

TUTORIAL
1.11

God created Adam and Eve

See Tutorial 1.6 notes for overall instructions.

The portions of Scripture referred to in this tutorial are: **Genesis 1:26-31, 2:1-7.**

Last time

Through the words of the writer of Genesis, God gives us His true account of His creation of the universe. He did it carefully and intentionally, and everything came about just as He wanted it to be... perfect in every way. Speaking into existence light, day & night, air and everything else needed to nurture life. The sun, moon & stars. The oceans and areas of dry land. Then plants and animals...life bursting out and able to reproduce itself.

“In our image...”

Now we come to the climax of the whole of this Creation account. Everything else was preparation, a backdrop, a dwelling without inhabitants...the plant and animal life each in their way containing life, but the true life of God would only be given to these, the final created beings. The rest of Creation was about fulfilling their physical needs and pointing them to God, so they'd see evidence of Himself all around them. But to appreciate and respond to that, and most importantly to Him, they'd have to be a certain kind of being...one that could know God and relate to Him.

In the part of the Narrative recorded in Genesis 1:26, God gives us an amazing and tantalising glimpse at the interaction of the Three-in-One God. As He, they, plan the creation of this special kind of being, a race, human beings it says, “in our image, to be like us”. Not the product of endless chains of blind chance, from the primeval sludge, through the primates and eventually something appearing “in the image of God”. From the outset these beings would be something quite different from the rest of life on the planet. Different in creativity, in intellect, a capacity for wisdom, ability to communicate beyond the physical, having aesthetic capacity (appreciating beauty), a moral dimension (knowing right from wrong), relational, and with a spiritual dimension. This – the spiritual – is the real point.

God created a race of beings who have the capacity to hear His communication, to understand what He is saying, who He is, to be influenced emotionally, “in the heart”, to have praise and worship well up spontaneously, and to want to do things that please Him, to decide in “the will” to align their actions with who He is. These beings would not be robotically programmed to obey. Clearly God wanted beings with real wills, who would resolve to love and obey Him.

With real responsibility

As well as being made *in His image*, God’s narrative (Genesis 1:26) also makes another hugely significant point here. As the Writer and Teller of the Story, He would give these beings – humans – a genuine role, with real responsibility. The enormous potential – creatively, aesthetically, relationally etc. – would be given scope to flourish in the context of managing, caretaking, His Creation. And, most importantly, it would provide scope and opportunity for these humans to do everything in relationship...we could say “in community” with God. A perfect context in which to look to Him for guidance and encouragement. To use the capabilities He’d given them, but under His tutelage, His gracious leadership. Looking to Him as Father.

The first man and woman

A synopsis of the creation of the first man and woman is given (Genesis 1:27-30) then a bit later (Chapter 2), in more detail. First of all, the man – Genesis 2:7. The familiar description, forming him from the earth itself. From the most basic ingredient – dirt, soil – God creates the race that would be His image bearers. God is always interested in the substance, the essence, of life. The form, moulded from the earth, was just an empty shell. Incapable of doing anything or fulfilling any purpose... Until God – the Giver and sustainer of Life - breathes His own life into it, and it becomes a *him*, a person. A living, breathing, communicating, responding being with intellect, emotions, a will and moral responsibility. And this person, this man, (who we know as Adam, from the Hebrew for “man”) was the ancestor, the progenitor, of the entire human race.

God only created this one man, and one woman (whose creation we’ll hear about). Part of their responsibility of caretaking the earth as God’s representatives, His caretakers, was to reproduce so that the world would be populated by people. They were to found a race, the human race. In them, humanity existed in seed form, as it were. In those two lives, all the enormous God-given scope and potentiality was encapsulated. Created, God says in 1:31, perfect. Exactly as He intended. Fashioned just as He wanted for them to play their appointed role in His Story.

Remember who was there witnessing all of this? The enormous number of spirit servants – angels – that God had made. Watching and wondering at the Creation of God.

Eager, no doubt, to see how the rest of His Story would unfold. Keenly observing the beginnings of this new race of beings – fashioned in the image of God Himself.



DISCUSSION POINTS

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1. How does it impact you to think about the Bible's description of God carefully and systematically preparing a home for humans, and then placing them there - the best possible place for them?
2. Consider the implications of humans being created by God in his image (with all that entails) as opposed to some other starting point; evolutionary, non-personal, unknowable.
3. Take a moment to consider the significance of every person who has ever lived being the descendants of one man and one woman.
4. What are the implications of God giving a very real and enormous responsibility to human beings of caretaking the earth He created? What does this say to you about the kind of relationship God intended (and intends) to have with us, his image bearers?



ACTIVITIES

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1. In about half a page write, in your own words, how the angels might describe what they saw and felt as observers of God's Creation, including the creation of man.