

SUBJECT: BIBLE CHARACTER SERIES
TITLE: A MAN CALLED ADAM
TEXT: GENESIS 1-3

INTRODUCTION. Most people learn Bible stories before they know theology, the study of God, is. In fact, they learn theology through Bible stories. They are learning theology before they can pronounce the word theology. LifeWay Christian Resources and other Christian publishers publish a lot of Bible story books for the very young child. My wife and I have bought a lot of Bible story books for our children and grandchildren. Tiny tots growing up in Christian homes hear stories about Adam and Eve, Noah and the Flood, David and Goliath, Mary and Joseph, long before they can read. In Sunday School, workers talk with young babies about Baby Jesus. We tell tiny tots that Jesus loves them. Very young children learn to sing, Jesus Loves Me.

When I was on the Board of Trustees for LifeWay Christian Resources I received a large box of books and Bibles every quarter for seven years. That is 28 boxes of books and Bibles, but there were times when we received two boxes of books. I gave a lot of books away during that time, some to young pastors, some to family members, some to church members, and some to my grand children and other children. When my granddaughter Abigail was a young child we would visit and she liked to take her Nana or her Papaw to her room and show them her dolls, her games, and other toys. When everyone else was preoccupied with her baby brother Jacob, she would look to me and say, "Papaw, want to go to my room?" Yes, I did! She taught me to feed, change, and dress various dolls - things I did very clumsily. But, with her help, I managed to get the job done. We would handle the dolls very carefully, until she got ready to show me a game and then she would throw them over her head to get them out of the way.

One day, we went into her room and I sat on the side of her bed. Abigail picked up the Children's Bible, one which LifeWay had sent to Board members in their boxes of books. She came to me and asked, "Do you know my favorite story in the Bible?" I asked what and she said, "David and Goliath. Want to see it?" I assured her I did and she opened her Bible and began looking. Then, she turned to the index where she began looking for the name David. I said, "First Samuel." She ignored me, so I repeated it. I said it four or five times, and she continued to ignore me. Suddenly she slammed the cover to and said, "I don't need this!" I can tell you right now, Papaw was shocked. She didn't need the Bible? What should I say to encourage her to continue reading the Bible. I would be very careful, but this was an opportunity to tell her something about what a special book the Bible is. Before I could say anything, she turned around and placed her Bible on a shelf in the book case I had built for her father when he was about the same age. She then picked up something that looked like a game, or was it just a box? She turned toward me and pressed a button on the box and played the story of David and Goliath.

As Abigail grew a little older she learned more Bible stories and then other lessons from the Bible. In her Home School studies, she takes Bible along with English, Math, and History. I have asked her, "What is your favorite subject in school?" She has always responded, "Bible." She may still be reading about various characters in the Bible, but now she is learning lessons from God's dealings with those people.

When I was a young pastor a lady gave me some books from her father's library. He had been a Methodist Pastor before his death. Over the years, I have probably given away most of those books, some to a young man who told me the Lord had called him to preach the Gospel. He was a Methodist. One book I remember very clearly was Author Pink's commentary on Genesis: Gleaning from Genesis. On seminary professor, a former conservative turned liberal, assured me I didn't need to read anything from that author. Later, a godly former professor assured me I could glean a lot from Gleaning from Genesis. I pray that we may learn a lot about God's dealings with men and women from this series of messages about certain Bible characters. I will begin this series with a message I call A MAN CALLED ADAM. What better place to start than with the first person who ever walked on this planet? (For my commentary on Genesis 1-3, please go to SermonCity.Com and look at commentaries under my name and then click on Genesis, Volume 1-3). It is free to anyone who would like to read it.

I. IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THINGS (Genesis 1).

A. In the Beginning God Created Everything.

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (Gen 1:1, HCSB) That verse tells us how everything that got here, got here. The word "beginning" means the beginning of time. In the beginning of time God created everything that was created. I spent some time watching a video in which a man who said he is almost eighty years old, debunked global warming very effectively. He insisted that Al Gore and all those who agree with him are totally wrong. This man claimed to have created the Weather Channel, and said he had given the weather reports on TV for many years. I was disappointed when this man stated that the earth is over four billion years old and it should be around another four billion years. Sadly, many people who are well educated in the things of the world have no appreciation for God's special creation. We find God's account of Creation in the first chapter of the Book of Genesis, the book of beginnings.

