

The Problem with Adam & Eve

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All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible (King James Version). The author has inserted italics and bolding used in quotations from Scripture.

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The Name Adam

Genesis 1:26 *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*

Genesis 1:27 *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

Genesis 1:28 *And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*

The first thing we need to understand when we read the Bible in English is that we are viewing a translation. It is not verbatim what the original text says.

Translation is the communication of the meaning of a source-language text by means of an equivalent target-language text. A translator always risks inadvertently introducing source-language words, grammar, or syntax into the target-language rendering.

In other words, a translation is an interpretation of the original text. That being the case, sometimes it misses the true meaning of the original writers.

The Bible was written in Hebrew (Old Testament), Aramaic (Old Testament) and Greek (New Testament). So, do we need to become fluent in these languages to

understand the Bible? Fortunately, we do not. Bible translations do most of the work for us. In order to find out the meaning of a few words here and there, we can use a concordance or a lexicon/dictionary.

In Genesis 1:26, we read, “And God said, Let us make man ...” The word man in the concordance is transliterated as ādām.

Hebrew Strong's Number: 120

Hebrew Word: אָדָם

Transliteration: 'ādām

Phonetic Pronunciation: ʔaw-dawm'

Root: from <H119>

Cross Reference: TWOT - 25a

Part of Speech: n m

Vine's Words: Man

Usage Notes:

English Words used in KJV:

man 408

men 121

Adam 13

person(s) 8

common sort + <H7230> 1

hypocrite 1

[Total Count: 552]

from <H119> ('adam); ruddy, i.e. a *human being* (an individual or the species, *mankind*, etc.) :- × another, + hypocrite, + common sort, × low, man (mean, of low degree), person.

Figure 1. Strong’s Concordance

It appears as H120 in the concordance. The “H” stands for Hebrew and 120 is the number assigned to the term. Looking at figure 1, we see the word is translated as “man” 408 times, “men” 121 times and “Adam” only 13 times. The differences come because of how the translators have interpreted the original text to English. Therefore, when we see the term Adam, this was the translator’s decision to make it a proper name, not the original writers.

To complicate things even further, Strong's concordance also has another number H121, for the exact same Hebrew word.

Hebrew Strong's Number: 121
<p>Hebrew Word: אָדָם</p> <p>Transliteration: 'ādām</p> <p>Phonetic Pronunciation: aw-dawn'</p> <p>Root: the same as H120, Greek G76</p> <p>Cross Reference: TWOT - 25a</p> <p>Part of Speech: n pr m</p> <p>Vine's Words: None</p>
<p>Usage Notes:</p> <p>English Words used in KJV:</p> <p>Adam 9</p> <p>[Total Count: 9]</p> <p>the same as H120 ('adam); <i>Adam</i>, the name of the first man, also of a place in Palestine :- Adam.</p>

Figure 2. Strong's Concordance

It seems as though they were attempting to separate the proper name usage of ādām from the generic sense of the word. However, they already have 13 instances of the proper name in H120. What is the difference? In the nine instances of H121, the writers seem to be referring to an individual or a city. It is not as clear-cut in the other H120 references.

Therefore, all in total there are 22 times when the translators switch from the generic term for man to the proper name of Adam. Now we are ready to look at our text again.

Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let us make man <H120> [ādām] in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the

air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Genesis 1:27 So God created man <H120> [ādām] in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Genesis 1:28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

The first question we should ask is does the term man mean male? The answer is no. The term man is a generic and slightly archaic usage by today's standards. Looking at figure 1, we see the definition is human being, an individual or the species, mankind. In today's language, we would simply say humans.

In addition, in Genesis 1:27 the text states, God created man in His image ... male and female created He them. Therefore, if man only meant males why did He also create females? The text goes immediately from man (singular) to them (plural) in verses 26 through 28. This would be illogical if man only meant males.

However, look at how the text flows if we switch the translator's interpretation from man to humans.

Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let us make **humans** in our image, after our likeness: and let **them** have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Genesis 1:27 So God created **humans** in his own image, in the image of God created he **them**; male and female created he **them**.

Genesis 1:28 And God blessed **them**, and God said unto **them**, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, *and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*

Now the text flows seamlessly from humans to them and from humans to male and female. However, this took a lot of research on our part for something seemingly so simple. Some might argue that this is an implicit example at best. Others may even disregard this example as being only my interpretation. We have seen that it makes logical sense, but I have heard people say not everything in the Bible makes sense.

