

BIBLE CHALLENGE 2019

Week 15: April 7-13

What Were Adam and Eve Like Before the Fall?

Read: Genesis 1-3; Isaiah 65:17-25; Revelation 21:1-5.

The Bible does not go into a lot of detail as to what Adam and Eve were like before the Fall — and that is certainly not our experience as well. If you are curious about the speculation on what these pre-fallen humans might look like, you might consider reading C.S. Lewis' novels *Out of the Silent Planet* and *Perelandra*. In the first, he explores what it might be like for a human to meet an unfallen creature on the fallen planet of Mars. In the latter, he explores what it might be like to witness the temptation account of unfallen humans on the unfallen planet of Venus. They are speculative fiction, but Lewis does a good job of seeking to capture much of the "strangeness" that we might see in them... recognizing that we fallen ones are really the ones who think strangely.

Theologians commonly divide humans into 4 categories: Before the Fall, After the Fall but before being Born Again, After the Fall and After being born again, and finally, In Glory. In the first category, man is said to be either able to sin or able to resist sin; in the second category, man is not able to not sin. The third category nuances the first...we are either able to sin or we are able not to sin because of Christ working in us through the Holy Spirit. Finally, in glory, we will not be able to sin.

So, what can we say about Adam and Eve prior to the Fall?

They were Immortal:

Sin entered into the world with the Fall and death with sin. Thus, prior to the Fall of Adam and Eve, there was no death, nor were there the things associated with death (sickness, disease, etc...). Hence, those who lived shortly after the Fall still had extraordinary lifespans — Methuselah living to be 969 years old. Some might argue that they were not innately immortal, but simply had access to the Tree of Life (see Genesis 3:22-24), and that certainly is an option, nevertheless, the breakdown in our DNA that has come from the Fall was not present in their genetic makeup — God had pronounced his creation to be both good and very good.

They were Vegetarians:

This very much goes hand in hand with the note above. There was no death prior to the Fall and thus, they did not cause death either. What that was like, we will discover in the new creation, but it should be noted that our cravings for meat are nothing more than a craving for death. And even though God has given us permission to eat all sorts of meat, this was a result of the Fall so we are surrounded by reminders of death.

They were Not Biased toward Sin:

We are bombarded by temptations to sin and it is impossible for us to relate to living where we can make a truly even choice or decision. No, Adam and Eve did not have a "free will" in the absolute sense (we will talk more about that in a couple weeks), but their wills were more free than are ours today, for sin binds, it does not free the will. So, were they to have chosen, they could have chosen not to sin. Yet, they did sin.

They were given a Job:

Often people think that work is a result of the Fall. That is not the case at all; we were created to Work and we know that because even before the Fall, God gave Adam the job of working and keeping the Garden that had been planted (Genesis 2:15). Adam was the first gardener, farmer, horticulturist, and zoologist. Interestingly, "working and keeping" when used together like this in the Hebrew Bible, also speak of worship. Thus, the work of Adam and his family in the Garden was meant to be an expression of their worship in all of life. And, as Eve was created to be Adam's "helpmate," this task was given to her as well (Genesis 2:20).

What the Fall affected was not work, but it created work that was frustrated. The labors of our hands, brought though suffering and

sweat is how the Fall has affected our work. There were no thorns and thistles in the Garden of Eden...no weeds for man to contend with prior to the Fall...and no pests that destroyed crops. Oh, how our lot has changed.

They Bore the Imago Dei Without Blemish:

Man was made "In the Image of God." And thus, prior to the Fall, they bore this image without flaw and in perfection. Typically, as God is Spirit, we speak of this Image in the context of our spiritual attributes. We are set aside to be holy, to be creative, to use imagination and language. We have the ability to make things and to innovate. Adam would have designed the first farming implements so that he could complete his task, arguably inventing the shovel, hoe, and axe amongst other things.

Eve Could Bear Children:

One of the punishments given in conjunction with the Fall was that the pain of childbearing would be multiplied or otherwise increased. I am sure that it would not have been the most comfortable thing to do prior to the Fall, but post-Fall, the pain increased greatly. And note, the pain of child-bearing does not end with the birth of a child, but continues as parents for we suffer when we watch our children suffer under the effects of the Fall.

There was Harmony in the Marriage:

One of the other aspects of the Fall that we read about in God's judgment was that post-fall the woman shall desire her husband's role and that he will dominate her. In other words, the tension between men and women began here. Prior to the Fall, the relationships were pretty harmonious with both submitting to their God-designed roles as Husband and Wife.

They were Human:

This may seem like an odd thing to make note about, but Adam and Eve were human — just like us in every way except that they were unfallen (the same is true for Jesus). Thus, we truly descended from Adam, that is not some sort of folk-story that we tell our children. Adam was the first man and from him came sin and death. Jesus came as a "second Adam" so that we might have salvation and eternal life. Praise be to God for this great truth.