The Bible begins with the words, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." The Hebrew word for create, *bara*, means to bring something into existence from nothing. God did not need building material. Then we read, "Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters." (Gen 1:2, HCSB) Next, we read,

“Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.” (Gen 1:3, HCSB) A Jewish man who is recognized as a Hebrew scholar says that the Scripture, literally speaking, does not say, “Let there be light, and there was light.” Literally, it reads, “Be light, and there was light.” That is amazing: God says, “Be light,” and immediately, there was light everywhere. At this point there was no sun, no moon, and no stars, but there was light. If that causes you any concern, let me remind you that for all eternity in the future there will be no sun, moon, or stars in Heaven. Jesus declared, “I am the light of the world.” (John 8:12, HCSB) There will be no darkness in heaven because God will provide light (Rev. 22:5).

In Genesis 1:1-25, we read that God created certain things on certain days. Now, I am not going into the creation/evolution debate here, but let me assure you, I believe in the Genesis account of Creation. I remember when secular scholars told us the universe was millions of years old. The more they studied the more time was required to meet their claims. In my lifetime, the age of the earth has grown from a few million years old to hundreds of millions of years, and then to a billion. When more time was needed to accommodate their theory they just tacked on another billion years. The weather man said the earth is over four billion years old, and should stand another four billion years. Some have suggested that the earth may be as many as twenty billion years old, but I am going to stick with the Genesis account of Creation: God said, “Let there be,” and it was so. I spell my God with a capital “G”, so I have no problem with the first chapter of Genesis. If you cannot accept the Genesis account of creation, please spell your god with a small “g”.

B. See What God Did in Six Days of Creation, 1:3-2:3.

I believe the Bible says what it means, and means what it says: God created all things in six literal days. If I am wrong I suppose I will someday have to stand before a god who does not exist, has never existed, and cannot exist, to answer for my position. That of course would happen only if the evolutionists are wrong and there is life after death. On the other hand, those who read the Word of God and then look Him in the eye and say, “I don’t believe you!” will have an opportunity to stand before the God who does exist and give an account.

The Hebrew word for day almost always means a 24 hour day. For those who know God, that is not a problem, but for those who claim to believe only in a god who got something started billions of years ago, but could only sit back and let everything evolve over billions of years the Genesis account seems like a fairy tale. I wonder if it has ever occurred to the evolutionists who can only accept godless evolution as an explanation for all that exists, that if there had been one very slight variation in the evolution between males and females over billions of years that species would have become extinct billions of years ago. How often do you hear evolutionists speculate on

what it is that we are currently evolving into at present? Have you ever seen that in a textbook?

Now, I would like to call your attention to the pattern for each of the days of Creation is set in these verses. "There is (a) the creative word, (b) the report of its effect, (c) God's evaluation of it as 'good,' (d) at times the sovereign naming, and (e) the numbering of each day" [Bible Knowledge Commentary, after this BKC].

1. Day One. "Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light." Before I go any further, let me stress that I believe Creation scientists have made the point for a twenty-four hour day. I still spell my God's name with a capital "G", which means that I have no problem with anything I read in the first eleven chapters of Genesis. I once made the statement to a pastors conference, "We all believe the Bible is the infallible, inerrant Word of God - once we get past the first eleven chapters of Genesis." There was a "knowing" laugh. Interestingly, when Creation scientists began telling us that the available evidence in fossil records actually supports Creation rather than evolution, those who seemed to resist that claim most fervently were some ministers of the Gospel. However, many pastors today have been convinced that the Biblical record is not simply a "religious" position they are expected to endorse. There is no reason to divorce Christianity from science, unless one rejects the God of the Word.

Literally, God said, "Be light, and there was light. This is not the sun (which was created on the fourth day, vs. 16), but some fixed light source that illuminated the earth. It is understandable that this would give a non-Christian evolutionist a problem, but it should not be a problem for the student of the Word of God. Remember, what we are reading here is the testimony of the only Person Who was there!

