

Bethel Community Church *Sermon Series*

Adam & Eve: Fact or Fiction?

Pastor Steve Jones

Sunday 18th January 2004

Prayer [PP1]

Having a laugh! [PP2]

Janet was nervous as she walked into her first managers meeting at Comtec Industries, as a leader of her own department. She had worked extremely hard to get the position. She had deputized for her former boss a couple of times before, but she always had to advocate his opinion and not her own. His retirement last week and her consistent hard work had given her the chance that she had been looking for to prove her worth. She entered sat down halfway up the table in the modern, pine and chrome-tabled, glass surrounded, board room. As things got underway Janet was happy to just listen and wait for a good opportunity to put her views. They were all discussing how to increase the market share of the mini-turbine engines that the company had just started producing the year before. Various ideas shot around the table. Suddenly, seizing her chance Janet offered, “Why don’t we rent Alton Towers, invite all of our potential customers and their families to a glitzy re-launch of the product in the morning and then allow them to enjoy the afternoon in the park with their kids?”. For a moment there was stunned silence in the room. Then the Operations Director laughed a belly laugh and everyone else, on key, joined in. “Your joking right?”, said the Director. “Well”, stumbled Janet, “I just thought that the attractions might get them to come”. Laughter rang around the table. Janet’s face went redder and redder. She looked down at her notes and remained silent throughout the rest of the meeting.

Ever been laughed at for your views like that? Feels humiliating doesn’t it.

Jesus was laughed and scoffed at for the things that He said.

I have been laughed at because of my beliefs, particularly with regards to my belief in things like creation, angels and the rapture.

Today we are going to look at a really humorous subject for many non-Christians: Adam and Eve. People treat this couple as an old fairy story with no basis in reality.

When I say that I believe that Adam & Eve really existed and things happened exactly as it says in the Bible, some people look at me like I’m in cloud cuckoo land.

Finding Solid Ground Series

On Sunday 1st February 2004 I will start the series, “*Finding Solid Ground*”. In this series we will look at what the Bible *really* is. Is it wholly reliable or is it not?

For me, I know that Adam & Eve existed because over time I have come to see the Bible has so completely solid and accurate on a thousand other matters, I know that it is on this matter. I know that the Bible is true. I hope that the series will set you on a journey to that eventual conclusion.

For today’s purposes I am not going to rely upon the argument that “the Bible says so”.

Let’s look at the Genesis story of the creation of that “First Family”.

Genesis 2:1-9, 15-25 [ESV Church 2 Compact 2] [PP3]

Adam means “ground”. That was what he was made from. Eve means “living”. Adam named her after their sin, when they knew that they would face a hard life and then death in the world. Through Eve the human race would be propagated.

Note that whereas all of the animals were “created” or “made” (Genesis 1:25) man was “formed” (1:7,8). This word describes the work of an artist. God didn’t just through mankind together, He invested in Your design.

Genesis 1:16. First command to mankind in the Bible.

A helper fit for Adam. That doesn’t mean a lesser person. The text in the literal original Hebrew says, “a helper corresponding to him”. The word used for helper is not a demeaning term, in fact in the Psalms it is a word used of God Himself. The phrase, “corresponding to him” means that her formed nature was the same as Adam.

Man in Hebrew is “*Ish*”. Woman is an extension of that and is “*Ishshah*”.

Both in modern English and Hebrew woman is an extension out of man. We are the same in name and nature.

Note that God took a rib from the side of Adam to from Eve. Why not form a completely new person? God’s plan in marriage was that man and woman would be “one flesh”. Truly from the beginning they have been. Whoever you marry, despite however many degrees of separation, you are not genetic strangers. You can become “one-flesh”.

It has been said that Eve was made not from Adam’s feet so that she could be trampled, not from Adam’s head so that she could rule over him, but from his side so that she would be near his heart and be loved by him.

God with His knowledge cut the side of the First Adam and took from him something to ensure the survival of the human race. A rib to make Woman. Jesus Christ is often referred to as the Second Adam. Note how His side was also cut open and out flowed His blood to pay the price for man's sin and thus pave the way to the salvation of mankind.

Adam & Eve are your ancestors. I can't run you out a family tree, but I can show you something **in you** that **comes through** them.

