

# BEEN THERE, DONE THAT

## Learning from Those Who Walked Before Us

### WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM EVE?

Gen. 1 – 3

INTRODUCTION: Great to see you! Wonderful beginning to our new Wed. night discipleship time.

YOUTH, CHILDREN, PRESCHOOL! Enjoyable and spiritually profitable times.

Those of you with children and grandchildren, we better use every opportunity we are afforded to train up our children in the way they should go. The opportunities we will have without hiding in a cave with no cell phone or internet are going to be fading fast. We better do what we can while we can.

ADULTS, we had a really uplifting time as well. We began with 15 minutes of worship, followed by another 15 minutes of prayer. Then I am teaching for a half hour on answering the tough questions about Christianity.

Folks, we all wrestle with these questions from time to time, and we have family members and friends who struggle often with them.

There are answers! Good answers! We just need to be made aware of them and become able to share them with others. I am confident that if you will come and invest your Wed. night with us, you will be blessed and be glad you did, not because I am the teacher, but because of the urgency of the subject matter and the source of the truth we are learning.

Come eat as early as 4:45.

Or just come at 6 pm for our discipleship time together. Wednesday night I will lead us to study what I believe is the bedrock question. **DOES GOD EXIST? HOW CAN I KNOW?** And while you may not be struggling with that question personally right now, you probably know someone who is.

**SUNDAY MORNINGS AND WEDNESDAY NIGHTS SHOULD BECOME SOME OF THE MOST PROTECTED TIMES ON YOUR FAMILY SCHEDULE.**

NOW, having been taught by the Holy Spirit through Paul, that the things that happened in the lives of people who lived long ago but whose lives are described in Scripture that

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1 Corinthians 10:11 NKJV Now all these things happened to them as **examples**, and they were written **for our admonition**, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

We have set out to learn from them.

We are not only learning the facts of their lives and choices,

We are learning God's perspective on what they did and did not do.

And we are receiving His specific warnings and instructions on how we should live our lives in these times.

Last week we looked at Adam.

This week, we look at the life of Eve.

Let us read the first passage of Scripture telling about the beginning of Eve's life.

Genesis 2:15–24 NKJV 15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 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."

18 And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." 19 Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.

21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

23 And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

## WHAT ARE THE SIGNIFICANT THINGS GOD TELLS US ABOUT EVE?

- **She was the first woman.**
  - Created in the same way as Adam.
    - In the image of God
    - After the likeness of God

- By the hand of God
- **All that we said about the creation of the first man is also true about the creation of the first woman.**
  - **She was made to be a part of God's forever family.**
  - **This was God's desire and purpose for her as it was for the man.**
- **One thing was different!**
  - **Eve was made "comparable" to Adam, not "identical."**

Genesis 2:18 NKJV And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper **comparable** to him."

- **Eve was fashioned in such a way as to complete Adam.**
- This was not an afterthought. It was God's plan from the beginning.
- They were like complementary angles. When you put them together, they make a right angle.
- When God made both Adam and Eve and united them in marriage to be one flesh, they were perfect for God's purpose as stewards of the earth.

Genesis 1:27 NKJV So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; **male and female He created them.**

- Neither Adam nor Eve needed a clone. Each needed the other.
- They needed each other to fill the earth by being fruitful and multiplying.
- Woman was needed because man by himself was incomplete for God's purposes. Woman was the completer, the helper comparable to him (2:20).
- God fashioned woman to fulfill these purposes.
  - She was perfect to resolve Adam's loneliness. God's intent was that as husband and wife, they should be one flesh. (2:24) This refers not only to physical union but also to spiritual and soul union as well. After people have been married many years, they often begin to think alike.
  - She was made to bear and nurture children.
  - She was made to be a partner to man. She was made from the side of Adam, in every way comparable to him. Her different personality, instincts, traits, thinking, feelings - everything about her would be a

complement rather than a duplicate, to make the union of the two more complete than either of them could be alone. Married couples, celebrate your differences! (ex. Fork and spoon)

- **She was the first wife.**

- 1 Cor. 11 tells us that the submission of the wife began before Eve sinned.
- Eve was made as a “helper,” which implies the leadership role of Adam.
- This does not mean she was of lesser value, intelligence, or ability.
- It is simply a demonstration of a principle we see repeated in the Scriptures many times. When God assigns a task, He always puts someone in charge, giving them both the authority and responsibility.
- In marriage, God put the man in charge. This means that the man has the first line responsibility for the well-being of the marriage and the home.
- Men, when something is wrong in our marriage or in our home, it is not right for us to leave this to our wives to try to resolve the issues. This is first and foremost our responsibility to take the lead in addressing problems of the family.

