

ADAM & EVE

SIN SPOILS GOD'S CREATION

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). The Bible begins with God's creation narrative. He creates *ex nihilo*, out of nothing, and speaks the universe into existence. Day after day God speaks the world into existence and sees that it is good.

The apex of God's creation comes on the sixth day. God commences the sixth day with the creation of animals to live on the face of the earth. Then the triune God declares, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And 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 and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth" (Gen. 1:26). Mankind is given a unique identity and purpose within the created order. Man's identity is found in a reflection of the image of God and man's purpose is found in exercising dominion over creation.



God's creation of man did not follow the same pattern as the rest of creation, which God spoke into existence. Rather God formed and fashioned man from the dust of the earth and breathed into his nostrils to give man life (Gen. 2:7). God then placed this man, Adam, in the garden of Eden with responsibilities. Adam's responsibilities were to keep the garden and not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

As God observed Adam in creation, He saw that it was "not good" for Adam to be alone. This was the first time in the creation story that God observed a missing element in what He made. God decided to "make a helper fit for him" to complete the creation of mankind. Since there was nothing in the created order to fill the void in Adam's existence, God sent Adam into a deep sleep, took a rib from his side, and created woman. After waking up from this sleep, Adam said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man" (Gen. 2:23). This woman, Eve, was the completion of God's creation of humankind. Adam and Eve were commanded to hold fast to one another in the first marital union, and there was no shame between them. However, their lack of shame, guilt, and fear in the presence of God and one another would not last.



Satan, the Deceiver, used the serpent to spread lies into God's good creation. The serpent eroded Adam and Eve's trust in God almighty by questioning His Word, denying His truthfulness, and doubting His intentions. Adam and Eve proceed to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, breaking the one command that God had given. Through their disobedience, sin entered the world bringing death, guilt, shame, and fear. For the first time in creation there was separation between humanity and God.

Sin officially spoiled God's creation and God must pronounce the consequences. The harmony of the created order is now disrupted by enmity between the serpents and humans, power struggles between husband and wife, and death for all of mankind.

God's good creation had fallen, but there remains a promise of hope. God told the serpent, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel" (Gen. 3:15). In this one verse we see the promise of a future victory of Eve's offspring over the Deceiver. Genesis 3:15 is the *protoevangelium*, the first gospel, that promises a coming salvation for the human race.

