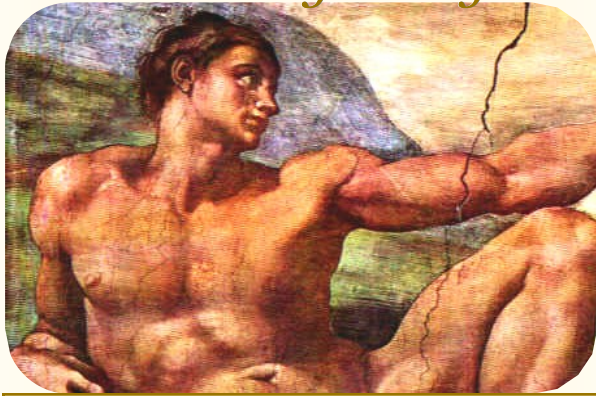


Adam

“In the Beginning”



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

We are told that after God had made the earth God knew that it needed human form, and so God created Adam and then Eve to be His helpmate. We believe we are made in the likeness of God, just as Adam was and that we are all part of God's creation.

Why did God need Adam? Only Adam and Eve were promised a “rose garden”, and they lost it. We know that Adam was told to till the earth. But, he abused it just as we probably would have done! We'll get to Eve's part in a later devotion-al! Why does God need us? What is our purpose on earth? If we believe the Bible to be the word of God, then we realize that we are here to tell others about God and to live a life that is full and worthy of His love.

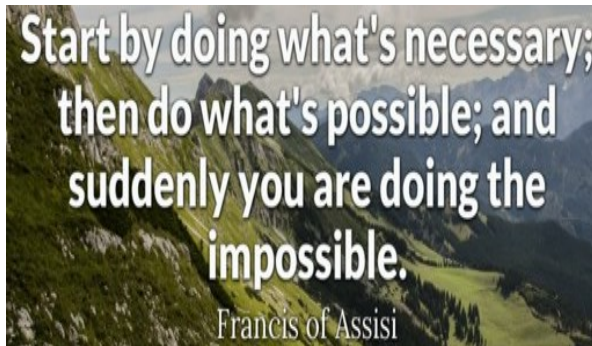
When we stop to examine Adam, we realize that he had no parents except God. He was actually a zoologist, a landscaper,

a horticulturist, and the list goes on. But along with this, he had everything he could have ever wanted.

God gave Adam and Eve a second chance, and gives it to us every day. God knows we have a sinful nature because He gave us free will to do as we please. We often think we can handle it better than God, or at least make it happen faster! God doesn't want us to obey Him from obligation. He wants us to love Him as He loves us.

Just as a first child changes the lives of the parents, the creation of Adam and man changed the pattern of life for God. Why do we want children? We believe they are a blessing, and I believe that God thinks we are a blessing today, every bit as much as when Adam and Eve were created.

God must be upset with us at times just as we get upset with our own children and other people in general, but God is always there. God never leaves us if we accept him into our lives. We know that we are told that God laughed at some people and cried for others. God does the same for us today, just as for the people mentioned in the Bible. We are given unconditional love. I believe that God laughs at us on occasion, but he



also weeps for us. There is no better gift than His love.

In an unusual turn for these devotions, I would like to enter some levity from Mark Twain in his Diary of Adam and Eve.

“MONDAY.--This new creature with the long hair is a good deal in the way. It is always hanging around and following me about. I don't like this; I am not used to company.”

“TUESDAY.--Been examining the great waterfall. It is the finest thing on the estate, I think. The new creature calls it Niagara Falls-- why, I am sure I do not know. Says it LOOKS like Niagara Falls. That is not a reason, it is mere waywardness and imbecility. I get no chance to name anything myself. The new creature names everything that comes along, before I can get in a protest. And always that same pretext is offered--it LOOKS like the thing.”

“WEDNESDAY.--Built me a shelter against the rain, but could not have it to myself in peace. The new creature intruded. When I tried to put it out it shed water out of the holes it looks with, and wiped it away with the back of its paws, and made a noise such as some of the other animals make when they are in distress. I wish it would not talk; it is always talking.”