The 4 DNA Fingerprints of Adam and Eve [PP4]

Fingerprint 1 - You carry their identical created order. [PP5]

Adam & Eve were:

- Created in the image of God. So were you! Do you think being part of a community is important to you? [Alamino County study (US) 7,000 socially isolated people studied over 9 year period. Found that those people were 3 times more likely to die than those who were part of a community. Those with good health habits that spent their time alone did less well than those with bad health habits but had strong social ties. For socially isolated people, joining local groups socially cut their risk of dying in the next year in half! They also studied illness amongst the isolated. Those with strong social ties did 4 times better at fighting off illness than those who were isolated]. Why do you think that is so? Why does it make such a difference? Reason: All day every day you are seeing the likeness of God, whether you realize that or not. We are all God's special creation. That image of God testifies inside you. You, who are in the likeness of God, need to be with others who are in the likeness of God.
- Created perfectly, both physically and emotionally, to expand the human race. The perfect union between man and woman emotionally and physically is impossible to improve upon. God created that in Adam & Eve and it is manifest in you today.
- Created to subdue and rule the earth. That was the future plan in Adam & Eve's day, which has been practically achieved in our day (in animal and geographic terms). Man's desire to conquer his surroundings.
- Created to work. Work is a vital part of your well-being. As soon as Adam was created he was put to work tending the Garden. To do work of value is one of the most basic and core human needs. Where that is not present in someone's life problems will manifest themselves

Fingerprint 2 - You thrive when you function as they were designed. [PP6]

God decided that man would best function with woman as a partner. Woman would best function with man as a partner. Each had their own roles and responsibilities within that partnership.

In today's world we are not allowed to talk about relationships which are the "norm", lest we offend someone of a minority viewpoint. Even within the Church we often shy away from the biblical concepts of manhood and womanhood, even though we support marriage as an institution.

God created man and woman that they should become partners in a marriage, holding to each other until death. There are only two situations, I believe, that God allows that partnership to be prematurely broken; adultery and abandonment. Save these situations marriage is for life. We will fully cover biblical man and womanhood in future sermons.

The modern culture that we live in is a disposable culture. Something breaks, throw it away and go buy another one. Just 25 years ago, if a toy at home broke, Dad would go to great lengths to have it faithfully repaired. More often than not today the toy is discarded and another one is purchased.

We are like that with our marriages. It gets battered. The batteries are getting a bit low and the battery warning light has been on for a while. The bells and whistles don't sound as fresh and exciting as they used to. Every time we are in the toy shop we see new and exciting toys, with fully charged batteries, so we cast our old partner into the bin and get someone new to occupy us.

God's plan is not for homosexual relationships. It is for heterosexual relationships where the marriage partners show faithfulness to each other. Anything else does not come up to God's standard.

Adam & Eve teach us not only that marriage is one man and one woman, they also teach us that each has specific roles within that partnership.

In Ephesians 5:22 wives are told to submit to their husbands as they do to the Lord. That is an extremely unpopular statement in the 21st Century when we are all about equality in this world of ours.

In so many marriages I have seen wives who will not submit to the leadership of their husband in the family. The result very often is disaster.

Submission has nothing to do with being the husband's servant. It means recognizing that God Almighty will require from the husband answers for how he led you and your family.

In our marriage (20 years) we discuss issues to try and find a plan of action or decision upon which we both agree. If we can't agree, and it isn't an urgent decision, we postpone it so that we can talk and pray about it some more. If it is something that can't wait and we disagree, then the buck stops with me. I make the call. One second after I have finished speaking, I hear Denise's voice ringing out from beside me endorsing the decision that I have made. My decision becomes our decision.

I have to account to God for that decision, and that fact weighs heavily with me.

I can't tell you what strength that brings to situations of risk and conflict.

In so many marriages that I have seen husbands who do not love their wives as God commands them to do so.

In Ephesians 5:25, husbands are commanded to love their wives as Christ loves the Church. I can't even get my mind around how much Christ loves the Church, His body. I have to try and love Denise that much, if necessary laying down my life for her.

In this life she is my highest priority after my private relationship with God. I need to mediate on how I can honour and care for her. How I can serve her? How I can treat her as the precious and amazing gift from God that God has handed to me to watch over for Him.

I am a family lawyer and have seen thousands of marriages in trouble. The only thing that I have seen consistently turn marriages around is when both parties understand what a biblical marriage looks like and they start putting that into practice.

The fact that God's plan for human relationship expressed through Adam & Eve shines through in you when you follow the plan.

[Repentance. This is what 180 degree looks like.]

Fingerprint 3 - You mirror their rejection of God's rules [PP7]

God told Adam & Eve that they could have everything else in the Garden, but not the fruit from this one particular tree. Does God stop us having stuff because He likes to spoil our party?

