

CREATION CONTEXT – 2

Introduction – The context of the account in Genesis 1 and 2 is the ancient Middle East. In that context, Genesis 1 would be understood as God making the universe his temple. Human beings were the image of God placed in this temple to be priests and rulers.

A. The contextual meaning of Adam in the original Hebrew.

1. Adam means “human being” in Hebrew and Eve means “life.”
2. The definite article “the” is never used before the name of an individual in the Hebrew language. When it is used before Adam, it means either “the Adam’s family” or Adam as a representative of all human beings.

Genesis 1:26-27

3. The summary of the Genesis 1 account is Genesis 2:4: “These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.” (KJV)
4. “Adam” in Genesis 2:5-25 is the individual Adam in his representative role for all the rest of humanity. Genesis 2:5 is without the definite article, but all other occurrences are “Ha Adam.”

B. Every Temple in the ancient Middle East had a holy place where the god interacted with the priests.

1. The region of Eden serves as the holy place and the Garden of Eden as the holy of Holies.

Genesis 3:8

2. The couple were to be priests of God in this sacred space.

Genesis 2:15

3. In a vision, Adam saw himself cut in half and Eve became his other half.

Genesis 2:24

4. Adam and Eve did not protect their sacred garden. They allowed the rebellious sea serpent access. He convinced them to violate God’s prohibition against eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Hebrews 5:12-14

C. God is calling us to restore our original roles as rulers and priests over God's creation through Christ.

1 Peter 2:5

1. Christ is the living lamb sacrificed who is the only one worthy to open the sacred scroll in the book of Revelation.

Revelation 5:9-10

2. This restoration of God's image bearers will not be complete until the resurrection of the dead on the day of judgment.

Revelation 22:1-5

Conclusion – Adam and Eve served as a representative couple in their loss of a right relationship with God in the garden of Eden. This relationship has been restored in Christ.

Romans 5:14-15, 17