

ADAM

Genesis 1:26-27

Intro: One of the richest and most profitable studies in all of the Word of God is the study of the characters and lives of the men and women who are mentioned on the pages of Scripture. The Holy Spirit, the Author of Scripture, has devoted more space to the lives of some than He has to the lives of others. But in no instance, including the life and ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ, do we have in Scripture what we could call a complete biography. Obviously that was not the primary purpose of the Spirit of God in directing the writers of Scripture. The first and primary purpose of Scripture is the revelation of God, and close behind that, and related to that, is the truth concerning salvation. Nevertheless, people occupy a major part of Scripture, and people are always important in the unfolding of the ways and purposes of God.

At this point in my guidance concerning this series, it is not my purpose to deal in detail with any of those whose story is given in great detail in Scripture, such as, Abraham and Moses, but I probably will deal with them in a limit way to deal with some portions of their lives which are particularly important to us in learning the ways and purposes of God. Nor am I going to deal with the women of Scripture except as they may be related to the men we are studying. It is hard to deal with the life of Adam without making some reference to Eve. But for this series I am going to leave the women of Scripture to Lucille, or to Carolyn (who is writing a book on some of the women in Scripture), or to some of you ladies who have made a study of the women in Scripture. If the Lord spares me, I may undertake a study like that in the future, but for the present this series is going to deal with the “men of the Bible”! And since the Holy Spirit started with Adam, that is where I am going to start.

I have told some of you that I was thinking and praying about a series on either the life of King David, or the life of the Apostle Peter. But as I continued to seek my guidance from the Lord, it seems that He has led me to deal with the men of the Bible in shorter time periods than it would take to study either the life of David or the life of Simon Peter.

Recently a young man who has shown some interest in our work here at Trinity Bible Church, told me that he would like to have a few minutes with me to ask me some questions about what we believe. Of course, I said that I would be very happy to speak with him. He didn't ask me the

questions that people normally ask. In fact, I don't know that I have ever been asked these questions by people interested in our church. But they were good questions, and the Lord may have used his questions to get me thinking in terms of this series.

The first question he asked me was, did we believe that God created the heavens and the earth in six, twenty-four hour days? Now I don't know that I was answering for all of you, but certainly for the majority of you, and definitely for our elders, when I answered this young man with a very strong, "Yes."

The second question that he asked me was, did we believe that the flood in the days of Noah was universal, that is, did it cover the whole earth, destroying every human being but Noah and his wife, and their three sons and their wives? And again I said, "Yes."

My answers seemed to make him happy. He probably knew that we believe that the Bible is the verbally inspired Word of God, or we wouldn't be teaching it like we do. He also knew that our name indicates that we believe that the Godhead is a Trinity – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. He did not seem concerned about what we believed about man, that he is a sinner under the judgment of God, and that Christ is the only Savior. I did tell him that we believe that salvation is all a work of God, and that man would never seek God if God did not draw man to Himself.

But the more I have thought about our conversation, the more I have realized that his questions are basic. They are fundamental. He questions implied to me that if we begin the Bible by compromising or toning down the plain teaching of Scripture, to make it more acceptable to men, then it is very likely that we handle all of Scripture that way. I might say that we are not trying to make the Bible agree with modern science; we are waiting for scientists to catch up with the Bible. I love the story of the man who noticed a young lady reading her Bible, and he asked her if she believed what she was reading. He mentioned in particular the story of Jonah being swallowed by a whale. She responded very quickly by saying that she did believe it because she believed all of the Bible, and that she would have believed it if the Bible had said that Jonah swallowed the whale.

But the story of Jonah and the whale is not the foundational truth of

Scripture. What is the foundational truth of Scripture?

I. THE FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH OF SCRIPTURE.

It is stated in Genesis 1:1. (Quote.) It is foundational not only because it is stated first, but as we read through the Bible we find it referred to and re-stated dozens of times, perhaps several hundred times.

No human being was there at the time. But God was there. Elohim was there. The name for God gives us the basis for expecting that there is more than one Person in the Godhead. We have the name of a second one in Gen. 1:2, the Spirit of God. And such verses as John 1:3 tell us who the other one was: “All things were made by Him (speaking of “the Word” Who turns out to be Christ in John 1:14), and without Him was not anything made that was made.”

And so we are told that “in the beginning” God already existed, existed completely apart from His creation. Everything in our whole universe was created by God. Nothing like this existed before. The Psalmist said, “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth His handiwork” (Psa. 19:1). Creation reveals God’s power, His wisdom, and His goodness, to name just a few of His glorious attributes. His power is omnipotent, His wisdom is infinite, and His goodness is inexhaustible.

