



Lesson 2

Adam and Eve

The Creation of Man

There are two verses about the creation of Adam that we need to think about carefully. Here is the first of them.

“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”
Genesis 1:26

We have already seen in chapter 1 that God is described as working through the angels and we know from the book of Job (Job 38:4-7) that they were present at creation. So the ‘us’ of Genesis 1:26 refers to Almighty God speaking to the angels about the next part of creation, the formation of Adam.

This verse does not tell us that Jesus was present with God at creation. Nowhere in the Bible are we told that Jesus existed before his birth and we have already seen that Lord God alone is the great creator. When we get to the New Testament we find that Jesus himself acknowledges this (see Matthew 19:4-6).

The second point which we need to understand is in verse 7 of chapter 2.

“Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.”
Genesis 2:7

Some older versions of the Bible say that *‘the man became a living soul’* instead of *‘man became a living creature’*. Sometimes this is used to suggest that Adam was an ‘immortal soul’. We never find this phrase in the Bible, God’s word tells us that He alone is immortal. The translation used above is correct when it tells us that man was a living creature, made of flesh and blood just like the animals. The same words are used in Genesis 1:24 where we read of the creation of animals as *‘living creatures’*. Later in the Bible we see that the same thing happens to both animals and people when they die, they both return to the dust from which God made them.

“For what happens to the children of man and what happens to the beasts is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and man has no advantage over the beasts, for all is vanity. All go to one place. All are from the dust, and to dust all return.”
Ecclesiastes 3:19-20

However, man was made superior to the animals in one very important way. He was made *‘after the likeness of God’*. By this we understand that men and women are made with an ability to understand the Lord God and His ways and to develop characters like His. This is unique to men and women – no animals have minds which can appreciate the Word of God and His purpose (see Psalm 49:20).

The First Law

When God put Adam into the Garden of Eden He gave him one law which Adam was told to obey. He was told that if he disobeyed it, then he would die.

“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”
Genesis 2:16-17

These are God’s first recorded words to mankind. He gave Adam one law to keep. All around him Adam could see evidence of the mighty God who had made him. He could see the sun and stars in the sky, he could see the beauty of the garden into which he had been placed. If Adam really believed that this law came from the one true God and that He was so far above Adam in power and authority, then he would obey His law.

So God’s laws and commandments are a test, if we obey them then we acknowledge that He is indeed the great God and that we should do what He asks of us. If we disobey Him we deny His right and authority to guide our lives.





The Marriage of Adam and Eve (2:21-25)

Adam was put into the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it. However, it was obvious to him that by himself he was unable to do all that God wanted of him, he needed help. None of the animals were suitable for this role so God formed woman out of the side of Adam and they came together as man and wife. It is clear from Adam's words that he recognised that, because she was like him, she was suitable to help him. It is important to recognise that they did not just live together. There was a formal wedding ceremony conducted by the Angel of the Lord. When Jesus quotes these words from Genesis 2 he makes this quite clear.

"He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh"? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." Matthew 19:4-6

The Angel of the Lord spoke the words about coming together and he joined them in marriage. This tells us of the importance and holiness of marriage. It is a God given institution right from the beginning and the desire of God was that it should last for the lifetimes of those involved. This is the divine relationship given in which to raise a family. Families need a father and mother who love each other and live together to supply a stable home for their children. Both father and mother should teach their children about the Lord God, it is the most important part of their education.

The prophet Malachi tells us: "*I hate divorce," says the LORD God of Israel,*" (Malachi 2:16, NIV). So the divine principle can be written very simply; marriage is 'one man and one woman for life'.

On each of the six days of creation, God looked at the things He had made and He saw that they were good. Finally, after God had made both Adam and Eve and blessed them it says that; '*God saw everything he had made and behold it was very good*'. Everything was now in place for His purpose to be worked out on the earth.

God's Blessing (1:28)

After Adam and Eve had come together, God blessed them.

"And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Genesis 1:28

So, at the beginning of the Bible God tells people what He wants of them – the earth was made to be filled with people who kept His laws and commandments in their lives. If they did this, then He would bless them in their lives on the earth which He had made. The purpose of God is with the earth and the reward for people who honour Him in this way will be on the earth, not in heaven.

SUMMARY

- Adam could not do all of God's work alone, he needed a helper. God provided Eve to help him.
- The earth was made for a specific purpose – to be filled with people who would honour God in their lives by obeying His laws.
- Man was made a living creature from the dust, like the animals. He was not made with an immortal soul.
- However, there is an important difference between people and animals; man was made with an ability to understand God's word; animals cannot do this.
- God gave man and woman marriage as the relationship that united them together.