“NEXT MONDAY.--The new creature says its name is Eve. That is all right. I have no objections. Says it is to call it by, when I want it to come. I said it was superfluous, then. The word evidently raised me in its respect; and indeed it is a large, good work and will

bear repetition. It says it is not an It, it is a She. This is probably doubtful; yet it is all one to me; what she is were nothing to me if she would but go by herself and not talk."

According to Twain, ten years later Adam put this entry in his journal. His attitude had changed.

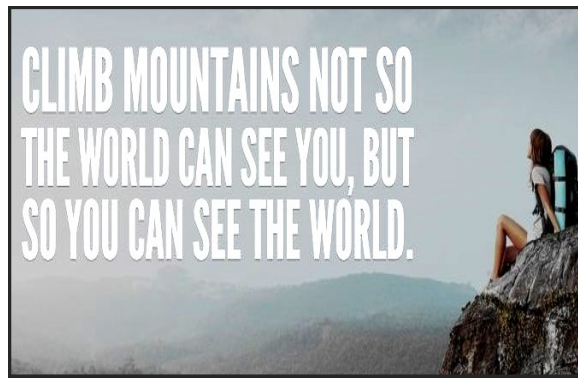
"After all these years, I see that I was mistaken about Eve in the beginning; it is better to live outside the Garden with her than inside it without her. At first I thought she talked too much; but now I should be sorry to have that voice fall silent and pass out of my life."

Sometimes we need to laugh to keep from crying. Christ told the crowd when he was preaching *"Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh."* Luke 6:21 KJV

I hope you enjoyed and understand why God told us to laugh, and enjoy life, and dance! I'm not saying that Mark Twain had the situation under control! Do we? Sometimes it is fun to laugh at ourselves .

On a more serious note, we can ask why Adam and Eve were created. They caused problems for God by their disobedience and He gave them the gift of creating more life like them who also gave problems to God, even down to you and me.

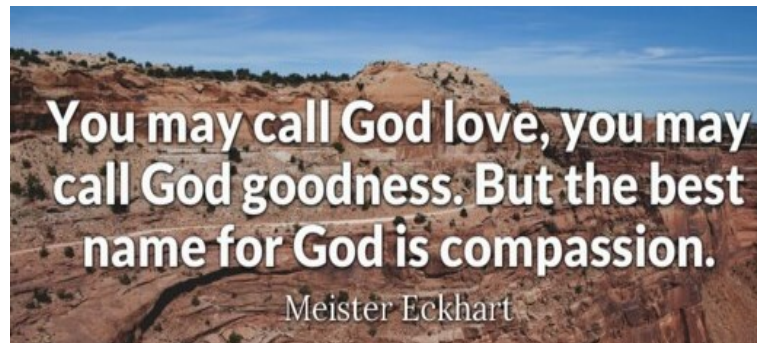
Eventually, God tried making covenants with us to try to help us. (I say us because we are still the same today as Adam and Eve.)



After several years! God decided to send His Son to help us and we still sin. It seems to be human nature. But beyond our human nature to sin is a wonderful Savior who loves us so much that he died on the cross to save us so that one day we can be with him. He gave Adam and Eve a beautiful garden and we have also been given a beautiful garden here on this earth. What more could we ask?

Forgiveness! That is the wonderful gift that we have been given.

Much has been written about Adam and his place in the various "religions of the world" but we don't know how he was created or why. We do know that we also sin and are extremely grateful for a God who loves us so much He came down to earth and died for our sins so that some day we will be with Him. We can't ask for much more.



Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank You for the creation and the order You have placed for us. We don't understand how You did it, or why, but we are thankful that You cared and also that You have given us free will to do as we want. And especially, dear Lord, we are thankful for Your love and forgiveness when we, just like Adam and Eve, sin. We know that You will forgive us if only we ask because You love us so much. Amen.

1. Do you ever wonder why God created us when God had control of heaven already and did not need the headaches we would give Him?
2. Do you ever look at a flower or a tree, or even a bug, and wonder how God knew to create all things to "work together for good."
3. Do you ever just look at the colors in the sky and see the beauty in one area that God has created and wonder "Why"?
4. How do we know that God loves us?
5. What do we have to do to receive His love?
6. What does it mean to be made in the "image of God"?

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