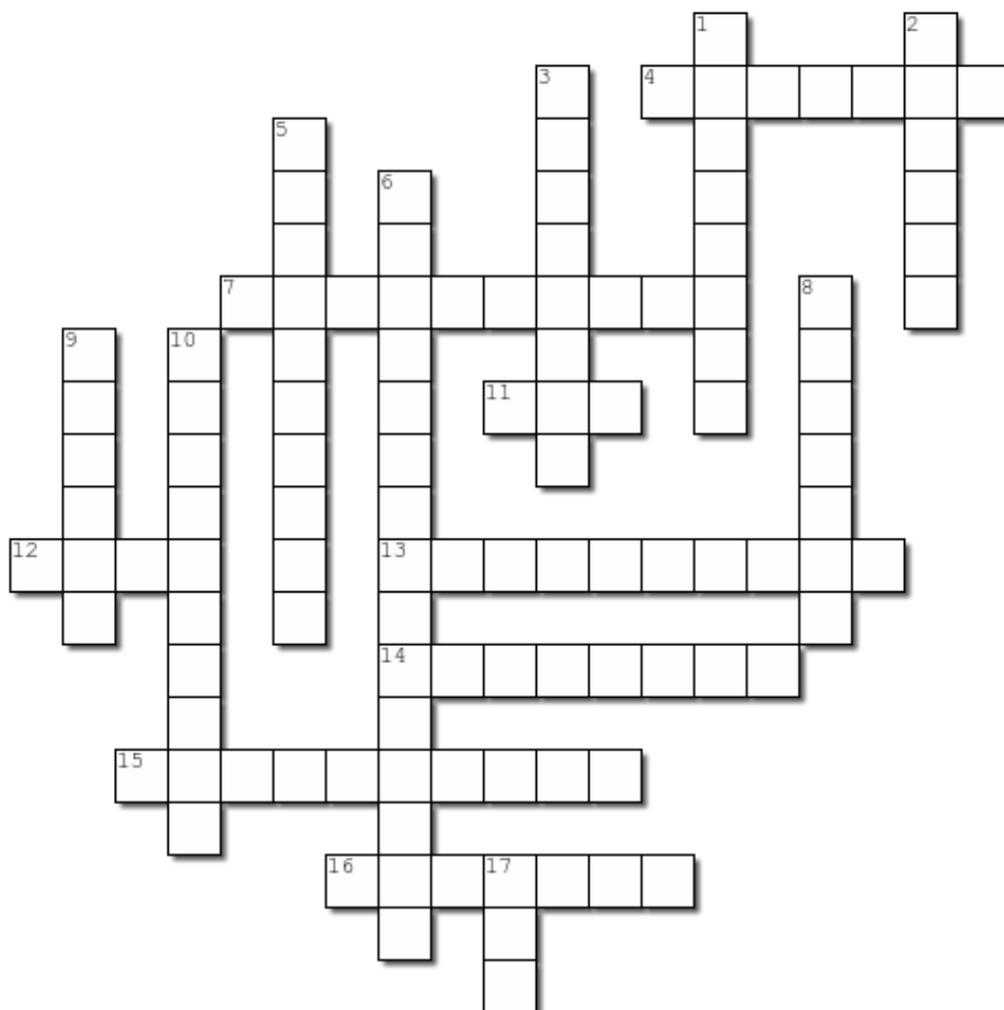
They were not "Caveman" Types like You See in the Museum:

Darwinian Evolution posits that we have a common ancestor with a form of ape. Aside from the fact that there is no concrete evidence of this position, it is plainly contrary to the Bible's account where Adam was created from the dust and is marked by bearing God's Image and is thus distinct from the created order. He was not bent over and dragging his knuckles on the ground, nor was he covered to hair from head to toe — again, modern evolutionists take great liberties with their artistic representation of the first humans. Instead, I would suggest that they would have looked much like you and me apart from the fact that they would have been stronger and healthier as they were created to live eternally, just as you and I will do in the new Heavens and Earth.

They Had Dominion over the Creation:

In ancient times, it was common for kings to erect statues of themselves in cities that they ruled. Those statues were meant as a reminder to the people of the city as to who their sovereign and Lord happened to be. In this case, humans were essentially meant to be walking and talking reminders to the created order as to who its sovereign Lord happened to be. This role, Adam lost, though Christ reinstates it with the Great Commission — that is that we are to make disciples of the nations through the Gospel.

Week 15 — Adam and Eve



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

4. The one responsible for tempting Eve.
7. In this book, CS Lewis explores what it might have been like on an unfallen planet.
11. He will dwell with man after Christ comes and redeems all things.
12. A craving for this is a craving for death.
13. For Eve, childbirth was _____ as a result of the Fall.
14. 'Image of God'. (2 words)
15. This man lived to 969 years old.
16. The working and keeping the Garden was an expression of Adam and Eve's _____.

Down

1. Eve was created to be Adam's _____.
2. 'No more shall there be an _____ that lives but a few days' — a reminder of the eternal life in the new creation.
3. Adam and Eve were given this when they were created.
5. Adam and Eve had access to the fruit of this tree until they sinned. (3 words)
6. Jesus restates the Dominion Mandate in this statement at the end of Matthew's Gospel.
8. The first humans were not _____ as some evolutionists say.
9. Adam most likely had to invent the first one of these.
10. Adam and Eve were not given work as a result of the Fall, their work was _____.
17. This is one thing that Christians will be unable to do after Jesus comes again.