- **Eve was the first person to experience temptation.**

Genesis 3:1–6 NKJV 1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made.

And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?”

2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ”

4 Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate.

She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

- The serpent of Gen. 3 is identified in Rev. 12:9 and 20:2 as the devil and Satan.

- Satan's temptation in the garden is the same as he offers today.
  - The devil questions the Word of God. "Has God said..." (3:1)
  - The devil contradicts the Word of God. "You will not die..." (3:4)
  - The devil lies. "You will be like God..." (3:5) (Jn. 8:44)
- **Eve was the first person to sin.**
  - Satan's temptation was not the only force at work.
  - James 1:14 says that we are drawn away by our own desires and enticed. 1 John 2:16 lists three ways we are often enticed to sin that parallel Eve's experience recorded in 3:6:
    - lust of the flesh (good for food)
    - lust of the eyes (pleasant to the eyes)
    - pride of life (desirable to make one wise)
- **Eve and her husband Adam were the first people to receive both the penalty for sin and the promise of sin's remedy.**
  - **The penalty**
    - An increase of pain and sorrow in child bearing.
    - The law of universal decay.
    - Death – Some say, "But they didn't die, not for hundreds of years!"
      - When Adam and Eve sinned, death began.**
        - **They died immediately in their spirit.**
        - **They began to die progressively in their soul.**
        - **They died ultimately in their body.**
  - **The remedy (This is the first prophecy of the Redeemer.) Gen. 3:15**
    - She is promised a Seed.
      - This is the only place in Scripture where the woman has the seed. In every other passage, the seed comes from man.
      - This is a prophecy of the virgin birth.

- This Seed is Christ.
  - The seed of the serpent (Satan)
    - In general, those who follow him.
  - The promise
    - Although Satan will bruise the heel of Christ (on the cross),
    - Christ will crush the head of Satan.
- **Eve was the first mother – The name Eve means “life” or “living.”**
  - Although the curse brought increased pain to child bearing, Jesus noted that through that pain, a woman also can come to a place of her greatest earthly joy. (Jn. 16:21)
  - Eve reminds us of the truth that human life is especially sacred to God, both male and female being created in His image.
  - Folks, I just remind you that there are only three cases in which God permits people to take the life of another human being.
    - In the case of just war.
    - In the case of judicial decree for a crime punishable by death.
    - In the case of self-defense.
    - Everything else is the equivalent of murder.

## **WHAT IS THE INSIGHT AS TO GOD’S PERSPECTIVE ON EVE’S LIFE AND HIS INSTRUCTION TO US?**

- **All human life is of the greatest value, regardless of age, race, or economic or social status.**
  - This value of human life flows only from an understanding that God created us in His Own Image.
  - Charles Darwin, and now his followers, rejected this truth.
    - Do you remember the title of his famous work?
    - The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection
    - Have you ever even heard the sub-title or alternate title of this book?

- The Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life
- In this book which is so esteemed as advancing the understanding of man out of his primitive heritage, **Darwin said, “According to the laws of natural selection, the European race will emerge as the distinct species homo sapiens, and all the transitional forms the gorilla, the chimpanzee, the Negro, and the Australian Aborigine will be extinguished in the struggle.”**
- The God-dishonoring agenda of Charles Darwin was aided by other rebels against God and His word.
  - The philosopher Nietzsche said people are just animals.
  - The famed psychologist, B.F. Skinner, likened humans to machines just making automated responses to stimuli.
- But folks, listen! God says, NO! I created man and woman in My Own Image and charged them to fill the earth with My Image Bearers, who though they shall sin against Me, I will provide a way that their sin can be forgiven and they can live with Me as a part of My family forever!
- And that is what God did through Jesus in His sacrificial death upon the cross for our sins.
- And do you know, that **in God’s personal creation of Adam and Eve, He encased the potential inside of them for every race and characteristic of ethnicity we see in our world today?**
  - We do not know what racial or ethnic characteristics Adam and Eve manifested when they awoke from God’s making them with His own hand.
  - Adam may have looked Asian.
  - Eve may have been black.
  - They had the genetic potential for all races and ethnicities inside their bodies. But which was expressed physically, externally, we do not know.
- My friend, it is here, **in the very first chapters of God’s Word to us that we have the foundation of**
  - **all human rights, value and dignity.**
  - **racial and ethnic value and equality.**
  - **the equality, dignity and value of both male and female as well.**

- But in these chapters we also have **the complementary view of male/female relationships and distinction of certain roles**. And if we abandon those distinctions in the way we have been made by our Creator, we will do so to our own demise just as people did in following Darwin and company.
- Such is the work of the evil one among us today!
- **We are warned not to be deceived by the devil's craftiness.**

2 Corinthians 11:3 NKJV But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.