In Genesis 1 we have the divine account of creation, what God did day by day for six days, six twenty-four hour days, just like ours today. And a thoughtful reading of Genesis 1 tells us that day by day God’s work of creation was all leading up to the masterpiece of creation. What was it?

II. GOD’S MASTERPIECE IN CREATION (Gen. 1:26-27).

God’s masterpiece in creation was *man!* There is nothing in the divine record to indicate that man was the product of all that came before. In the counsels of God (note the plural words “us” and “our”) God determined that man alone, of all of the living creatures created before him – that man alone was to be made *in the image of God!* And this included the woman as well as the man.

What this means has been the study of the people of God ever since it was written, but it is very unlikely that anyone has ever been able to know the full extent of the meaning that both the man and the woman were made in

the likeness of God. It means that to a certain extent they were like God, sharing His attributes in a more limited way in which they are seen in God. It does not mean that man became Deity, but like God, and what is most important: among all of the creatures that God made, man alone was capable of fellowship with God. He, most of all of all of God's creatures, was made to reflect God's glory.

Now the fact that man was the masterpiece of all of God's creation, is indicated by the fact that after we have the full account of creation, the Holy Spirit led Moses to go back, beginning with Gen. 2:4, to give us the details of the creation of the first man and the first woman. Adam's name first appears in Gen. 2:19, but in Gen. 5:2 we are told that "God called their name," that is, Adam and Eve's name, "Adam." In Gen. 3:20 we are told that "Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living," and I take that as meaning the mother of the human race. The name "Adam" comes from one of the Hebrew words for man, and Gesenius, a German scholar who many years ago wrote a dictionary of Biblical Hebrew, said that this word distinguished the man in the Bible whom we know as Adam as the only one of his kind. We read in Genesis 1 that lower forms of life reproduced "after their kind," but none of these resulted in man as the evolutionists would like for us to believe. They had no living relationship or connection at all with man. When God made Adam, he was only one of his kind in all of creation, the only one who was made in the image of God.

And being made in the image and likeness of God, Adam, and then Eve, were both created without sin. Their fellowship with God was perfect, and so was their fellowship with each other. Not only that, but we read in Gen. 1:28 that they were to have dominion over all of creation. They were placed in a perfect environment, the Garden of Eden, but with one restriction: they were not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. See Gen. 2:16 and 17. If they did, the penalty would be death!

At this point it is important for us to understand *why God made Eve and brought her to Adam, giving her to him*. Actually this was the first marriage, and established the purpose of marriage. Gen. 2:18 describes the place that every wife was to have in her relationship with her husband. Eve was to be Adam's helper, his helper from God. She was not only to be his helper in all of the details of daily life, but she was to be his spiritual helper. She was to help him in his walk with the Lord. She was to be strength for him from God in times of temptation. There have been

many questions raised as to why the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was even placed in the Garden of Eden, but that is not really our business. It was there! Adam was not to eat of it, and among all of Eve's responsibilities as a wife, was that of being a source of strength to Adam they he might live in obedience to the Lord.

But what happened?

III. THE TEMPTATION (Gen. 3:1-6).

There are many details regarding the timing of events which are not given to us here, but it is clear as we go on through Scripture that there was sin in heaven before there was sin on earth, sin among the angels, sin against God which originated with a powerful angel by the name of Lucifer. Isaiah 14:12 through 14 gives us some of the details regarding this rebellion in heaven among the angels. The head angelic rebel is later called the Devil and Satan. He had succeeded in bringing many angels to rebel against God, angels who became demons, and he appeared to Eve for the purpose of bringing the human race into rebellion against God. And the method he used was deception! He made her believe that by doing what God had told Adam that they were not to do, she and he could actually become completely like God.

The Devil appeared to her as a serpent, and we all know that he deceived her. She saw the good qualities, or what she had been led to believe were the good qualities of the fruit, and she not only ate of the fruit, but she gave the fruit to her husband, and he joined her in doing what God had told them *not* to do! Immediately Adam experienced alienation from God which is spiritual death. As God pronounced judgment first on the serpent, then on Eve, and finally on Adam, we see that man was condemned to physical death. But even in judgment God remembered mercy (see Hab. 3:2), and He put them out of the Garden, placing cherubim at the entrance to the Garden with a flaming sword which turned every way to keep them from the tree of life lest they should eat of it also and live forever in their sin.

The extent of the damage that was done was demonstrated in Adam and Eve's family when Cain killed his brother, Abel, but also throughout the years of OT history. The Apostle Paul stated the result of Adam's sin clearly as he wrote the epistle to the Roman believers. This is what he wrote:

12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned (Rom. 5:12).

The whole human race has suffered the results of Adam's sin which were spiritual death, physical death, and ultimately, eternal death if it had not been for God's grace in sending His Son to provide us with the Gospel.