In the Revelation we learn that there will be no need for a sun or moon in Heaven: "And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb" (Rev. 21:23). God is the source of all light, and had been throughout eternity past. Illuminating the earth was no challenge to Him. Light is essential to life on earth, so light is the logical starting place in creation.

In 1:4, "God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness." God saw "that the light was good." This is the first of seven occurrences of this phrase in the chapter. The God Who is absolute good saw that His first act of creation was absolutely good.

2. Day Two. "Then God said, 'Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.'" (1:6) God spoke it and it was so - this is creation by fiat, by order or command. This is more than a way of recording a narrative, it expresses the sovereign will of the God of Creation, the One Who has the power to accomplish whatever He desires. "So God made the expanse and separated the water

under the expanse from the water above the expanse. And it was so. (8) God called the expanse "sky." (1:7-8, HCSB)

3. Day Three. "Then God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. (10) God called the dry land "earth," and He called the gathering of the water "seas." (Gen 1:9-10) Once again, the Creator saw that His work was good.

1:11 - "Then God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed in them"; and it was so."

Are you getting the message? This is the story of Creation. God said it and it was so.

4. Day Four. "Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years..." (Gen. 1:14) How did the sun, the planets and their moons, and the stars get there? God said, "Let there be...and it was so" (vs. 15). Surely some wonder, "If that were so, wouldn't that be something?" It is so, and it is something! Creation declares God's existence. Everyone who knows anything about the universe is aware of the design behind it. How can there be a design without a Designer? In John 1:1ff, we are told that Jesus was the Agent of creation. God said, "Let there be," and Jesus caused it to happen - and God said it was good.

5. Day Five. "Then God said, 'Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens.'" (1:20) On the fifth day God filled both the waters and the air with "living things." On this day He created the fish of the sea and the birds of the air.

6. Day Six. "Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind"; and it was so." God said it and it was so. Literally, He spoke, or willed all things into existence, and every person who questions that will have an opportunity to stand before the judgment bar of God and explain his doubt. At that time there will be no atheists, nor agnostics, and all shall understand why the first chapter of Romans explains that rejection of God and His mighty works, is not because of ignorance, but iniquity.

1:26 - "Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." The stage is set, everything has been prepared, and now on day six we are introduced to the crowning act of Creation. Man is a new and special species, essentially different from all other "kinds" on the earth.

1:27 - "God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." This can be said of no other creation. Man is unique, and his uniqueness is not seen only in his ability to reason or to grasp things with his fingers and thumb, or to walk on two legs. He is unique in that God created him a living soul - a living spirit. When considered in this context we might say that man is a soul and he possesses a body. In 1 Thes. 5. 23, Paul reveals a little more about the one creation created in the image of God: "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (emphasis added). That can only be said of man.

C. God Created Adam (Gen. 1:26).

In Genesis 2, we read that God completed His work of creation in six days and then on the seventh day He desisted from His creative work. The seventh day would be a holy day in which the Creator would be worshiped and honored. In Genesis 2, we read in more detail about the creation of the world, the creation of The Garden of Eden, and the companion the Lord created for Adam:

"So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to come over the man, and he slept. God took one of his ribs and closed the flesh at that place. (22) Then the Lord God made the rib He had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man. (23) And the man said: "This one, at last, is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh; this one will be called "woman," for she was taken from man." (Gen 2:21-23, HCSB)

II. ADAM WAS AN AMAZING MAN WITH AN AMAZING TASK.

A. He had fellowship with God no one else has ever known.

Adam may well have been the most amazing man ever to set foot on planet Earth. For some time he was sinless, which meant he had a relationship with God no one else has ever had. We are told that Adam and Eve communicated with the Lord in the Garden of Eden, thus depicting a fellowship no other human beings have known.

B. He and Eve Were Told to Multiply and Fill the Earth..

Adam and Eve were told to multiply and fill the earth with their offspring. At the time, there were two people on planet earth. When I was in highschool there were two billion people in the world. Today, there are over seven billion people on earth. When I was in high school there were 142 million people in America; today we have over 317 million people - legal residents!.

