

Lesson 4 ADAM AND EVE

READING: GENESIS 2

AIM: To understand how man and woman were created and the significance of the Seventh day.

1. **BACKGROUND**

We have in this lesson a detailed account of the creation of man and woman. On the sixth day man was formed of the dust of the ground, and then made alive by God breathing into him the breath of life. Then God prepared for this man a garden in which God caused to grow the very best kinds of fruit and herbs for food, and beautiful flowers and trees.

Into this garden called Eden, God put the man to dress and keep it. Although the garden was such a beautiful place, the man (Adam) was lonely and God said it was not good for him to be alone, so He brought to him all the animals and Adam gave them all names. But Adam was still lonely, so God provided him with a wife (Eve).

2. **THE FORMATION OF MAN – Gen. 2:7, 18-20**

The formation of man is given in Genesis 1 and in greater detail in Genesis 2. From these records the following important factors emerge:

- **Man was made in the image and likeness of the angels**, i.e., like them in bodily form and resembling them in mental capacity, although as the Psalmist says "a little lower than the angels" (Psa. 8:5) for the angels are immortal, which Adam was not.
- **Man was formed from the dust of the ground.** Note that the Scripture states that "man" was so formed, not merely his body or frame. But man was without life. Life therefore must be added.
- **God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life** and man became a living soul. It was the "breath of life" which gave life to the dust-formed man. The process of man's formation is simply and clearly given in Genesis; but the fiction of the immortality of the soul has so obscured Scriptural teaching that it is essential to emphasise the true teachings. By the "inbreathing" of the breath of life man became "a living soul", not an "ever-living soul". The phrases "immortal soul", or "immortality of the soul" are not found anywhere in the Bible. A living soul simply means a "living creature", and is so rendered in Gen. 1:21,24,30; 2:19. The "breath of life" is not a peculiar possession of man; all the animals share it (Gen. 7:15,22). When the breath of life is removed both they and man die (Psa. 104:29; 146:4). Man is, therefore, identical in physical organization with the rest of the animal kingdom, formed from the ground as they were (Gen. 2:19) animated by the same breath of life, and like them, is a living soul or a living creature. He differs from them however, in being made "in the image and likeness of the angels". He has thereby a different and higher relationship with the Creator.
- **Man was created – not evolved from the lower animals.** The record in Genesis expressly states that man was a special creation. This is confirmed by Jesus (Matt. 19:4).

3. **THE FORMATION OF WOMAN - Gen 2:21-22**

Although the animal kingdom and Adam were formed from the ground. Eve is unique in not being so created. The Scriptures give us the reason for this difference. Eve was to be a "**help-meet**" for Adam and to establish the necessary bond of sympathy and co-operation she was not created independently from the ground, but from the living substance of Adam.

God caused a deep sleep to come on Adam. He then took from Adam a rib from which He made the woman and brought her unto Adam. Adam understood Eve's special relationship to himself for he declared: "**This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man**".

4. THE DEEPER SIGNIFICANCE OF EVE'S CREATION – Gen 2:23-24

By this unique act of creation of God's appointing, Adam and Eve were completely united as husband and wife; this being true marriage: "Therefore shall a man cleave unto his wife and they shall be one flesh". Such is God's decree concerning the closeness of the marriage union.

The terms of the Edenic marriage law, of which Adam and Eve were the first subjects, provide that the marriage union is both permanent and holy (Mark 10:9; Matt. 19:6). Any departure from this way could result in husband and wife becoming guilty of adultery (Mark 10:11-12; Matt 19:9) which is a breach of Divine Law.

Eve's relationship to Adam is a type of that between **the ecclesia** and **Christ Jesus**, by shedding his blood on the cross, purchased his ecclesia which is, in many places, referred to as his **Bride**, with Christ in the role of **Bridegroom**. Typical examples can be seen in Matt. 9:15 and Eph 5:23.

As the first Adam showed sympathy, love and affection for the wife whom he described "bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh", so there is mutual sympathy, love and affection between Christ, the "second Adam" (1 Cor. 15:45) and his ecclesia. In the coming day when spiritual "marriage" will take place between them both, they will be "one" as Adam and Eve were "one" (Eph. 5:25-32).

Typical examples of the use of the Divine ordinance of marriage to represent also the union between God and Israel can be seen in Jer. 3:15 and Hos 2:19-20.

5. THE SEVENTH DAY - Gen 2:1-3

On this day God "**rested**". The word means that He "ceased" His labours, and not that He was tired, or needed rest. God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it (set it apart) although there is no record that Adam or his immediate descendants should observe the seventh day as the Jews were later commanded to do.

Under the Law of Moses (see Exod. 20:11; 31:17) this day was appointed to the Jews as a special day when they should "cease from their own labours" and devote themselves to doing the things of God (Heb. 4:10; Mark 2:17). The observance of this special day does not apply to Christ's followers, for they have been delivered from the Law (see Rom. 14:5-6; Col 2:16-17; Heb 4:1-11) by one who was greater than the sabbath (Luke 6:5)

The seventh day, as a day of rest, pointed forward to the time appointed when the kingdom of God will be set up on earth, and mankind will cease from its evil ways, from its striving with God, and live in peace with Him (Isa. 2:2-4) thus giving Him the glory and honour which was the specific purpose of Creation.

6. A DAY OF "REST" – NOW AND FUTURE

There is also a "rest" in this life for those serving Christ. Although it may not be apparent to the man of the world, such people in their constant striving to emulate Christ, find relief from the burdens of pride, jealousy, envy and like passions which often sear the heart of the man on whom this light has not shone (Matt. 11:29).

How restful to be free from the things which weary and distress: to be recreated in the ways of Christ (John 8:32)! The Christian still experiences problems and sorrow, but his attitude of mind as a result of the true sense of values required enables him to have "**peace of God**" so that the anxieties of life in this age may be faced up to in a different way.

Having "rest" in this way from troubles we delight in the service of God through Jesus our Lord, ever mindful of the reward which is before us. "I beseech you brethren", says Paul (Rom. 12:1) "that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service".

7. CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

The fact that marriage has been chosen as a figure to represent the close union between Christ and his true followers shows the divine intention that the marriage tie should be a holy union. The growing abuse of marriage in the world is significant, as it indicates the evil and unholy state of affairs that will exist when Christ returns (II Tim. 3:1-7).

Let us never dishonour God. We have been given faculties that we may appreciate the beautiful things of life – the sunset, the scent of the flower, the love of those near and dear. We can find ample evidence now of God's bounty towards man. How much more so will it be in His Kingdom? Above all these blessings, God gave His Son and opened a way whereby man may enter into eternal life, a part of His new creation.

REFERENCE LIBRARY

- "The Visible Hand of God", chapters 2 and 3.
- "Elpis Israel", part 1, chapter 2.
- "God's Way", chapter 3.
- "The Letter to the Hebrews", section 3 (c)..

QUESTIONS

1. How was Adam formed and in what way was he the head of God's creation?
2. How was Eve formed? Explain the difference from the creation of the animal kingdom.
3. On the seventh day God rested. Describe some aspect of "rest" in this life and in the future.
4. From the formation of Eve, show what the marriage state should be like.