

## BFF385 The First Adam

**Scott Moore:** Welcome to the "Building Faith Families Podcast" with Steve Demme. I'm your host, Scott Moore. Thanks for joining us today.

Good morning, Steve. How are you today?

**Steve:** I'm good. I'm all perky today. I wasn't when I woke up. But the shower helped. Then, I took the dogs out for a walk. I met about six neighbors having a nice visit out there. It was 37 degrees, but the sun was out. It was fun. I like people, so I have to jot their names down, so I don't lose them. I work at remembering my neighbor's names. They're always amazed when I say, "Hey, Bob."

**Scott:** I'm the lazy neighbor that's like, "Hey, you?"

**Steve:** Then I saw my neighbor across the street. He's always running his kids up to the bus stop at the last possible minute and that's pretty fun to watch.

**Scott:** Awesome.

**Steve:** I've never lived in a subdivision like this since I was a kid. I'm still enjoying it. I've lived in the country so much that I mostly saw cows and Amish buggies. I actually enjoy people so this is nice.

Today, we are going to follow up last week when, we talked about men. We talked about the spirit of a man. We talked about praying for men. I've been taking my praying-for-men up a notch, because of that talk which inspired me. As I was praying about what to have here, the thought came, "Well, let's talk about the first man."

We're going to talk about Adam, after we pray first, that God will help us to think about Adam, like God thought about him. The more I go on in the Christian faith, and the more I read the Bible for myself, especially in the original languages, the more I realize that I have a lot of misconceptions that have to be straightened out by scripture, because I don't think, generally, I had a positive opinion of Adam.

I pretty much think of him, being silent while standing next to Eve. She ate the fruit. He told God, "She's the one that made me do it." Yet Adam is mentioned 19 times in the Bible, 10 in the Old Testament, 9 in the New Testament. We're going to discuss this today, but we're going to pray that God will help us to see this man like He saw him. May we have a heavenly perspective.

Father, in Jesus' name, cut through all of our preconceived ideas. If I was to say we're going to have a podcast on Adam, our mind would go in a certain direction. I pray that You'll give us the mind of Christ. I pray that You'll give us Your thoughts. I pray that You'll help us to think differently today.

Scripture talks about the renewing of our mind. I pray that I will have a renewed mind today as I think about Adam, and a renewed appreciation for this man, that was the first created being, in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Scott:** Amen.

**Steve:** We're going to read scripture. In the Gospel of Luke, chapter 3, there's the lineage of Jesus. It ends up in the 38th verse, "The son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the Son of God." Scott, how many children do you have now? Four?

**Scott:** Yes.

**Steve:** Do you remember the first one?

**Scott:** Yes.

**Steve:** I do, too. It was an astounding thing to have a little guy be your firstborn child. Adam was God's firstborn son. The name Adam means man. When I said it appears 19 times in the Bible, that's as a specific name for the first man.

The word Adam, Adom in Hebrew, is used hundreds of times to represent man, or mankind. If you dig a little bit, one source I consulted said that it could mean red, like Edom. Edom means red or ruddy.

It has the same consonants. It could mean the blood, which was red, and this fits since he was the first blood man. Today, we're just going to focus on the man Adam, which is used 19 times in the Bible. He appears in 1 Corinthians 15:45, Paul's writing, "Thus it is written the first man, Adam, became a living being. The last Adam became a life-giving spirit."

This, of course, is contrasting the first man, Adam, with the last Adam, Who is Christ. Pretty good company to be in right there. Adam was the firstborn person on the planet. Genesis 1:27, "God created man in His own image. In the image of God, He created him. Male and female, He created them."

Let me just jump ahead a little bit to the fifth chapter. It says, "When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth."

Back to you, Scott and myself. When we have these children, and they grow up, and they go through all these different phases where sometimes they look like the mom, sometimes they look like the dad, sometimes they look like a blend.

Yet there is something, I don't know how to describe it. It's unique. It's an experience that you never tasted before. Here's a little being that's stamped with your image on it. He grows up, and he's Scott-like, and I have a little guy that's Steve-like.

In our family, my middle name is Philip, which is named after my grandfather. My father's middle name was also Philip. We even did it with our names. My son, we've kept the tradition going is Isaac Steven, my firstborn. He's got my name as well as my likeness.

There's something special about the fact that each man that has a son, daughter, that are in his image. "In his own likeness. After his image." That's something that we experience, which we never experienced before.

Adam was created in the image and likeness of God. Adam was the first human being, flesh and blood, to know God. He was the first person to commune with God. Even though it's after the fall, I think we get a little glimpse into their relationship.

Genesis 3:8, "They heard the sound of Jehovah God walking in the garden, in the cool of the day." Sadly, for the first time, the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of Jehovah God among the trees of the garden." Up until that point, it almost appears as if they had an appointment.

Every evening, after they'd worked, they would meet with God in the cool of the day. He would walk in the garden, and they heard his sound, and their heart would leap with joy. "This is our God. We're going to talk with Him, we're going to commune with Him." What a blessed experience Adam and Eve communing with God.

