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What You Need to Know About The Life of Adam

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE LIFE OF ADAM

It is ironic indeed that while the most uninformed religious person has no doubt heard of Adam, history's first human, few however know little or nothing regarding just who he was and what he did. Here, then, is a brief overview concerning the granddaddy of us all!

PART ONE: SUMMARY OF ADAM

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

Inside the Garden of Eden

A. His divinity

1. He was created directly by God (Gen. 1:27)
2. He was made in God's image (Gen. 1:26-27)
3. He was formed from the dust of the ground (Gen. 2:7)

B. His duties

1. He was placed in Eden by God (Gen. 2:8-14)
2. He was commanded to work and take care of Eden (Gen. 2:15)
 3. He was given dominion over all creatures (Gen. 1:26, 28)
 4. He was commanded to increase in number (Gen. 1:28)
 5. He named all the animals (Gen. 2:19-20)
 6. He was the source for Eve's creation (Gen. 2:21)
 7. He was allowed to eat of any tree in the Garden except one (Gen. 1:29; 2:16-17)
 8. He was forbidden to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2:17)

C. His disobedience—He disobeyed God and ate of the forbidden tree (Gen. 3:6)

D. His despair

1. Adam realized his spiritual nakedness and tried to hide it from God by sewing fig leaves together (Gen. 3:7)
2. He was judged by God (Gen. 3:17-19)
 - a. A curse was placed upon the ground
 - b. By sweat and sorrow he would till the ground
 - c. At the end, he would return to the ground

E. His deliverance

1. He was promised a future Savior (Gen. 3:15)

2. He was forgiven and clothed with animal skins by God Himself (Gen. 3:21)
3. He named his wife Eve, meaning “mother of all living”
 - F. His departure—Adam was driven from Eden, lest he eat of the tree of life and life forever in his sin (Gen. 3:22-23)

II. Outside the Garden of Eden

- A. He fathered another son, Seth, in addition to several unnamed sons and daughters (Gen. 4:25; 5:4)
- B. He was 130 at the birth of Seth (Gen. 5:3)
- C. He died at the age of 930 (Gen. 5:5)

THEOLOGICAL SUMMARY

- I. Job assured God he was not attempting to hide his sin as Adam once had (Job 31:33)
- II. Luke traced the genealogy of Christ back to Adam
- III. Paul contrasted the person and work of Adam with the person and work of Christ (Rom. 5:12-21; 1 Cor. 15:20-23, 45-50)
 - A. Adam came from the dust of the earth and possessed a natural, corruptible body
 - B. Christ came from above and possessed a supernatural, incorruptible body
 - C. Adam introduced sin and death into the world because he disobeyed God. This he passed on to all who believe in Him.
 - D. Christ introduced righteousness and life into the world because he obeyed God. This he passed on to all who believe in Him.
 - E. To remain in Adam is to die
 - F. To be joined to Christ is to live
- IV. Paul used Adam to explain why he placed the man to be head of the woman (1 Tim. 2:12-14)
 - A. The chronological reason—Adam was created before Eve
 - B. The theological reason—Adam was not deceived when he sinned, as was Eve.

PART TWO: STORY BY ADAM

(What he might have thought after being expelled from Eden)

Look at them, standing there so tall and majestic, with outstretched wings and flaming swords! Glorious creatures! But I dare not approach any closer; their assignment is to keep Eve and me out of the Garden. Would we have become friends in Eden if that serpent scandal had not occurred? I'll probably never know. (3:1-24).

It doesn't seem possible that more than nine centuries have come and gone! I love to tell my descendants that Eve and I had our first child at about the same time we celebrated our first birthdays and our first wedding anniversary—that always causes some gasps of amazement!

How often I have wondered what life would be like today if we had simply obeyed God. Abel would still be alive. Cain wouldn't be out there somewhere, running from God. And life would have been so much easier for all of us. I think of all my efforts over the years to grow a garden as nice as Eden. God was certainly right when He warned about how hard it was going to be (3:1-24; 4:16).

It is sobering to think that, while Eve and I once lived in innocence inside that beautiful Paradise, we shall soon die as sinners here on the outside. He told us we were made in his image, but look at us now! (1:26-31; 2:8-14; 3:1-24)

And yet there's still hope. Seth and his children seem to be doing well. He has certainly been a good influence on our other children. (4:25-26; 5:4)

And I know that the same gracious God who forgave and clothed us with animal skins in Eden will clothe us in the righteousness of the offspring of that future woman he talked about. And someday he'll welcome us into his eternal Eden. What more could a 930-year-old redeemed sinner ask! (3:21; Rev. 21:9-22:5)

PART THREE: SPIRITUAL LESSONS FROM ADAM

1. We should never forget that, however much we are affected by sin, we are created in God's image. (Gen. 1:26-27)
2. God gave us the ability to choose between good and evil; each choice we make is important. (Gen. 3:6, 11-12, 16-19)
3. It is impossible to hide from God. (Gen. 3:8)
4. Sin always brings guilt (3:7), fear (3:10), and pain (3:16-19)
5. Our sin can affect many lives; it could even affect the whole world (Rom. 5:12).

PART FOUR: STATISTICS ON ADAM

Father: God (Gen. 1:27; 2:7)

Mother: (Gen. 1:27; 2:7)

Spouse: Eve (Gen. 2:21)

Sons: Cain, Abel, Seth, and unnamed sons (Gen. 4:1-2, 25; 5:4)

Daughters: Several unnamed daughters (Gen. 5:4)

First mention: Gen. 2:19

Final mention: Jude 14

Meaning of his name: "Of the ground, dust"

Frequency of his name: Referred to 30 times

Biblical books mentioning him: Nine books

(Genesis, Deuteronomy, 1 Chronicles, Job, Luke, Romans, 1 Corinthians, 1 Timothy, Jude)

Occupation: Tiller of the ground (Gen. 3:17-29, 23)

Place of birth: Inside the Garden of Eden (See Gen. 2:7-8)

Place of death: Outside Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:23-24)

Age at death: 930 (Gen. 5:5)

Important fact about his life: He was the world's first human being (Gen. 1:27; 2:7)