



[Show Slide 1]

Who are the most famous couples out there? Snow White and Prince Charming? Lady and the Tramp (gets me every time!)? Princess Leia and Han Solo? Okay, those are made up but there are some real ones we're fascinated with, right? Beyonce and Jay-Z, Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds, Dax Shepard and Kristen Bell, Chrissy Teigen and John Legend and the list goes on and on.

Today we're looking at the first couple. Back to the beginning. The OG. Adam and Eve. Everyone has heard of them even people not in the church. Except, there's a lot of debate about them, right? Who did what, did they really exist, why did God create them, was eating that fruit really worth it?

What makes it so challenging is this: what we know of Adam and Eve comes from ancient, ancient texts in the book of Genesis.

[Show Slide 2]

Here are a few basics about Genesis to set the stage:

- We believe it was written around 3500 years ago.
- But it is recording events from (possibly) 4000 BC, or 6000 years ago.
- Its authorship is attributed to Moses; tradition says that he wrote it, but there is debate about it. Scholars wonder if he was the author, or if it was written by a handful of authors writing with his authority.
- Genesis is a history book with a theological purpose and message, which means there were different driving motivations shaping it compared to a traditional history book. The stories chosen served that bigger purpose and message.

[Show Slide 3]

⁴ This is the account of the creation of the heavens and the earth. When the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵ neither wild plants nor grains were growing on the earth. For the Lord God had not yet sent rain to water the earth, and there were no people to cultivate the soil. ⁶ Instead, springs came up from the ground and watered all the land. ⁷ Then the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the

breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person.
(Genesis 2:4-7 – NLT)

I want to highlight something, and I'll warn you now, this is one of those things in the Bible that has a lot of debate around it. Have you ever noticed that the order of creation is different in Genesis 2 than it is in Genesis 1? Let me give you the highlights:

[Show Slide 4]

Creation in Genesis 1:

- Day 3, plant life
- Day 5, birds
- Day 6, animals, followed by man and woman

Creation in Genesis 2:

- Adam is created
- Plants and trees
- Animals and birds
- Adam names them
- Eve is created

Does anyone else find that alarming? At first glance, this seems like a huge contradiction. Some critics have suggested that there were two different creation stories, and that the author just threw them both in even though they clearly contradict each other. Others have suggested that Genesis 1 is a poem that gives the big picture, while Genesis 2 goes into more detail about Adam and Eve in particular.

I'm going to suggest that these verses are not so much about physical creation as they are about [\[Show Slide 5\]](#) **the nature of humanity.**

This highlights the danger of not digging deeper when reading Scripture. Shakespeare is hard to understand, and it was only a handful of centuries ago in our language. Genesis was written 3500 hundred years ago in a different language, on the other side of the planet, in a wildly different culture. Priorities, values, traditions, sayings; all of these were different than they are today. Dr. John Walton is an expert in ancient cultures and languages from this time period, and he has proposed an explanation that has really taken the biblical study world by storm over the last couple decades.

You see, ancient cultures did not have the same questions about origins as we do today. We live in a science-focused culture that demands technical explanations. 3500 years ago, the focus was on function. Something had

value if it had function. A closer look at Genesis 1 shows that in every case, God assigned function. What is the function of the light? It defines daytime. The function of animals? Fill the Earth. The function of people? To govern the Earth. The seven-day process lined up with ancient understandings of how God would approach mankind.

Genesis 2 is a different style of writing; one the ancients would have understood because of their culture. It lays out an order that the ancients would have immediately recognized as God creating a temple space, a sacred space, one where He would interact with mankind.

Walton explains that Genesis 1 and 2 are not describing the same event; they are describing two separate events; one following the other. First is God giving function to all aspects of creation, then in Genesis 2, He is setting up a sacred place, Eden, where He would interact with mankind.

[Show Slide 6]

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground." ²⁷ So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:26-27 – NLT)

When we read this passage with that understanding it changes some of our assumptions. Traditionally, Genesis 1:26-27 has been viewed as talking about the creation of one man and woman and then in chapter two totally changing up the order of that creation. But perhaps a more accurate understanding would view Genesis 1 as the creation of humanity – more than just two people. And then out of that humanity Adam is called in chapter two to serve in the temple space.

[Show Slide 7]

¹⁵ The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. ¹⁶ But the Lord God warned him, "You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden— ¹⁷ except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die." ¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him." (Genesis 2:15-18 – NLT)



ADAM & EVE

Discussion Questions:

- Why is there such passion and debate over these early chapters of Genesis? Why is that helpful or damaging?
- Have you ever wondered about the differing order of creation recorded in Genesis one and two? How would you explain what was shared about that today to someone else? How do you feel about that approach?
- What does it mean to be in the “image of God”? What does that tell us about God’s plan for humanity?
- What parts of the creation story stand out to you the most? Which parts encourage you? Which parts confuse you?
- Why would God allow Adam and Eve to be tempted? Does that make sin God’s fault? Why or why not?
- Why does all of humanity have a sin nature because of the decision of two people thousands of years ago?
- How would you define the “nature of humanity”?
- How would you define the “nature of sin”?
- Why is it hard to obey God? What are some ways that you can improve your ability to obey God? What can we learn from Adam and Eve about obedience?



ADAM & EVE

Discussion Questions:

- Why is there such passion and debate over these early chapters of Genesis? Why is that helpful or damaging?
- Have you ever wondered about the differing order of creation recorded in Genesis one and two? How would you explain what was shared about that today to someone else? How do you feel about that approach?
- What does it mean to be in the “image of God”? What does that tell us about God’s plan for humanity?
- What parts of the creation story stand out to you the most? Which parts encourage you? Which parts confuse you?
- Why would God allow Adam and Eve to be tempted? Does that make sin God’s fault? Why or why not?
- Why does all of humanity have a sin nature because of the decision of two people thousands of years ago?
- How would you define the “nature of humanity”?
- How would you define the “nature of sin”?
- Why is it hard to obey God? What are some ways that you can improve your ability to obey God? What can we learn from Adam and Eve about obedience?

This preview includes a select number of pages from this resource.

If you like what you see, download the entire resource today!

downloadyouthministry.com