Sadly, in Genesis 3 after the fall, this was not a good experience. I'll come back to that. These were the first humans, and Adam was the first to be loved with by God. Let me unpack that a little bit. He had no baggage. He was able to take in the fact that God loved him in a way that most of us have to work at to achieve.

When he first knew God in the Garden, there was no sin, there was no shame, there was no separation, there was no guilt. He didn't have performance issues as if he had to work for God's affection. He didn't have abandonment issues. He didn't have scars from his past, he didn't have Father wounds, he had nothing to hinder his relationship with God.

He was able to not only love God, but he was able to take in God's love in a way that we can only hope for. We get tastes of it, but Adam with his heart fully expanded, his arms are wide, his face is looking up at God, there's nothing between Adam's soul and his savior, as the song goes. Adam had no baggage. He had no stuff he had to work through.

He knew that his Dad loved him, and he loved his Dad, and they had blessed communion. Then when God blessed him with a wife, the three of them had blessed communion. There was nothing between these three, either between Adam and Eve, or Adam and God, or Eve and God, they were one.

Let's keep working on this pre-fall state of affairs. Adam was the first to experience, enjoy, taste, and see creation. Last night I went outside, and I saw the moon and I thought, "Oh, beautiful." Recently I have prayed, "Lord, help me to take in Your creation because I have so much on my mind, and so much on my heart, and people I'm praying for, and work I want to do, and it's hard for me to stop and enjoy it."

This morning was different. The sun was shining, the moon was still up, and I went out, and began to sing. I sang the doxology. Most days I have to work at being joyful and thankful, however Adam didn't have to work at this. He was able to enjoy what God had created for him to enjoy, the way God meant it to be enjoyed.

There was no sin. Nothing. I think that the best help that I've received along this line is reading C.S. Lewis when he talks about the creation in Narnia and/or in the space trilogy when he talks about what heaven is like. Lewis was onto this. Creation is a beautiful thing to be experienced and to be enjoyed. It's like when you buy your children a gift on Christmas, and you want them to light up and say, "Oh, I'm so glad you got me this."

This is how God looked at Adam. This is My son, and he's going to enjoy what I made for him to enjoy. Adam was the first person to see the stars with no fear of the dark. He was the first person to experience a full moon and see a shooting star. I think there's a good chance that he was the one that named the constellations.

Maybe that was Adam because we certainly know in Genesis 2:20, "The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field." This is what Adam did. He's a smart guy.

If you're having a trivia show, or you're on a game show, you want Adam on your team because he knows all the animals, he knows all the birds. I think he probably knew all the constellations as well.

He was able to go out at night with no fear of the dark, no fear of stepping on something. He reveled in God's creation. He reveled in it. He was also the first person to enjoy work.

**Scott:** He might have been the last one to enjoy it, too.

**Steve:** Exactly. Although, no, after redemption we can enjoy it. The thing is, he was designed to work. He found joy in being a steward of God's creation because he was designed to do in it. He was walking in his gifting, so to speak.

He loved getting up in the morning, "Hey, I get to work with my Dad some more. I get to be a steward of all these lovely things that He's created and designed me to enjoy and to find pleasure in, and I am fortunate to do it."

According to Scripture, he lived 930 years. If the world, by the way, (I'm a young earth guy, just so you know. I don't think the world's been here for millions of years, I think it's been here for a couple of thousand years.)

If 930 years accurate, then he lived about a sixth of the length of the world that we know it. Closer to 15 or 16 percent of the world he experienced. He overlapped eight generations, all the way up to Lamech, who was Noah's dad.

Adam was able then to pass all this knowledge he had of God, of God's creation, of being a steward, of naming the animals, the constellations, how much joy he found in communing with God and being a steward of God's creation.

He was able to pass all that down. It looks like some of these people that he passed it down actually got it, like Enoch. Enoch took it in, and something changed, and he began to walk with God.

Adam was the first. He was also the first to sin. I hate to even say it. He was the first to be punished. He was the first to experience pain and sweat as he worked. Genesis 3:17, "To Adam, He said, 'Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, you shall not eat of it, cursed is the ground because of you. In pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life.'"

Any part of me that's cursing Adam right now for that, stop, because I'm wanting to put myself in Adam's situation and walk in his footprints. What would that have felt like to have experienced all this beautiful creation, and now the ground is cursed.

In the morning he gets up, and there's pain. Now he sweats. He was also the first to be redeemed. Genesis 3:21, "Jehovah God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them."

He was the first person to be clothed in garments. He was the first person to be clothed so it would hide his shame. This is what God did for him. He was the first to experience being the recipient, you might say, of another person's death.

Some animal had to die to provide those garments, which was pre-Christ. Adam was also the first father. It says in Genesis 4, "Adam knew Eve his wife. She conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of Jehovah."" He was the first dad. He was the first person that experienced being a dad. He was also the first person to lose a son when Cain killed Abel.

