

Eve: Mother of All the Living

*Sisters for Christ
October 17, 2012*

Genesis 1:26-31

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

²⁷ So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

²⁹ Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

Genesis 2:7,15-25

⁷ The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

¹⁸ The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

¹⁹ Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field.

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. ²¹ So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. ²² Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

²³ The man said,
"This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."

²⁴ For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

²⁵ The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

- *List ways in which the creation of humans was unique among all that God created.*
- *What clues does Genesis 2 give us as to why God chose to create man and woman separately instead of at the exact same time?*
- *Describe Adam's reaction when he saw Eve for the first time. Imagine how he must have treated his wife in the days before the fall into sin.*
- *God created the woman to be "a helper suitable for [the man]" (2:18). The same word for "helper" is used to describe the Lord himself in Psalm 33:20, "We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield" (and in several other places). How does knowing this affect your understanding of the role of "helper" that God gives to women?*

Genesis 3:1 – 4:1

¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"

² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' "

⁴ "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

¹⁰ He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

¹¹ And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

¹² The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this,

“Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.

¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman,

and between your offspring and hers;

he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

¹⁶ To the woman he said,

“I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing;

with pain you will give birth to children.

Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”

¹⁷ To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat of it,’

“Cursed is the ground because of you;

through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.

¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food

until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken;

for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

²⁰ Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

²¹ The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. ²² And the LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” ²³ So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. ²⁴ After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

^{4:1} Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, “With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man.”

- *Describe Satan’s approach in the verses listed, and give examples of how he works the same way today:*
 - *Verse 1*

 - *Verses 4-5*

- *Give evidence that sin completely changed how Adam and Eve viewed each other and the Lord.*

- *In verse 15, God simultaneously curses the serpent/Satan and makes a promise to the man and woman. What special role does the woman have in God's plan?*
- *Notice when Adam named his wife. Explain how Adam's name for his wife ("Eve" means "living" or "life") was a beautiful confession of faith.*
- *Write at least three ways in which God showed honor to women in the account of Eve's life.*

Further Thoughts for Your Personal Study

- *Only two people were created in the image of God. After the events of Genesis 3, everyone was born in the image of sinful man (Genesis 5:1-3). Use Ephesians 4:24 and Colossians 3:10 to construct a definition of the "image of God."*
- *Read Genesis 2:22-23, and explain how God was showing mercy when he banished sinful people from the garden he had made for them.*
- *Explain: The consequences of sin described in verse 16 affect the unique roles that God has given to the woman as mother and wife.*
- *Reflect upon times when you have made excuses for your sins instead of taking responsibility for them. Like Eve, you cannot hide from God. Describe how it feels, knowing that you have been caught in your sin. Then describe what it means to you to hear God's promise or deliverance instead of destruction.*