



## THE CREATION OF ADAM

Genesis 1:24–2:17

Many today diminish human dignity by viewing humanity as essentially the evolutionary result of a fortunate “accident.” The Bible presents a picture of human beings as divinely and uniquely created with the capacity to know, worship, and serve God with purpose.

A computer security engineer in Australia was in love with the girl of his dreams. Over the course of three years, he meticulously planned a proposal that would express his love in the most memorable and thoughtful way possible.

He created a scavenger hunt using clues from a smartphone app he designed himself. The hunt took his beloved on a journey through all their favorite places, each stop revealing a new clue. The final destination was a restaurant with a breathtaking view, where she was instructed to unstitch one of her favorite childhood teddy bears. Inside the bear, she found a message that read, “Will you marry me?” She said yes! And he had placed that message inside the teddy bear three years earlier! <sup>1</sup>

Now, if someone can go to such great lengths to express his love, how much more does our creator God, who loved us from eternity past, want to show us how valued and cherished we are?

Well, as we set sail again in the book of Genesis, we’re going to focus on the creation of the first man, whose name was Adam. Both Genesis 1 and 2 give us a detailed picture of how God went to great lengths to create and to cherish His creative handiwork.

Before we drop anchor here, I want to clear up a com-

mon criticism of the Bible. Many skeptics claim the accounts in these two chapters are contradictory. It is understandable to feel confused when comparing chapters 1 and 2, as they seem to deliver different accounts. But these chapters do not contradict one another; they complement each other with two different perspectives.

Chapter 1 gives a broad, structured overview of God’s creative work during six literal days. It emphasizes the order and timing of His creative power. It is like looking at creation through a wide-angle lens, showing the entire universe coming into being, one step at a time.

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Genesis 2 begins by telling us that God rested on the seventh day. That signifies the completion and perfection of His creative work and sets a divine pattern for



rest and reflection. It also establishes the principle of Sabbath rest, inviting humanity to pause, honor God, and find renewal in Him. We are also told in verses 4–6 that God watered the earth with a mist instead of with rain at that time. That will be significant later when we come to the flood.

But the bulk of chapter 2 is dedicated to zooming in on the creation of humanity, offering more details about Adam and Eve, the first man and woman. It shows us God’s purpose for them and their unique relationship with Him. Like the four Gospels in the New Testament, which taken together provide the fullest picture of Jesus’ life and earthly ministry, so Genesis 1 and 2 together paint the full picture of creation—the broad strokes of sweeping power as God creates the universe and then the careful brushstrokes as God creates Adam and Eve.

Verses 24 and 25 of Genesis 1 record God’s creation of land animals on the sixth day. This is followed in



The Egyptian god Khnum was believed to have fashioned the pharaoh on his potter’s wheel

verse 26 by this profound statement that same day: “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.’” This is a pivotal moment in the creation narrative. The language changes to let us know that mankind is unique in God’s creation.

The details are elaborated in Genesis 2:7, where we read this:

*Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.*

There are two key words in Genesis 1:26 that deserve closer inspection. And by the way, when you study the Word of God, you are actually studying the words of God, words He inspired through His servants. And words matter!

So God says in verse 26, “Let us make man in our image.” The Hebrew word for “image” refers to a shadow or representation. Imagine standing with your back to the sun and holding up an object, say a hammer, in your hand. The shadow on the ground is not the hammer, but it points to the presence of a hammer nearby.

God also says, “Let us make man . . . after our likeness.” “Likeness” further emphasizes this same idea. In the Hebrew language, it means resemblance. So, humanity was created to resemble God. How? Well, mankind is created with moral reason, self-awareness, and most of all, a spiritual capacity for worship—these all reflect God’s character.

This is important because it sets humanity apart from all other created beings. We are not just a higher form of animals. Animals were not made in God’s image or likeness. Humanity’s unique creation and status mean we have the capacity for a personal relationship with God.

Let me put it this way: God’s intention was for Adam and Eve—and you me—to live in such a way that when others observe our lives, they see a resemblance to our loving, caring Creator. Our lives are meant to reflect God’s presence to the world around us.



God did not create Adam and Eve just to exist; He gave them a purpose. Again, in verse 26, God establishes this order, saying, “Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth.” Adam and Eve were given the responsibility to rule over and care for God’s creation, serving essentially as the king and queen of Planet Earth. Their subjects were the animal kingdom, and Genesis 2:15 adds, “The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.”

His authority in Eden was a reflection of God’s sovereign rule over everything. Adam and Eve eventually sinned, ruining their royal dominion, but it is important to remember that God’s original intention was for them to live in a magnificent state of royal authority and harmony with all creation.

So, it is before sin entered the world that Adam was told here in verse 15 to “work” in the garden and “keep it.” The verb “work” means to labor or serve. It is the same Hebrew verb used to describe serving God in worship.

Beloved, this elevates your job today. No matter how meaningless and mundane it might feel, it is to be something sacred. Work was not a result of the fall; it was an original part of God’s perfect design for humanity. The word *vocation* means “calling.” Your vocation is God’s sacred calling for you. That should transform the way you view your job. Whether you are teaching, cleaning, repairing, or caring for others, you are fulfilling your sacred calling.

God also gave Adam and Eve a moral compass. They were created as free moral agents. They were not robots. They were given the freedom to obey or disobey God.

Genesis 2:8-9 describes two significant trees in the garden: the Tree of Life, symbolizing eternal life, and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. God’s command in verses 16-17 is clear:

*You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.*

Of course, God already knew what they would do. In fact, He had already mapped out the plan of redemption, and we will see that plan come to pass on our Wisdom Journey, through the sacrifice and death of God the Son.

Now let me spell out three lessons you can take away from Genesis 1 and 2.

First, work with excellence and integrity. Your job is your sacred calling from God.

Second, trust that God knows what is best for you. So, ask Him for wisdom in making wise and godly choices in life.

Third, remember you are loved and cherished by the God who created you. He has a purpose for your life, and He invites you to walk with Him every step of the way.

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Why is it important for you to live each day bearing God’s image in your community?

What are some of the obstacles you face as you try to “represent” God in your workplace?

How does believing God is the creator of the universe affect your attitude towards those workplace obstacles?

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<sup>1</sup> Andrew Ramadge, “Sydney Man Prepares Australia’s Most Romantic and Hi-tech Marriage Proposal,” NewsComAu, November 25, 2010.

Help someone start their own Wisdom Journey:  
[www.wisdomonline.org](http://www.wisdomonline.org)