D. Adam Named All the Animals.

Can you imagine that? Now, will you help me picture something more?

1. All the animals were created.
2. There was a time when there had not been any rain on the earth.
3. The Lord watered the vegetation with a mist rising up from the earth.
4. He created the Garden of Eden, Gen. 2:8.
5. Adam and Eve lived in a paradise like no other the world has ever known.
6. God brought the birds and animals to Adam for him to name them.
7. Adam worked the Garden, but the work was a pleasure.
8. He could eat of any tree except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, Gen. 2:17.
9. God created Eve from one of Adam's ribs, Gen 2:22ff.

We can only imagine what kind of mind the Lord gave Adam that he was able to name all the birds of the air and the animals that roamed the earth. How could he keep them separate? Was he not afraid of the bear, the lion, and the monstrous animals which would some day be known as dinosaurs? No, and the animals had no fear of man until after the Flood when the Lord gave them that fear to preserve them on earth.

We can only imagine what life was like in the Garden of Eden. There must have been the most beautiful scenes the world has ever known, beautiful trees, shrubs, flowers, and streams. Yet, there was something missing in Adam's life. He had the Lord with whom he could communicate, but he lacked another human being with whom he could communicate. So, the Lord created a woman for a companion to Adam. One can only imagine that Adam was the happiest, healthiest, and most handsome man one can imagine, and that Eve was the most beautiful, and brilliant woman imaginable. After all, they did live in the Garden of Eden, which must have been the like no other paradise the world has ever known. They had fellowship with their Creator, who instructed them and blessed them with His presence in Paradise.

III. THEN CAME THE FALL.

A. The Lord Placed Two Special Trees in the Garden, Gen. 2:9

"The Lord God caused to grow out of the ground every tree pleasing in appearance and good for food, including the tree of life in the middle of the garden, as well as the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." (Gen. 2:9)

1. First, there was the Tree of Life. The "Tree of Life" may have gotten its name from "its symbolic character as a sign and seal of immortal life. It stood prominently "in the midst of the garden," where it must have been an object of daily observation and interest, and apparently was the source of man's perpetual life (cf. Gen. 3:22)" [New Commentary on the Whole Bible, OT]

2. Then, there was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. It seems that it was called that

“because it was a test of obedience by which our first parents were to be tried, whether they would be good or bad, obey God or break his commands. “Good” and “evil” may signify objective moral awareness. In other words, before eating of this tree, man was morally innocent, naive like a child. Thus God introduces “free will,” a precept still at work in the human experience with respect to accepting or rejecting God’s sovereignty.” [NCWB]

B. Satan Tempted Eve to Sin.

My brother-in-law, Jimmy Furr asked me to lead a conference on The Doctrine of Christ in the church he served as pastor in a suburb of Omaha, Nebraska some 25 years ago. One night I mentioned the Fall and suggested that Satan may well have approached Eve rather than Adam because Adam had walked with the Lord longer than Eve, and therefore, knew Him and His rules better. Some ladies came to me and expressed their appreciation for my perspective. I had wondered why he chose Eve instead of Adam. It seems that these ladies had heard someone express the opinion that the woman was the weaker of the two and they were pleased to hear a different perspective on that. I seriously doubt that Satan is a sexist. He will tempt and trip up both men and women. However, there is no doubt in my mind that he knows just how to approach each man and each woman to tempt them to sin. He has had a lot of experience.

C. Eve Tempted Adam to Sin.

There were only two people living in the Garden of Eden at the time of the Fall, so what would have been more natural for Eve to do than to take some of the fruit to Adam and tell him how good it was? Adam, at this point, was being tempted openly and visibly by Eve, who could give him her own experience with the forbidden fruit. He was also being tempted quietly and spiritually by Satan the bitter enemy of God and all that God valued. The sin committed by Adam is called THE FALL. Until that sin there was open, unbroken fellowship between Adam the first created human being and almighty God, his Creator. Now the fellowship was broken.

