

Adam and Eve

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This article follows on from four other articles on subjects that relate directly to understanding this presentation on Adam and Eve.

The previous important articles were:

[The age of our world](#)

[The DAYS of Genesis creation account](#)

[Reconciling the Genesis creation account with science](#)

[The Garden of Eden](#)

These articles can also be freely downloaded from my web page www.factandfaith.co.za

Were Adam and Eve actual people?



Various Bible passages refer to Adam as a real person. For instance, Genesis chapter 5 gives a family tree, starting with Adam. The genealogy in Luke chapter 3 takes us generation by generation back to Adam. Paul refers to Adam as a real person in Romans 5:14 and in 1 Timothy 2:13.

If we accept that Adam and Eve were real people who according to the Bible lived about 4,100 BC, we need to ask whether they were the first human man and women.

We need to ask about the Genesis chapter 1:27 reference to, *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them (NIV translation)*

Was this statement referring to the creation of Adam and Eve or was it referring to the creation of humanity in general and is the Garden of Eden account referring to a later event when one individual man Adam and one individual woman Eve were placed in a special garden?

Were they the first anatomically modern people?

Scientific research has discovered many skeletons that are anatomically indistinguishable from modern people, [Humans Before Adam and Eve](#) but are dated from long before the Bible date for Adam and Eve. It is therefore very significant that the Bible creation account also speaks of other humans existing at the same time as Adam and Eve.

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The Bible record has the following details:

1. When Cain killed Abel his punishment was to be driven from the Garden of Eden. He replied, *I will be a restless wanderer on the earth and **whoever finds me will kill me*** (Genesis 4:14 NIV translation).
2. We read, *Cain lay with **his wife**, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Enoch* (Genesis 4:17).
3. We read, *Cain was then **building a city** and he named it after his son Enoch* (Genesis 4:17).
4. We read, *The **nephilim** were on the earth in those days – and also afterwards – when the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown* (Genesis 4:4). In Numbers 13:31-33 they are spoken of as people of large stature.

These Bible passages suggest that Cain obtained his wife from the surrounding humanity outside the Garden of Eden. He initially feared hostility from these surrounding people but apparently overcame this fear and was instrumental in ‘building a city’ with their help. People do not build a city just for themselves, their wife and one son!.

Some have suggested that Cain obtained his wife from other children of Adam and Eve. However, this is not acceptable because we read, *Adam lay with his wife again and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, saying, “God has granted me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him”... **After Seth was born**, Adam had other sons and daughters* (Genesis 4:25 and 5:4).

Clearly, according to the Bible account, Adam and Eve did not have other children until after the birth of Seth who was born after Cain had left the Garden of Eden. The logical conclusion is that Cain’s wife came from people existing outside the Garden of Eden.

Who were the Nephilim?

The Nephilim are not only mentioned at the time of Adam and Eve. They are also spoken of when the Israelites were conquering Canaan, many hundreds of years after the Garden of Eden events.

In the Garden of Eden account we are told that the ‘sons of God’ took wives from amongst the ‘daughters of men’. Some people have suggested that the ‘sons of God’ were spiritual beings and they quote a passage in the book of Jude that can equally be referring to the angels who rebelled with Satan and were cast out of heaven. The Jude passage does not speak of sexual relations between them and humans. I go into that question in greater detail in my article titled [Who were the Nephilim](#)

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The title **'sons of God'** is not clearly used for angels anywhere else in the Bible, except possibly but not conclusively in the book of Job (1:6 and 2:1). In the Job passages there are other possible interpretations. It is very significant that the first five Bible books have 15 references to angels and in each case they were called angels, not 'sons of God'.

There are also other Old Testament Bible references that link 'sons of God' with humans. For instance, Hosea 1:10, Deuteronomy 14:1, Deuteronomy 32:5-6 and Isaiah 43:6.

Furthermore, angels are spoken of in a sexless way and we are told that marriage is unknown among them (Matthew 22:30). Also, in the New Testament book of Hebrews we are told that Jesus is given the title 'Son of God', and in verse 4 it specifically states that, *he became as much **superior to the angels as the name SON he has inherited is superior to theirs**. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my son; today I have become your Father?"*.

In addition, in many Bible passages we are told that people in personal relationship with God are called 'sons of God' and in Luke's Gospel Adam is specifically called 'the son of God' (Luke 3:27). Also in John 3:1-2 we read, *How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! (NIV)*.

In other words, when the Genesis account refers to the 'sons of God' went to the 'daughters of men' and had children by them, the explanation that is most consistent with scriptures is that these 'sons of God' are the Adamic family and the 'daughters of men' are other humans existing at the same time.