I'm going to read Genesis 5:1-3, "This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. Male and female, He created them, and He blessed them, and named them man when they were created. When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness after his image and named him Seth.

"The days of Adam after he fathered Seth were 800 years, and he had other sons and daughters. Thus, all the days that Adam lived were 930 years, and he died." By the way, that verse, Genesis 5:4, "He had other sons and daughters." That's who his sons married.

Back in those days, that was fine, because they hadn't been corrupted by sin in the fall, and there was not going to be any bad results of marrying in your family. This is Adam. Now let's read two longer passages in Romans, and in 1 Corinthians just to kind of wrap this up and put it in perspective.

"Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned. For sin was indeed in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come."

I'm going to read that last phrase again. Adam, was a type of the one who was to come, that's Christ. Continuing, "The free gift is not like the trespass for if many died through one man's trespass much more have the grace of God, and the free gift of the grace about one man, Jesus Christ, abound for many."

"The free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin for the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification, For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who received the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ."

Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience, the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience, the many will be made righteous." We have to believe that. We focus too much on the man's sin, and being a sinner. Remember that Jesus' obedience made us righteous.

Even though iAdam is not mentioned, by name, in that whole passage, there is mucho unpack. Paul contrasts and enlightens us through comparing Adam to Christ, the first Adam to the second Adam and the last Adam.

1 Corinthians 15, "There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars. For star differs from star in glory, so it is with the resurrection of the dead."

"What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

Thus, it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being. The last Adam became a life-giving spirit." It is not the spiritual that is first but the natural and then the spiritual."

The first man was from the earth, a man of dust. The second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne in the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. I'm downright inspired."

God, in His Spirit, through Paul's writing, is making this beautiful juxtaposition, going back and forth between the natural and the spiritual, the first Adam, the last Adam. We know that we're born in the image of the man of dust. We are all children of Adam. We are Adam's heirs. We are flesh and blood. We came from the dust. Our bodies have the same makeup as the dirt, with water, same as Adam.

Just as also those who are of heaven for we have borne in the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven, because we have been born again. We have been born from above. Now his seed is working in us.

We don't grasp all this until we take in Adam. Once we understand Adam, then we're able to understand the last Adam, the second Adam, Christ. I'm done. End of my notes. What do you think?

**Scott:** It's interesting to go through all of what Adam tells us about Jesus and about ourselves. You're right, usually, he just gets the, "Oh, he sinned, and he was passive and all that stuff." To look at the fuller context of what he went through, what he was, and comparing that with the descriptions of Christ, it is definitely a bigger picture and it helps.

Those are good questions to ask. What does that tell us about ourselves? What does it tell us about God? What does it tell us about Jesus?

**Steve:** As I was putting this together, and God was opening my eyes to things and questions were coming I hadn't even thought of. That man, he had nobody to comfort him. He lost his son. There's no one that came alongside of him. He sinned. He was separated from God. Man, what would that feel like? We know what it feels like.

We also know that everybody feels the same thing as we do, because we're all sinners. For Adam, this had to be hard. It was like Jesus on the cross. He had never been separated from His father, ever. I think that's the most pitiful if I can say, lament, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken?" Because he'd never not been with his dad. Adam, in the same way, had never not been in communion with God.

**Steve:** What would that have felt like, that first shame and condemnation and guilt and the separation? I would be undone.

**Scott:** Then to live with the knowledge that you had it all.

**Steve:** Then you lost it.

**Scott:** You were the one who threw it away. It wasn't somebody else. In Jesus's case, it was somebody else's sin that was killing him. In Adam's case, it was his own sin. To live with that knowledge of, "We had it all perfect, and now we blew it."

**Steve:** Then to watch that be passed on to his kids.

**Scott:** Yeah.

**Steve:** Awful. He was Adam. He was created in God's image. God sustained him and God helped him, and he lived for 900 years to pass that knowledge on and to help others.

Thank you, Father, for this glimpse into this man, the first man, the man created in Your likeness, and in Your image, Your son, whom You loved, and we're proud of. You designed him and he was perfect. Yet You watched him fall. Then we, Your second Adam, you might say, Your son. You watched him have to fall because of our fall. Father, You're amazing. Your creation is amazing. Help us get a glimpse of Adam in a special way not only so we can understand ourselves but help us then to appreciate the last Adam.

Thank You, Jesus, for taking our sin and restoring us way back to the original communion with You in the garden. Thank You for Your redeeming work. Thank You for taking sin, shame, separation, all upon Yourself. We worship You in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Scott:** Amen.

That's our show for this week, folks. Thanks for joining us for the Building Faith Families Podcast with Steve Demme. If you have a question for the show, email Steve at [spdemme@gmail.com](mailto:spdemme@gmail.com). If you have a question for me, you can reach me at [scott@unsocializedmedia.com](mailto:scott@unsocializedmedia.com). Thanks for joining us. Have a great week.