

# Bi121 Old Testament

## *Lesson Bi121-2 Adam and Eve (Genesis 2)*

In today's lesson, you will learn how the first man and the first woman came to be. Adam and Eve were created to be God's children. You will also find out about their first home. They were the parents of all who live on earth now. God gave the first couple just one command to follow. He did this because He loved them very much and wanted to have a good relationship with them.

Imagine the earth when it was new. Everything was perfect and beautiful. In those days, God hadn't yet allowed it to rain on the earth, but caused a mist to come up each day to water the land. God planted a garden in a place called Eden, which scholars believe was in the modern country of Iraq. It had every kind of tree growing in it, and there was a river that flowed out from the garden. In the middle, there were two special trees. One was called the tree of life and the other was called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

God filled the garden with all kinds of animals and plants. It was a very large place to make room for everything God had made. Then God took some soil and shaped it into the first man. God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. God named the man Adam. God told Adam to work and take care of the garden. The trees were beautiful to look at and good for food. But God said, "You may eat from any tree except the one in the middle, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. You must not eat from that tree. If you eat from it, you will surely die!"

He then brought all the animals and birds to Adam and told him to name them. So Adam named all the living creatures after he had observed each one. As he was naming them, he noticed that all the creatures came in pairs, male and female. Yet, as he looked around, he noticed that there wasn't a female for him. God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a suitable mate, an equal partner, which is just right for him."

God caused a deep sleep to come over Adam. Then God took a piece of Adam's side and carefully built a woman. When Adam awoke, God brought the woman to him. Adam exclaimed, "This is bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh. She will be called woman, because she was taken out of man." This is the reason a man leaves his parents and forms a relationship with his wife, and they become one flesh, so they are no longer two, but one. What God has joined together, man should not separate (Mark 10:6-9). They were both naked, and were not ashamed.

This story is important because it shows that God created a perfect place for man to live. Adam and Eve are the center of this story. In this place they were given a choice to either obey or disobey God. In our previous lesson the story spoke of God's relationship to this earth, but this story concerns people's relationship to God. God gave human beings their life, a life different from the animals, because He created Adam and Eve in His own likeness. It took both a man and a woman to fully reflect God. God is neither male nor female, yet both Adam and Eve had characteristics of God. Both were created in God's image. God is Spirit, a higher category of being. You will learn more about His name and nature when you study the course, "God's Plan."

The main truth this story teaches is God wanted children that He could love and who would love Him in return. He prepared a perfect place for Adam and Eve to live and gave them the opportunity to show their loyalty and love for Him.

Let's review this lesson—

1. What act of God brought life to Adam?
  - a. [Pause for 8 seconds] If you said "He breathed into his nostrils," you are correct.
2. What is the name of the tree forbidden to Adam?
  - a. [Pause for 8 seconds] If you said "The tree of the knowledge of good and evil," you are correct.
3. Why should a man leave his father and mother?
  - a. [Pause for 8 seconds] If you said "God intended for him to be united with his wife, making a new family," you are correct. (See Mark 10:7).

Your assignment for this lesson is to listen to the story at least three times. As you hear the story each time, imagine how it happened; see the events in your mind. Then tell the story in your own words as you remember it. Listen to the story again and retell it until you feel sure you are repeating the circumstances and actions correctly. You should spend at least 45 minutes in learning the story. You may need to have someone check that you are telling the story correctly.

Finally, go tell the story to a friend who has never heard this story before. After telling the story, ask your friend about their relationship with God. Offer to pray with them.