The Nephilim existing when the Israelites conquered Canaan

In a previous article 'Who were the Nephilim?', I detail the Bible references to them hundreds of years after the Garden of Eden events. A brief summary of the Bible references gives the following history:

Noah was a descendant of Adam's family line (Genesis chapter 5)

Noah's sons were Shem, Ham and Japheth (Genesis 9:18)

Ham was the father of Canaan (Genesis 10:6)

Canaan was the father of Heth (Genesis 10:15)

Heth was the father of Arba (Genesis 23:3 and Joshua 15:13-14)

Arba was the father of Anak (Joshua 15:13)

The later generations of the Nephilim were descendants of Anak (Numbers 13:33)

Thus, Arba and the Nephilim have an ancestry traced back to Ham, a son of Noah

Important conclusions:

- A. The scriptures referring to the Nephilim call them men who were exceptionally large, **not spiritual beings** or crosses between humans and angels.

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- B. The post flood appearances of them were linked with some of the **descendants of Noah**. This suggests that within the genetics of Noah or his sons or their wives was an ancestry that included Nephilim genes.
- C. Clearly these later generations of Nephilim were human. Therefore, we have no grounds for concluding that the Nephilim of Adam's time were hybrids between angelic beings and humans. **They were crosses between the Adamic family line and other humans.**

Biologists know that interbreeding between creatures that are genetically slightly different can produce offspring that are larger due to 'hybrid vigour'. It is therefore possible that the descendants of Adam and Eve (sons of God) interbred with other humans who had genetics that was significantly different from theirs. This could account for the Nephilim who were described as being very large in stature. In other words, these references within the Bible do allow for the existence of anatomically modern people before Adam and Eve.

Scientific discovery has shown that another race of mankind existed even earlier than the first appearance of modern mankind. Science calls these people Neanderthals. Furthermore, excavations in some caves have shown that Neanderthals existed alongside the early appearance of modern humans (Herskovitz et al 2015)

Genetic analysis of human DNA and DNA extracted from a Neanderthal bone also show that we have traces of Neanderthal DNA in our modern humanity. This has been revealed in two separate genetic studies (Vernot & Akey 2014 and Sankararaman et al 2014).

The creation of Eve?

We may ask why God created Eve in the Garden of Eden, rather than finding Adam a mate from amongst the surrounding humanity? One reason could be that both Adam and Eve had to be un-influenced by any things happening in the world outside of the Garden of Eden. They had to make their choice freely, within the context of ideal surroundings and an intimate relationship with their Creator. We are not told where Adam had come from. Maybe God took him as a small child or maybe he genetically engineered him from the genetics of an existing human? We can only speculate about Adam, but for Eve we are given detailed information.

Was the description of forming Eve from something taken out of Adam merely a picture of the differences between man and woman and their need to become 'one flesh', or did God literally remove something from an anaesthetised Adam (maybe a strand of his DNA) and then genetically engineer Eve from that genetic material?

We live in an age when mankind are able to genetically engineer living organisms from other existing organisms. The Bible tells us that mankind were created in the image and likeness of God. This surely means that we have been given the characteristics of self awareness, creativity, moral awareness, appreciation of beauty and the ability to '*subdue the earth and*

bring it under our control'. If mankind has been enabled by God to develop technology and to tame the harmful things around us, through technology and medicine and genetic engineering, then this is a reflection of the abilities of the Creator. **Or maybe we find it difficult to accept such a 'hands on' Creator?**

It is also significant that the Garden of Eden account says there was a considerable period between the creation of Adam and the creation of Eve. However, in the Genesis chapter one account of creation we read 'So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; **male and female he created them** (Genesis 1:27). This was during the Sixth Creative Day'.

Those Bible scholars who suggest that the Genesis creative 'days' were literal earth days of 24 hours must explain the Genesis chapter 2 account that states there were many days between the creation of Adam and Eve (Genesis 2: 20-22). This is just one further clear reason why the creative 'days' of Genesis chapter one should not be taken to refer to 24 hour days. They refer to great creative ages, as explained in my previous article: 'The 'days' of the Genesis creation account'.

Eve was specially engineered to be a suitable mate for Adam and a suitable candidate for the great Garden of Eden demonstration. This demonstration formed the first building block in God's plan that led to Calvary.

The spiritual significance of the Garden of Eden demonstration is discussed **in my next article**. The events that took place in the Garden of Eden explain the nature of 'sin' and form the foundation for understanding the further revelations that God has progressively given to humanity, through Abraham, Moses, the prophets, through Jesus, and through the Holy Spirit inspired New Testament writings. This has been an evolution of revelation.

References

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