Adam could not repair the damage; he could not make the sin go away. Only God could do that. Another interesting note here is that they sinned and “Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.” (Gen 3:7) Now, isn’t that something to ponder, especially if you join those who reject the Trinity and cannot accept that fact that the opening of their eyes was not a human discovery or experience. They had

sinned and had a great desire to cover up their guilt. Rather than going to the Lord and confessing their sin, they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths to cover their private parts. Why do you think that matters? I will leave that to the psychologist to explain, but think what percentage of sins have related to sexual temptations since that time.

Back when I was a young pastor I was asked to preach a revival at a church whose pastor, an elderly man, was a friend. He told me that a mutual friend whose reputation had suffered for some time because of accusations, had driven to his home and told him about a disturbing experience he had gone through that morning. He said, "You know Bill Smith down at Richland? I had an appointment with him this morning and I got to his house before he got home. I knocked and his wife let me in and we were talking when he came home. I thought he was going to try to give me a whipping. He said I was trying to go with his wife." To this, the older pastor said, "If he accused me of trying to go with that woman, as ugly as she is, he would have to whip me!" I didn't know either Mr. Smith or his wife, but now, let us look at what happened next.

"Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid themselves from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. (9) So the Lord God called out to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

(10) And he said, "I heard You in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid."

(11) Then He asked, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

(12) Then the man replied, "The woman You gave to be with me – she gave me [some fruit] from the tree, and I ate."

(13) So the Lord God asked the woman, "What is this you have done?"

And the woman said, "It was the serpent. He deceived me, and I ate."

(14) Then the Lord God said to the serpent: Because you have done this, you are cursed more than any livestock and more than any wild animal. You will move on your belly and eat dust all the days of your life.

(15) I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.

(16) He said to the woman: I will intensify your labor pains; you will bear children in anguish. Your desire will be for your husband, yet he will rule over you.

(17) And He said to Adam, "Because you listened to your wife's voice and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'Do not eat from it': The ground is cursed because of you. You will eat from it by means of painful labor all the days of your life." (Gen 3:8-17)

IV. NEXT THERE IS THE PROMISE OF REDEMPTION.

"I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel." (Gen. 3:15)

The seed of the woman is Jesus, the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world (see Rev. 13:8, KJV, see also, the HCSB). There is a progressive, prophetic revelation of God's Redeemer throughout the Old Testament. Looking back, we see it in the call of Abraham and the covenant Yahweh made with him. When the Lord told Abraham to offer his son Isaac on an altar we see a prophecy of the sacrificial death of Jesus, and we see a promise of the Resurrection of Jesus. The sacrificial system Yahweh gave Moses at Sinai focused on Jesus. The Passover is fulfilled in the sacrificial death of Jesus (Christ our Passover has been offered, 1 Cor. 5:7). Job looked for the Redeemer who would some day stand on the earth.

The Davidic Covenant held promises Solomon could never keep, but Jesus would keep them. In Psalm 22 we have an amazing picture of the crucifixion of Jesus - hundreds of years before any nation used crucifixion for capital punishment. The Lord reveals many things about the coming Messiah through Isaiah and the other prophets, including the fact that He would be born of a virgin (Is. 7:14). In Isaiah 9:6, He is "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace."

In Isaiah 4:2, He is the Branch (of the House of David). In Zechariah 6:11, the Messiah will bring together the offices of prophet, priest, and king. In Micah 5:2, He would come from Bethlehem and He would rule over Israel.

B. In Adam We Receive Life, in Jesus We Receive Eternal Life (1 Cor. 15:45f).

So it is written: The first man Adam became a living being; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit. (46) However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual." (1 Cor 15:45-46)

In the Old Testament, we have God's promise of everlasting life. In the New Testament, we have the record of the coming, ministry, death, burial, Resurrection,

appearances, Ascension, and promised return of the only One Who could forgive our sins and give us eternal life.

CONCLUSION. Adam may well have been the most perfect Person to ever walked on planet Earth, yet in Adam all died. All descendants of Adam have died physically, with the exception of Enoch and Elijah. In Jesus, the second Adam we receive eternal life by simply believing in Him.

Adam was a real person, our common ancestor. Adam's sin is referred to as the Fall, and in Adam we all fall, but in Jesus there is eternal life for all who simply believe in Him. John states it very simply: "For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16, HCSB)