Now we can't undo what Adam did. We owe eternal gratitude to God for sending His Son to take upon Himself the penalty of our sins that we might have eternal life. No, we can't undo what Adam did, but we can learn from what he and Eve did as we face the temptation to sin in some form or other every day that we live. Let me point out just a few of the lessons we learn from the experience of Adam and Eve.

IV. SOME LESSONS FROM THE LIVES OF ADAM AND EVE.

I am thinking now both about those of us who are Christians, but also of those who are not Christians. And the first point is:

A. Never set aside what God has said in His Word.

Regardless of how beneficial sin might appear to be under some circumstances, if it is forbidden by God, don't have anything to do with it. Eve saw that the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil was "good for food," and that it looked good, and besides it could make her wiser than she was, God had said "no" to it, and no argument, no excuse, can ever change God's Word. I don't fault Eve because she said that they were not to touch the fruit. When God told them not to eat it, it obviously meant that they were not even to touch it. Solomon emphasizes again and again in his book of Proverbs that we are not to commit adultery, but, in that connection he said that we are not even to go near the door of the prostitute. Nobody ever violates the teaching of Scripture, and gets away with it. Adultery has become a way of life with millions and millions of people, and they think that they are getting away with it. But nobody is getting away with any violation of God's Word. There are consequences to sin either here and now or hereafter, or both! The Devil is a liar, and he has done an amazing job from the beginning of time in getting people to believe his lies.

Let me point out another lesson from the life of Adam. And this is very clear in the Word of God.

B. One of the main reasons for marriage and the home, is to provide protection for us from sin.

There are many duties that a husband has in providing for his family, and there are many duties that a wife has in her relationship with her husband and her children, but none is greater with either the husband nor the wife than that of protecting each other and the children from that which is our chief problem: S-I-N. I get tired of these family counselors that you hear on TV, or read about in magazine articles or books, who never talk about sin. Sin is the #1 problem of every human being. People wouldn't be terrorists if it were not for sin. There would be no divorces, no murders, no differences among people and nations, if it were not for sin. But sin has blinded our minds so that we can't figure things out. And that is why we need God's Word. There you get the truth. And yet today most people don't even own a Bible, let alone read it! In fact, bring the Bible into any conversation where you are talking about human problems, and see what the reaction is – and this is often the case even when Christians are discussing their problems.

The husband is to help his wife avoid sin. The wife is to help her husband stay away from sin. And the husband and wife together are to be a safeguard for their children against sin. We are inclined to excuse ourselves regarding certain things because “everybody is doing it.” Does it ever occur to us that if everybody is doing it, it probably is what nobody should be doing! The greatest defense against sin ought to be the home, and right with it should be the church. And yet there are church today who are ordaining homosexuals when Scripture is clearly against it. Our ignorance of Scripture today means that most everything is wrong in our society, and we are paying a terrific price for our ignorance and sin. If people would only read the first three chapters of Genesis they would find out what is wrong, and that only God working by His saving grace in our hearts can change the course of our lives and get us headed in the right direction.

Let me show you another fact of life that we need to know from Scripture.

C. A major difference between men and women.

We can see this by looking at Eve and Adam where the Word of God was concerned. The Bible makes it very clear that Eve was deceived by the subtlety of the Devil, but Adam sinned knowing that he was doing the

wrong thing! This is not to say that women are always deceived, but that men never are. But I think these are the peculiar weaknesses that we have. Sometimes men are deceived, and sometimes women deliberately do what is wrong, knowing that it is wrong. But the general tendency of men and women seems to follow the pattern seen here in Genesis 3.

Time will not permit me to say much more, but let me mention just one more point.

D. The only One Who can help is with our sin is G-O-D!

Before God put Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden He gave them the promise of a Redeemer. You have that in Gen. 3:15. The seed of the woman we now know to be Christ Jesus, the Son of God. He has bruised the serpent's head.

But we also have a beautiful picture of salvation in what God did for Adam and Eve before He put them out of the Garden of Eden.

We are told in Gen. 2:25 that Adam and Eve in their original sinless condition, had no clothes. This was probably because they were covered with God's glory. But when they sinned, that glory was taken away, and so they needed a covering. What did God do? He sacrificed an animal, and covered their nakedness with the skin of the animal which became coats for them – a beautiful picture of the truth Paul expressed in 2 Cor. 5:21.

Concl: I have only touched lightly this morning on the story of Adam.

But do you see how important it is for us to read the Bible? It is only in the Bible that we learn is wrong today, and it is only there that we learn what God has done through the death of His Son to deliver us from the ravages of sin, and ultimately from the judgment that await all who have not sought forgiveness and eternal life through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. John 3:16 is what has been called, "the Gospel in a nutshell." The Word of God is the only light that we have in this world of darkness.