I have asserted that ādām represents both male and female in Genesis. In the first chapter of Genesis the writer is implicitly make this truth known. However, this truth is explicitly stated just a few chapters later.

Genesis 5:1 This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him;

Genesis 5:2 Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.

Did you see in Genesis 5:2 it states, God called their name Adam? Is this the same translation we looked at in Genesis chapter one? Yes, it most certainly is the same. In fact, most people are unaware that these words are in the Bible.

The Bible explicitly states God called both male and female Adam, in the day they were created, referring to Genesis 1:26-28. Therefore, this is not simply my interpretation. This is what the Bible proclaims.

Why is this not taught in Churches? Whenever, Adam and Eve are mentioned, it is as if Genesis 5:2 does not exist. It is either spiritual blindness or selective memory.

We should look at this closer to see which concordance numbers are being used.

Genesis 5:1 This is the book of the generations of Adam <H121>[ādām]. In the day that God created man <H120>[ādām], in the likeness of God made he him;

Genesis 5:2 Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam <H120>[ādām], in the day when they were created.

Verse one, starts with the H121 usage because it refers to the generations of Adam. As I stated earlier the concordance created a separate number (H121) when the text seems to be referring to an individual or city.

The next two instances of the passage both use the number H120. The first instance renders it as man in English and the second makes it the proper name Adam. This is solely at the translator's discretion.

Again, look at how the text flows if we switch the translator's interpretation from man and Adam to humans.

Genesis 5:1 This is the book of the generations of **humans**. In the day that God created **humanity**, in the likeness of God made he them;

Genesis 5:2 Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name **humans**, in the day when they were created.

Although verse one, starts with the generations of āḏām. It does not have to be translated into a proper name to make sense.

We should note Adam is never a proper name in the book of Genesis. The term āḏām is sometimes translated as man and other times Adam. This leads us to believe there is a distinction, but there is not. The translators of the Bible were attempting to clarify and make sense of the Hebrew text. In the first chapter of Genesis, the Hebrew “āḏām” was translated to man. In the garden story, chapters two and three, it becomes “Adam” a proper name, in contrast to the Woman. However, this is erroneous and leads us to wrong conclusions, as we will see later.

āḏām means male and female

The argument can be made that although the King James Version of the Bible is the most popular English translation. It is not the most accurate interpretation. So, let’s look at how some other versions have translated the text.

The New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the Bible is a popular choice for academic and theological circles. It is a revision of the Revised Standard Version (RSV) that is considered accurate and inclusive, and it is based on contemporary biblical manuscripts.

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition
Genesis 5:1 This is the list of the descendants of Adam.

When God created humans,^[a] he made them^[b] in the likeness of God.

Genesis 5:2 Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and called them humans^[c] when they were created.

Footnotes

- a) 5.1 Heb *adam*
- b) 5.1 Heb *him*
- c) 5.2 Heb *adam*

The English Standard Version (ESV) is also a popular choice among biblical scholars and theologians who lean toward theological conservatism.

English Standard Version

Genesis 5:1 This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God.

Genesis 5:2 Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man^[a] when they were created.

Footnotes

- a) Genesis 5:2 Hebrew *adam*

I have included text from the Jewish Publication Society (JPS) version of the TANAKH (Jewish Bible) since they should be a reliable source in translating the Hebrew to English.

JPS Tanakh

Bereshit (Genesis) 5:1 This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made He him;

Bereshit (Genesis) 5:2 male and female He created them, and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day they were created.

This is not an exhaustive list by any means, but it serves to show this is not a private interpretation. When we see the proper name Adam or man in the book of Genesis, it should be updated to humans.

Adam in the book Genesis is not a proper name

Even without knowing the Hebrew behind our English translation, the Bible clearly tells us Adam represents both male and female. It tells us both implicitly and explicitly. If we look at both verses together, it is undeniable what is meant, when we see the term Adam.

Implicit Statement

*Genesis 1:27 **So God created man [adam] in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.***

Explicit Statement

*Genesis 5:2 **Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.***

I will continue to repeat the truth of Adam being both male and female throughout this work, because it is a new concept to most.