

ADAM & EVE

Formation | Temptation | The Curse | Expulsion

Pleasing to the Eye

When it comes to temptations, things that are “pleasing to the eye” are some of the most powerful. One can consider that this means something we desire rather than simply just “pretty”. Expand this phrase to cover all things that we would like to have, not for their pragmatic necessity, but their desirability.

Good for Food

Once again, like “pleasing to the eye,” “good for food” can mean a broader concept of things that we need for daily life. There are food items that are not “good” for food, and there are those things that we need to live which can become sources of contention.

Know Good & Evil

Separating good from evil is perhaps the only thing that separates us from the animal kingdom. It also separates the “fruit of the tree” from all others. In knowing good from evil we are given the capacity to choose between the two.



The Happy Couple

There are different words that refer to Adam, Eve, Man, Wife, Woman. Each are important to the story as they appear within it. Let's take a look at how the writers organized their thoughts on humans in the story of Adam and Eve:

Read Genesis 2:4b-25

Throughout the text the word man is “*adam*.” In Hebrew. *Adam* connotes “red”, “ruddy”, “rosy” and from it we get, “*adamah*” which is “soil” or “earth”. That is until verse 23 when Woman and Man are used in tandem and man becomes, “ish” and woman, “ishah”. There seems to be a transformation as a result of the partnership created by God. Let's explore that partnership.

According to this account of Creation, the animals of earth were all created for what purpose? Look at the process of what took place. When no suitable partner, which literally means “opposite,” was found, how did God solve the issue?



The Backdrop to the Story

Much has been said about and even a few searches made for the lost Garden of Eden. Here are a few notes to consider as backstory for the narrative of Adam and Eve.

- The garden is a utopian paradise.
- The garden is given a location set within the known world.
- The garden is placed after Creation has taken place, even the creation of Adam.
- The garden contains everything "necessary" to survive.

Perhaps the utopian world in which Adam is placed, to commune with God and live forever isn't what gives us the "best" life. *How does Eden fall short in God and Adam's eyes?*

Temptation Garden

The union of Woman and Man is set. Flesh of flesh and bone of bone and still there seems to be a hole in their lives. The serpent comes to the Man and Woman (which they are still referred to as in the text) and tempts them. Let's look at the text:

Read Genesis 3:1-13

The serpent asks the woman what God had said about the garden. Look back in Genesis 2 to the command that God gave regarding the tree of knowledge. *What did God say that is different? Who was there to hear the command?*

What promise does the serpent make?

Humanity has ever been trying to answer the mysteries of life. *What mysteries are solved in the story? Make a list of the answers to life's questions found in Genesis 2&3 so far.*

Who hears the serpent's interrogation? To whom does the serpent speak? Who eats the forbidden fruit?

God discovers the tragic decision they have made in the Garden when Adam hides from God. *Why did Adam hide? What emotion or feeling caused him to hide? How can we see this situation in our daily lives? What do you think this says about what it means to "come of age?"*

Next week: The Curses and the Expulsion!