

Lesson 2- Adam, Eve, and Creation (Genesis 1-3)

The Biblical narrative begins immediately with the creation of the universe. Each day God adds something new to the universe and each day's creation is declared good (Genesis 1.4,10,12,etc.).

As we saw in the previous lesson, three persons are involved in the creation of the universe—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. As we examine the Bible text, we find they each occupied distinct, yet complementary roles: the Father willed the creation (Hebrews 1.1-2; 11.3), the Son was the active agent in creation (Hebrews 1.2; Colossians 1.15-16), and the Holy Spirit protected and prepared the new creation (Genesis 1.2 “hovering/moved” = brooded cf. Deuteronomy 32.11).

The pinnacle of God's creation was humanity. Man, it is said, is created in the image of God—that is, man has a spiritual component, and in that spiritual component bears some resemblance to God. God also took the man He created and gave him authority over the visible creation (Genesis 1.26).

In the entirety of God's creation, no suitable companion was found for man, so God caused Adam to sleep and from one of his ribs formed a woman, Eve (Genesis 2.20ff). As suitable companions, Adam and Eve were joined together by God in bond of marriage (Genesis 2.24; Matthew 19.4ff). In the beginning of their marriage, they enjoyed the unspoiled and perfect Garden of Eden, where man's only task to was to tend and keep the garden (Genesis 2.15).

Eventually, Adam and Eve were expelled from the garden when they both succumbed to the temptation of the serpent (Satan—Revelation 12.9). God's instructions were clear—the fruit of every tree was available for food except for the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (Genesis 2.16-17). When Adam and Eve ate of this tree, they brought sin into a previously untarnished environment and brought death upon themselves (Genesis 2.17).

While Adam and Eve's sin did bring physical death into the world, as man was now separated from the Tree of Life (Genesis 3.22), man and woman died spiritually the moment they ate from the tree; that is, in their sinful act they separated themselves from God (James 2.26; Isaiah 59.2).

The bright light shining at the end of this story is the revelation that God has a plan—a plan to combat sin and save mankind. Though we only see it dimly in Genesis 3, the promise is there—the coming seed of woman would crush the head of the serpent.

Lesson 2 Questions – Adam, Eve, and Creation

1) What is the timeframe given in Scripture for the creation of the world (also confer Exodus 20.11)?

a. _____

2) Out of what was man created?

a. _____

3) What four specific instructions were given to man in the garden?

a. _____

Thought Questions

1) Why is an understanding of Genesis 1 crucial to Christian faith today?

a. _____

2) What significance is given to God's creative order in 1 Timothy 2.12ff?

a. _____

3) Why did God create the non-human world as He did (Ps. 19; Romans 1)?

a. _____

4) If one attempts to make Genesis 1-3 a non-literal allegory, what important truths are lost?

a. _____

5) What does this section of Scripture reveal about God's plan to save man?

a. _____