No. God stops us having things that are bad for us and harm us.

Do not steal You lose your reputation and go to prison

Do not commit adultery Your marriage will fall apart and you kids will be harmed

Do not give false testimony If you lie it will come back and bite you. Perjury

Instead of seeing God's rules as protective, we see them as intrusive and interfering with our right to self-determination.

We reject God's rules in just the same way that Adam & Eve did.

Fingerprint 4 - You feel their isolation [PP8]

Genesis 4:26

After having been driven out of the Garden Adam and Eve and their offspring lived away from God's presence. After a number of years of being away from His presence the people felt a deep need for fellowship with God again.

They began again to call on God's name. There must have been a deep sense of isolation for that early family.

Imagine being dropped off on Mars by a spaceship and left with just your family and enough supplies for 50 years. You would call out to God, whoever you were.

The First Family found that there was a hole inside them that they could not fill.

You will find the same hole inside you today. You try and fill that sense of emptiness with drink, drugs, lust, power, and property, but it never satisfies.

You're outside the Garden, longing to get in. The hole is a God shaped hole.

Your soul longs to go home, even if you intellectually aren't headed that way.

Cornerstone Evidence for the Historical Reality of Adam & Eve [PP9]

1 Corinthians 14:40. "But all things should be done decently and in order". God is a God of order and not disorder. He is immutable in his character.

He was the same yesterday as He is today and He will be the same tomorrow.

The God of the Bible is measured and balanced in His revelation of Himself and his purposes throughout history.

The Bible is crystal clear that Jesus came to earth to pay for the sins of mankind (1 Corinthians 15:22; Romans 5:6,8,15 and 6:10; 1 Peter 3:18)

Jesus was a real historical person. No serious historian person would argue with that proposition. As Christians we see in the Bible a real, tangible person physically dying for the sins of us all.

Question?

If Jesus came to pay a debt, where and when did that debt occur? [PP10]

If God is a God of order and logic, as the Scriptures reveal Him to be, if He sent His Son to come to earth to be a physical and very tangible payment, then God should reveal to us a physical and very tangible cause of the payment; a debt.

If Jesus had to come to pay the price for mankind's sins, at some point before the coming of Jesus someone broke God's rules and accrued the debt.

Who was this person?

Perhaps, some unspecified person or group of people, not mentioned in the Bible.

Is it likely that God would send a crystal clear and stunning payment for a vague debt with uncertain origins? No.

God would send a crystal clear physical payment for a crystal clear physical debt. To do otherwise would not be in God's character.

Is there a candidate for the origin of sin in the Bible? Only one! Adam and his wife Eve.

Summary

Adam & Eve were as real as you and I. You could have touched them, talked and walked with them.

God made His mark upon them, creating them in His likeness. That likeness is in the 4 DNA fingerprints has been carried through into You.

Genesis 1:31 tells us that God thought that what He had made was *very* good. Because of sin you have been tainted, but you still retain characteristics that God put into Adam & Eve and are even today now in you.

[Baby Pictures] [PP11]

Those reactions are God's DNA in you jumping into life as they recognize the good and beautiful in God's creation.

In the same way, when someone pushes in front of you in Stokes the Green Grocer, and you have the sudden temptation to hit them with your shopping bag, that is all you. That is your DNA that has got in through sin.

Home Assignment [PP12]

1. Pick a nice day this week. Get up at dawn and go and watch the sunrise down by the sea. That sense of awe is God's DNA jumping in you.
2. Cuddle a baby this week. Examine their tiny fingers with great care. That sense of the miraculous is God's DNA jumping in you.
3. Find a family that is struggling financially. Put a £5 or £10 note in a plain envelope and put it through their door when you won't be seen. That sense of doing something good and worthy is God's DNA jumping in you.
4. Go through the MacDonald's Drive-Through. Give the assistant £3 and tell them that you want them to give it to the occupant 3 cars back as a gift towards the cost of their meal. The "warm" sense of sacrificial giving is God's DNA jumping in you.
5. One evening, instead of watching TV, pick up your Bible and read one of the shorter New Testament letters (e.g. Galatians, Philippians, Colossians) through carefully twice. Then think about what you have read. Make some notes on what you can learn in your own life from the letter. Commit the next week to put those action points into practice. The sense of hope and security that you feel is God's DNA jumping in you.

Remember God is within your every fibre, whether you call Him Lord or not. Be in awe of God this week!

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