

# 10 Minutes to Knowing the Men & Women of the Bible

Jim George



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## **10 MINUTES TO KNOWING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE BIBLE**

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# Adam

## The First Man

*Then the LORD God took the man and put him  
in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.*

GENESIS 2:15



**Most notable quality:** Innocence

**Most notable accomplishment:** First human

**Date lived:** 930 years from the beginning of recorded history (lived 930 years)

**Name:** *Adam*, meaning “mankind”

**Major text:** Genesis 2:1–5:5

### Bare Bones Background

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). These renowned words open the Bible and point to the beginning of all creation and to Adam, our head, the beginning of all mankind. In him all of humanity’s future dwelt. In him all possess the uniqueness of being created in the image of God. From him we learn what might have been—sinless existence. And in Adam we also come face to face with the effect of his sin.

### Quick Sketch

Adam, first human and the first to experience God’s perfection,

provides a glimpse of what God originally intended for mankind—a perfect relationship with Him in a perfect environment of perfect health and perfect peace. Unfortunately, Adam, and his wife, Eve, make a decision that takes the human race down the path to sin, misery, and death.

But God does not leave Adam and Eve and mankind without hope. God promises that a descendant of the woman will someday defeat evil and especially the evil one, as represented by the serpent in the Garden of Eden. Speaking to Satan, who had used the serpent, God explains that one who is to come (Jesus Christ) “shall bruise your head,” meaning a fatal blow will eventually be given to Satan (3:15).

### The Big Picture

#### ► Adam is created in God’s own image—*Genesis 1:26-27*

“Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness,” is God’s statement about what would be His crowning act of creation. Adam would be created to enjoy a unique, personal relationship with his Creator. This relationship would clearly differentiate Adam from the rest of creation. In his rational life, Adam would be like God in the sense of possessing reason, will, intellect, and emotions. In a moral sense, Adam would resemble God in goodness and sinlessness—a perfect man. However, as a created being, Adam would also find himself susceptible to temptation.

#### ► Adam is given dominion—*Genesis 1:27-28*

With Adam’s creation comes responsibility and a job assignment: He is to “subdue” the Earth and “have dominion” over every living thing. The Earth is a perfect leadership laboratory for Adam. He has a perfect mind for making right decisions, a perfect environment to “tend and keep” (2:15), and best of all, a perfect “boss” who gives him plenty of room to exercise his leadership.

#### ► Adam is given a helper—*Genesis 2:21-24*

Adam is incomplete without someone to complement him. Therefore God graciously gives Adam a companion—a woman, Eve—who is like him in that she comes from his flesh, from one of his ribs. They are to fulfill each other. The two of them together are to be a greater sum than their separate lives. They are to be the “perfect team.”

### ► Adam is susceptible to temptation—*Genesis 3:1-7*

Adam is created a sinless being, but his sinlessness is yet untested. Eve, Adam's counterpart, is the first to be approached and tempted by Satan, who speaks to her through a serpent. Eve is deceived by the snake and disobeys God by eating fruit He had expressly prohibited. Next Eve asks Adam to join her in eating the same forbidden fruit. Adam does not resist Eve's offer; he eats with full knowledge his action is wrong (1 Timothy 2:14). The couple's sin is more than that of merely eating the fruit: They disobey the revealed word of God. Adam and Eve believe the lies of Satan, and put their own wills above God's will.

## The Portrait

God communicated clearly to Adam: "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat" (Genesis 2:16-17). When Adam and Eve chose to eat the forbidden fruit anyway, sin entered the human race with all of its terrible consequences (Romans 5:12), including...

- shame (Genesis 3:7)
- separation from intimate fellowship with God and immediate spiritual death (verse 8)
- strife in their marriage relationship as their oneness degenerated into blaming (verse 10)
- strife in Adam's relationship with God as he chose to blame God: "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate" (verse 12)
- suffering, toil, pain, and inevitably physical death (verses 16-19)

## Life Lessons from Adam

God spoke His will directly and clearly to Adam, and today God speaks to you through His Word, the Bible, with the same directness and clarity. Choose to listen as:

- *God communicates His will*—The Lord personally and clearly gave Adam one limitation: Don't eat the fruit of one specific tree. God also told Adam exactly what would happen if he did eat the fruit. Yet Adam chose to disobey God and do things his way. Today you can save yourself much grief, misery, and heartache by looking to God and doing things His way.
- *God communicates through His Word, the Bible*—Obviously God communicated with Adam differently than He does with His people now. Today God reveals His will in the Bible. In it you will discover everything you need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3).
- *God communicates the way to salvation*—Sin and death began in the Garden of Eden. Yet in that same garden, God gave hope that one would come to defeat the power of sin. Sin's power ended in another garden in Gethsemane thousands of years later as Christ, the one prophesied—the “last Adam” (1 Corinthians 15:45)—willingly died on a cross for sinners, releasing them from the bondage of spiritual death. “Now is the day of salvation” (2 Corinthians 6:2). If you have not yet placed your trust in Christ, do so today.

### The Fall

“The fall” speaks of the moment Adam and Eve first disobeyed God. Adam and Eve fell from a righteous standing before a holy God. Their fall brought sin into every person's life (Romans 5:12). Sin is inborn, a part of our nature, and resides in us. Subsequently, every human has inherited the effects of Adam's sin (Romans 3:23).

### The Grace of God...

(Genesis 3:9-24)

- ...sought out Adam
- ...promised a Savior
- ...clothed Adam
- ...removed Adam from the garden
- ...provided for Adam's physical needs