the animal skins, Matthew Henry wrote, "God named the man, and called him Adam, which signifies red earth; Adam named the woman, and called her Eve, that is, life. Adam bears the name of the dying body, Eve of the living soul. Adam probably had regard to the blessing of a Redeemer, the promised Seed, in calling his wife Eve, or life; for He should be the life of all believers, and in Him all the families of the earth should be blessed. See also God's care for our first parents, notwithstanding their sin. Clothes came in with sin. Little reason have we to be proud of our clothes, which are but the badges of our shame. When God made clothes for our first parents, he made them warm and strong, but coarse and very plain; not robes of scarlet, but coats of skin. Let those that are meanly clad, learn from hence not to complain. Having food and a covering, let them be content; they are as well off as Adam and Eve. And let those that are finely clad, learn not to make the putting on of apparel their adorning. The beasts, from whose skins they were clothed, it is supposed were slain, not for man's food, but for sacrifice, to typify Christ, the great Sacrifice. Adam and Eve made for themselves aprons of fig-leaves, a covering too narrow for them to wrap themselves in, Isaiah 28:20. Such are all the rags of our own righteousness. But God made them coats of skin, large, strong, durable, and fit for them: such is the righteousness of Christ; therefore put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ."

I've always been impressed with the fact that God first covered the shame of Adam and Eve (a big thing, I think, in Japanese culture) by providing the skin of an animal (sacrifice and shedding of blood required), then eventually provided a "white robe" of righteousness, both as pictures of the forgiveness (and righteousness) he has provided. (K. Williams, a friend of Linda's)

Yes (Hebrews 9 & 10) - C. Cheung, friend of Linda's