

Eve

“In the Beginning”



“And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.” Genesis 3:20

All of us know that Eve was formed from the rib taken from Adam; that she was the first woman, and she was the mother of Cain and Abel. The name occurs only five times in the Bible and that is mostly in the second, third, and fourth chapters of Genesis. From those few references, much has been “surmised!”

Many theories about Adam and Even have come down through the years. Was she created because Adam was lonely? The Bible leads us to believe that. She was also to serve as a help mate for him. Many people use these passages to show that man and woman were created to be joined in marriage and work together. Some feel she is inferior because she was formed from a rib of Adam. Some want to say that Adam was inferior because God removed one of Adam’s ribs and Satan spoke first to Eve.

Mark Twain had his take on the creation and wrote a diary. The following is taken from Adam’s diary just after Eve is created. “The new creature says its name is Eve. That is all right, I have no objections. Says it is to call it by, when I want it to come. I said it was superfluous, then. The word evidently raised me in its respect; and indeed it is a large, good word and will bear repetition. It says it is not an It, it is a She. This is probably doubtful; yet it is all one to me; what she is were nothing to me if she would but go by herself and not talk.” From Mark Twain’s Diary of Adam and Eve.

In Eve’s diary, as written by Mark Twain we read: “There are too many stars in some places and not enough in others, but that can be remedied presently, no doubt. The moon got loose last night, and slid down and fell out of the scheme-- a very great loss; it breaks my heart to think of it. There isn't another thing among the ornaments and decorations that is comparable to it for beauty and finish. It should have been fastened better. If we can only get it back again-- But of course there is no telling where it went to. And besides, whoever gets it will hide it; I know it because I would do it myself.”

Much later on we hear from Eve again through Twain. “It is my prayer, it is my longing, that we may pass from this life together--a longing which shall never perish from the earth, but shall have place in the heart of every wife that loves, until the end of time; and it shall be called by my name. But if one of us must go first, it is my prayer that it shall be I; for he is strong, I am weak, I am not so necessary to him as he is to me--life without him would not be life; now could I endure it? This prayer is also immortal, and will not cease from being offered up while my race continues. I am the first wife; and in the last wife I shall be repeated.”

In his humor, Twain shows a little of the temptation that Eve may have had. And eventually, that temptation led to her sinning. But, we also see that Twain has tried to show the love that Adam and Eve had for each other.

We know that God created them in his likeness. But, we know they were tempted and fell for that temptation. Since that time, we have all been tempted many times and we often let Satan win in things both small and great.

The first account of the creation tells us that they were created male and female. The second narrative is more explicit and detailed. From it, we learn that Adam was supposedly formed from the earth and God gave him the breath of life. Then Eve is set forth in beauty and romance as a rib is taken from Adam during his sleep to form Eve to be his help mate. We are told that Adam did not find a suitable companion among the animals and Eve is formed as bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh. And so we have male and female, formed in an intimate relationship.

Many authorities have read much into this creation. The Bible has much to say about man and woman in marriage and if the Bible is interpreted in its strictest sense, then man and woman will both be good to each other. If the husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church, how much more could a woman ask? Remember, God gave his son for the church. And if the woman is to be subject to her husband who loves her enough to give himself, she will be loved and never abused in any way. The scripture tells us "Wherefore a man shall leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they shall be two in one flesh."

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we know that You created us, and You love us more than we can ever imagine in our finite minds. Many times we sin just as Adam and Eve did, but we know You are there to lift us up again, and again. Help us to show Your love to each other and to love our families as You have loved us. Amen

1. Why did God create Eve? Is Eve a role model for women today? How? Why?
2. What do you feel is the purpose of the story of the creation being in the Bible?
3. Can you accept the Bible story of creation in a literal sense, or is it allegory?
4. Are we ever tempted to try to hide from God?
5. What is the most important part of the story of the creation of man and woman?
6. Are we supposed to laugh at ourselves?

Eve: Eve is mentioned predominantly in Genesis chapters 3 and 4. Other inferences are made to her, but specific details about her are limited to the first book of the Bible.

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