

# Adam and Eve

By David Phillips

## Introduction

1. From beginning to end, God's word is filled with records of the lives of His people for us to learn from.
2. Through the lives of His servants we are able to see the kind of servants we need to be.
3. Through the revelation that took place during their life times we are also able to learn many spiritual truths necessary to the Christian faith.
4. The first of these accounts is that of Adam and Eve in the Beginning.

## Discussion

### I. Who Were Adam and Eve?

- A. Read Genesis 1:26-31; 2:7, 15, 18, 21-25.
- B. They were the first man and woman.
  1. As the first man and woman, they set the pattern for many aspects of the relationships between men and women today.
  2. They show us how we had our beginning and give us an idea of why we are here on this earth.
  3. We are also able to learn from their mistakes and learn how to avoid them.
- C. They were the first ones to sin.
  1. For this reason we are able to learn about the consequences of sin and a little bit about how sin works.
  2. This truth is brought about in several passages, which we will discuss later on.

### II. Lessons Learned From Their Lives

- A. Man's duty on earth (Eccl. 12:13).
  1. It would seem that man was arbitrarily placed in the middle of the garden with nothing to do.
  2. However, we should make these observations:
    - a. Even though Adam and Eve were in what many called "paradise," they were still expected to work while in the garden.
    - b. "*The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed...Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it*" (Gen. 2:8-15).
    - c. Also, man had a charge to "*Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth*" (Gen. 1:28).
    - d. Paradise was not a place to simply sit around and do nothing, there was work to do.

- e. We can also see that God does not agree with the wildlife activists which protest every time a tree is cut down.
  - f. God created the earth to be used by mankind according to righteousness. Man fulfills his charge when he subdues God's creation and exercises dominion over it.
3. Most of all, we must see man's need to obey God.
- a. While in the garden, Adam and Eve were given a command, "*And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die"* (Gen. 2:16-17).
  - b. They were expected to fulfill their command and to obey God, but they sinned. They transgressed God's law in disobedience.
  - c. However, this did not remove their obligation to serve God the rest of their lives.
  - d. Because they were God's creation, they were still meant to fear God and keep His commandments. The rest of the creation does this, but mankind has had a bid of trouble.
  - e. Nevertheless, we should see in their example the continual need to fulfill the expectation "*Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all*" (Eccl. 12:13), lest we die in our sins.

B. Man's freedom on earth.

- 1. God gave man freedom upon the earth.
- 2. One such freedom is the freedom of choice.
  - a. As we observed, God gave Adam and Eve a command.
  - b. The fact that they were given a choice as to whether or not they were going to obey that command shows that they were given freedom of choice.
  - c. The problem was that they chose to do evil.
  - d. The question we must ask ourselves is, are we going to do evil in choosing to disobey God as they did, or are we going to turn and choose to do good as Christ did.
  - e. Of Christ it is written, "*Therefore, as through one man's offense (Adam's) judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act (Christ's) the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life*" (Rom. 5:18).
- 3. At the same time, mankind was given the freedom to use the earth to their benefit.
- 4. We are able to take God's creation and subdue it and make it do as we please, being careful to do all things according to the will of God.
- 5. When we fulfill this principle in righteousness, we are told in Eccl. 5:18, "*Here is what I have seen: It is good and fitting for one to eat and drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor in which he toils under the sun all the days of his life which God gives him; for it is his heritage.*" In verse 19 we learn that this is the gift of God.

C. Principles of marriage.

- 1. We learn the need for man and woman to separate from their parents so that they may be joined together, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh" (Gen. 2:24).

D. The nature of temptation.

1. In Gen. 3:6 Eve fell pray to the three forms of lust.
2. John describes these in 1 John 2:16.

E. Consequences of sin.

1. God warned man at the very first the terrible consequences of disobeying His commands in Gen. 2:17.
2. Adam and Eve chose to disobey God's commands, so in the day they sinned, they began to die.
3. They also died spiritually, as it says in Isaiah 59:2.
4. We need to take special note of this, for when we sin in the same manner as Adam and Eve, we become subject to the same spiritual death.
  - a. As it is written in Rom. 5:12.
  - b. Lest any man think this does not apply to him, consider Rom. 3:23.
5. Let us understand these things that we may flee sin and pursue righteousness. For this reason we were created that we may faithful serve our God and Creator.

**Conclusion**

1. Read Rom. 5:17-19
2. There are many lessons we can learn from their lives.
3. Let us learn to avoid sin.

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